

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Gov. Noem to Hold Media Availability Today, 2:45 p.m., Regarding Coronavirus in South Dakota

### Baseball Announcement:

The direction of South Dakota American Legion Baseball took a quick turn from yesterday's announcement. National has elected to suspend the remaining 25 states from play, thus canceling the South Dakota season.

See related article on page 2

### **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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## National Legion overrides states by cancelling 2020 baseball seasons

South Dakota baseball lovers were excited on Sunday when they learned that the South Dakota American Legion commission had decided to proceed with the season. By Sunday afternoon, the following memo was sent out to all states, cancelling the 2020 season. According to one Groton Legion board member, the news from the national headquarters, "was a real letdown."

Groton was to host the State B American Legion Baseball Tournament this summer. The state commissioners will have to decide what happens to the towns that were successfully chosen to host the state.

It was interesting to note that the national letter was dated May 8th, the South Dakota Legion Commissioners met May 9th and the email from national headquarters was on May 10th.

**To:** Departments Not Yet Cancelling Their 2020 Baseball Seasons & All Registered Baseball Teams

**From:** Americanism Commission Chairman Richard Anderson

**Date:** May 8, 2020

**Subject:** Cancellation of The American Legion National Organization 2020 Baseball Season

In light of the continuing events resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, effective immediately The American Legion National Organization is implementing the following directives relating to The American Legion National Organization national baseball program for the 2020 season.

1. Any and all previous 2020 American Legion National Organization memos regarding the national baseball program for the 2020 season are retracted and replaced by the following.

2. The American Legion National Organization has cancelled all 2020 season's Regional Tournaments and The American Legion World Series.

3. Concurrently, The American Legion National Organization has shut down all sponsorship and all involvement in baseball for the 2020 season.

4. This shutdown of all sponsorship and all involvement in baseball for the 2020 season means that those baseball teams that wish to continue playing 2020 season baseball shall be participating in a sporting event not sponsored, nor endorsed in any manner, by The American Legion National Organization, but sponsored and endorsed solely by the group the team is named.

5. Any baseball team that continues play in the 2020 season sponsored by the group the team is named must understand that its team is not playing as an American Legion National Organization "registered" baseball team and it is not playing in an American Legion National Organization baseball program.

6. The complete cancellation of the 2020 American Legion National Organization baseball season means there is no American Legion National Organization baseball program "national rules," nor are there "national guidelines," as there is no 2020 American Legion national involvement.

7. In other words, if an American Legion Department has a 2020 season baseball program, then that Department is having "The Department of 'X' American Legion Baseball Program - not authorized, nor endorsed by The American Legion National Organization."

8. Those departments that conduct this 2020 baseball season program will need to determine their rules, guidelines, schedules, insurance coverage, etc., for their own programs as The American Legion National Organization will not provide this assistance.

9. The American Legion National Organization has already stopped collecting, and subsequently returned to all teams any and all national baseball team fees to the respective teams.

10. With the shutdown of the online National American Legion Baseball registration portal, The American Legion National Organization has stopped referring baseball teams to the K&K Insurance portal for the 2020 baseball season. The departments that have their own programs will need to determine what insurance their teams need in order to play in their programs; The American Legion National Organization will not provide this assistance.

11. All baseball teams that paid to The American Legion National Organization administrative fees shall have these fees reimbursed to the teams.

12. All other situation(s) that may arise during the 2020 baseball season in a department that elects to have a 2020 baseball season is a situation for that particular department as that particular department is solely responsible for its decision to any situation(s) as The American Legion National Organization staff and volunteers are not authorized to address or help with any department's situation(s).

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The Minnesota Vikings' 2020 draft class has already been discussed, so now it's time to dissect the rest of the NFC North. On Twitter, Rene Bugner combined draft grades from some of the biggest names in sports. The draft grades were averaged, then ranked from best to worst. The Vikings landed in the top spot with a 3.92 "gpa".

Among the other three NFC North teams, the Lions were next on that list, earning a 3.15 "gpa" which was 15th in the league. After trading Darius Slay this offseason there was a major hole to fill at cornerback, so the Lions taking CB Jeff Okudah with the third overall pick was a great fit. In the second round the Lions took the top RB on the board with D'Andre Swift, hoping to improve a rushing offense that has only ranked in the top 20 once (17th in 2013) in the past decade. In the third round, the Lions took a gamble on DE Juliam Okwara who might have been a first-round pick if it wasn't for an injured fibula. With their next two picks, Detroit went with offensive guards Jonah Jackson and Logan Stenberg. The rest of their draft went: WR Quintez Cephus, RB Jason Huntley, DT John Penisini, and DT Jashon Cornell.

The Chicago Bears came in 25th with a cumulative "gpa" of 2.48, but it should be noted they were without a first round pick this year, after trading it in the Khalil Mack trade. So with their first pick (2nd round), the Bears drafted TE Cole Kmet. The Bears have been looking for a starting TE for years now, and they are bound and determined to find one this offseason (they have a total of nine tight ends currently on the roster). Seven spots later, Chicago used a 2nd round pick on one of my favorite players in this year's draft, CB Jaylon Johnson. The Bears didn't have another pick until the 5th round, where they selected DE/OLB Trevis Gipson. The rest of their draft went: CB Kindle Vildor, WR Darnell Mooney, OT Arlington Hambricht, and OT Lachavious Simmons.

Coming in last, not only in the NFC North but the NFL as a whole with a 1.31 "gpa", is where you'll find the Green Bay Packers. It's no surprise the Packers are ranked that low, after the team moved up in the first round to draft QB Jordan Love. Aaron Rodgers is 36 years old, but the Super Bowl winning and two time MVP quarterback is signed through the 2023 season. It will be fascinating to watch how Rodgers handles this situation, especially considering he was in the same spot 15 years ago. In the second round, the Packers drafted RB AJ Dillon - a good back, but of questionable need considering the team still has Aaron Jones and Jamaal Williams. Everyone knew the Packers wanted another receiver to pair with Davante Adams, a position this draft was historically loaded with. Instead, they skipped WR entirely and went with TE Josiah Deguara in the third round. The rest of their draft went: LB Kamal Martin, offensive guards Jon Runyun Jr., Jake Hanson, and Simon Stepaniak, S Vernon Scott, and DE/OLB Jonathan Garvin. It's possible all the analysts are wrong, but we won't truly know how good or bad this draft class was until Jordan Love has played.

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!



By Jordan Wright

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## State touches base on tribal checkpoints

Maggie Seidel

Senior Advisor & Policy Director  
Office of Governor Kristi Noem

We've gotten some repeat questions about the tribal checkpoints, so I want to make sure everyone has all the information we've provided.

Friday's announcement about tribal checkpoints comes after many hours of communication behind the scenes (from the Governor, Secretary Flute, the Attorney General's office, federal officials at the Departments of the Interior and Justice, and several members of our team) as well as a month after the Department of the Interior memorandum. Despite claims to the contrary, it is not accurate to claim consultation has taken place – and certainly no agreement has been reached. The memorandum makes it perfectly clear it is unlawful to interrupt the flow of traffic on these roads.

What is also perfectly clear is our role as it relates to state and U.S. highways. Tribes are well within their rights to manage the flow of traffic on tribal roads, and the state has no objection to that. The key here is that tribes are letting tribal members come and go as they please – the same is not true for non-tribal members.

For the safety of all South Dakotans, the state needs:

Unobstructed access to state and U.S. highways for thru-traffic;

Access to property for property owners or lessors;

Access for state personnel and contractors for ordinary functions such as road maintenance; and

Access for essential deliveries such as food suppliers.

As the Governor noted on Friday, our goal is to work with the tribes – and all South Dakotans – to help slow down the spread of COVID-19. The Governor in partnership with the Department of Health team and the world-class doctors at Avera, Monument, and Sanford have been tirelessly working on the state's COVID-19 response for months now. Fortunately, we continue to be encouraged by the situation on the ground in South Dakota. But our fight against this virus is far from over. We need to continue to work together – we're at our strongest when we're united.

Albeit imperfect, an analogy: Governor Noem is managing the COVID-19 situation very differently than Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. With the large number of cases in Minnesota, if the state of South Dakota decided to block traffic across I-90, to restrict Minnesotans from coming into South Dakota, the state of Minnesota would likely have a case against us because they also have an interest in the uninterrupted flow of traffic on that highway.

Lastly, this court case has been brought up by some. What we are talking about here is different. We are not talking about civil or criminal jurisdiction on the reservations. We are talking about the ability of the tribes to interrupt the flow of non-tribal traffic on state and U.S. highways.

The safety of all South Dakotans is paramount – that encompasses the public health as well as the public safety side of things. The checkpoints on state and U.S. highways are not legal, and if they don't come down, the state will take the matter to Federal court, as Governor Noem noted in her Friday letter.

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## Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

Everything's down again. Let's hope this is a continuing trend into the future.

We're at 1,336,100 cases in the US. We're back on our downward trajectory. NY leads with 340,657 cases, a decrease in rate of growth for the third consecutive day. NJ has 138,532 cases, which is down for the second day. Remaining top-10 states are as follows: MA – 77,793, IL – 77,662, CA – 67,837, PA – 60,0377, MI – 47,116, FL – 40,588, TX – 40,019, and CT – 33,554. These ten states account for 69% of US cases. 3 more states have over 30,000 cases, 3 more states have over 20,000 cases, 9 more have over 10,000, 10 more + DC over 5000, 10 more + PR and GU over 1000, 5 more over 100, and VI + MP under 100. The total number of cases reported in the US is now more than the combined populations of Wyoming and the District of Columbia. That's hard to even comprehend.

Something I've been concerned about is the proportion of cases from the leading states. It seems to me that, if this proportion falls, it's a good sign in that they're moving toward getting things under control, but also a bad sign because case numbers are growing everywhere, that this means other states are picking up more than their share of the slack. On April 16, NY had 33% of the nation's cases; now it has 25%. On that date, NY and NJ together had 45%, and they're down to 36%. And also on April 16, the top 10 states, which have shifted some since then, reported 76% of cases, whereas they're now down to 69%. This tells me that, as things improve in these hard-hit states, they're getting worse elsewhere. I would much have preferred to see cases fall everywhere as NY, NJ, and the other top-10 states decreased their rates of growth; this does not appear to be happening.

Here's the latest on movement in new case reports. Those with substantial numbers of cases which are not showing much change include IL, LA, FL, IN, TX, VA, MD, and CO. States where new case reports are increasing include CA, MN, OH, WI, WA, MO, AZ, and AL. States where new case reports are decreasing include NY, MI, NJ, CT, MA, GA, PA, and TN. We'll watch the states showing increases and hope those with decreases continue the decline.

There have been 79,550 deaths in the US. Today the rate of growth has declined for a fourth consecutive day and has dropped under 1000 new deaths reported for the first time since April 1. NY has 26,656, NJ has 9255, MA has 4979, MI has 4551, PA has 3819, IL has 3426, CT has 2967, CA has 2768, and LA has 2213. There are 6 more states over 1000 deaths, 7 more over 500, 15 more + DC and PR over 100, and 13 + GU, VI, and MP under 100.

There's something new and disturbing turning up in children. All along, children's apparent resistance to this virus has been puzzling to researchers; typically, they are more affected by viral illness than adults, and that simply has not been the case for this disease. It does appear children are infected far less frequently than older people, probably at a rate around one-third of people 15-64. It could be they're infected as often, but don't often show symptoms, so they're not getting diagnosed; or it could be the virus isn't as able to infect them at all. There's a lot we don't know yet. There have also been questions how likely children are to transmit the virus to adults around them, questions that do not currently have answers either. We do know that children who are diagnosed frequently have even larger viral loads than adults, which probably means they're very infectious to others even though they may have very mild disease. There's no shortage of theories about what's going on there—maybe their less mature immune systems don't overreact as happens in some adults; maybe their young, healthy blood vessels are less susceptible to viral damage; maybe children's lower expression of ACE-2 receptors (the binding spot on cells for this virus), especially in the respiratory tract, are protective.

In the first few weeks, children who did become seriously ill were presenting with respiratory distress,

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the same way older folks were. But recently, we've seen some different sorts of things. Some of them never experience respiratory symptoms at all; and those who do experience breathing problems appear to be doing so due to inflammatory damage to the lungs, not viral damage. It's impossible to know at this point whether this is because earlier cases, being atypical, were being missed or this is something new.

First, we saw some kids coming in with frostbite-like rashes on the toes, sometimes on the fingers, something called "Covid toes." These appeared in kids without severe symptoms and were viewed as a mysterious oddity, probably associated with some sort of localized blood vessel damage. But lately, starting a few weeks after the big wave of adult cases began, children have presented with some additional symptoms which are not so benign. What we're seeing looks a lot like toxic-shock syndrome or something called Kawasaki disease, an inflammatory condition of blood vessels typically seen in children under the age of 5 that can occasionally leave lasting heart damage. Children are turning up with enlarged blood vessels and, according to some accounts, aneurysms (weakened areas on artery walls that bulge or sort of balloon out under the pressure exerted by blood flow) in coronary arteries, the ones that feed the heart muscle. Aneurysms can lead to abnormal blood clotting: Picture a small amount of blood sort of pooling in that bulge as the rest of the blood rushes by. The thing is, when blood stands still instead of flowing, it has a tendency to form clots. And if one of those clots makes its way into the bloodstream, it can float along until it lodges in tiny vessels in various organs, causing serious damage as the obstruction shuts down blood flow to the tissue that vessel serves. If the occluded vessel is a coronary artery, the child would have a heart attack, just as an adult with an occluded coronary does. These kids are also presenting with prolonged high fevers, rash, very rapid pulse, change in skin color, reddened eyes, shock (very low blood pressure, which makes it difficult to circulate enough oxygen and nutrients to tissues), fever, and gastrointestinal symptoms like severe abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea. This is being called pediatric multi-system inflammatory syndrome. There is speculation this is some sort of post-viral syndrome occurring after infection caused by antibody response that leads to inflammation and fever.

Nearly all cases have been in Europe and the eastern US, with a few in Asia and scattered across the US. This could be related to genetic differences in ethnic groups found mostly in those locations or to a different strain of the virus. It's simply too soon to know what to make of this pattern; but genetic testing is proceeding in an attempt to sort out just what's happening in these cases.

It is important to note that the number of cases is very small; last I saw, we were looking at around 85 cases in New York, which reports over 300,000 cases of Covid-19 to date. All of these children have tested positive for Covid-19. That doesn't mean for sure that this coronavirus or the body's reaction to it is responsible, but it certainly is suggestive of such a conclusion. Most cases have been successfully treated and have made full recoveries. Treatment has included steroids, intravenous immunoglobulin (antibodies), high-dose aspirin, and antibiotics, as well as oxygen and mechanical ventilation where needed. It is also important to note, however, that three children have died and some others are critically ill, so we don't yet know how their cases will resolve. This will bear watching; I will update as further information becomes available.

I will note, as a post script to last night's concern with deaths in nursing homes, that there has been some movement, at least in NY, to address these issues. Hospitals will no longer be permitted to discharge Covid-19 patients to nursing homes; they will either be held in the hospital or transferred to a Covid-19 only facility. Workers must be tested twice a week and must wear masks. Those caring for Covid-19 patients are required to wear proper PPE. Homes which cannot properly care for these patients are required to transfer them to a facility which can. I am not equipped to assess whether these measures are appropriate or sufficient, but I am pleased to see officials turning their attention to the problem. If these help, perhaps other states will follow NY's lead; it is smart to learn from the experience of those who have gone before you in an attempt to avoid having the experience yourself. I will also note that nursing homes across the

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nation are now required to report cases to the CDC within 12 hours or face fines; this is also a step in the right direction.

I heard on Friday from an ICU nurse at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. Living where I do, in a place where this nightmare has touched only a bare few among us, so few that it is difficult to grasp just how serious this is—that it is, indeed, a crisis, it can be far too easy to ignore the human toll this pandemic is taking, not only on the ill and the dying and the grieving, but on the folks who go to work every day, only to watch patient after patient die, something surely none of them signed up for when they chose their professions. I spent my career educating health care providers, and I've seen what motivates people to enter this challenging field. I also recognize how incredibly difficult it must be to, so much of the time, not have answers or solutions, to feel helpless facing this thing. Someone I know well who spent her career in critical care nursing has talked about her concerns for the long-term effects of this kind of crisis on her former colleagues, that brave band of people manning the barricades. When you're feeling discouraged and inconvenienced and cooped up and sad about what you've missed and what you've lost in these hard times, spare a thought for those whose lives are truly upended by this calamitous series of events. It will certainly make your burdens easier to bear.

I read an interview with virologist, Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who has been ill with Covid-19 since mid-March. He was hospitalized and in bad shape, but is now recovering. Even though he has returned to work as Covid-19 advisor to the President of the European Commission, he reports he still has shortness of breath and exhaustion and talked about the feeling of knowing he might die. He said his own illness has caused him, after a lifetime fighting viruses like HIV and Ebola, to look at them differently, that this experience will change his life. Turns out he, too, has been thinking about some of the same things we've been talking about here, about the sort of world we want to see when this is over, saying, "I hope this crisis will ease political tensions in a number of areas. It may be an illusion, but we have seen in the past that polio vaccination campaigns have led to truces. . . . Anyway, I remain a born optimist. And now that I have faced death, my tolerance levels for nonsense and bullshit have gone down even more than before. So, I continue calmly and enthusiastically, although more selectively than before my illness."

That image of calm and enthusiasm appeals to me. Let's not wait to face death ourselves before we commit to a future where we face nonsense and bullshit with calm and enthusiasm, but with little patience. It does not our deserve patience. We can turn this thing around, even while we face down a deadly virus; and that way, when we've moved beyond the virus, we'll have something worthwhile to come home to. Let's step boldly forth into the new and better world we can create together.

Stay well. We'll talk tomorrow.

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## Area COVID-19 Cases

	Apr. 28	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
Minnesota	4,181	4,644	5,136	5,730	6,228	6,663	7,234
Nebraska	3,374	3,784	4,281	4,838	5,326	5,659	6,083
Montana	451	451	453	453	455	455	457
Colorado	14,316	14,758	15,284	15,768	16,225	16,635	16,907
Wyoming	396	404	415	420	429	435	444
North Dakota	991	1,033	1,067	1,107	1,153	1,191	1,225
South Dakota	2,313	2,373	2,449	2,525	2,588	2,631	2,668
United States	1,012,583	1,040,488	1,070,032	1,104,161	1,133,069	1,157,945	1,180,634
US Deaths	58,355	60,999	63,019	65,068	66,385	67,680	68,934
Minnesota	+365	+463	+492	+594	+498	+435	+571
Nebraska	+16	+410	+497	+557	+488	+333	+424
Montana	+2	0	+2	0	+2	0	+2
Colorado	+437	+442	+526	+484	+457	+410	+272
Wyoming	+7	+8	+11	+5	+9	+6	+9
North Dakota	+49	+42	+34	+40	+46	+38	+34
South Dakota	+68	+60	+76	+76	+63	+43	+37
United States	+24,394	+27,905	+29,544	+34,129	+28,908	+24,876	+22,689
US Deaths	+2,100	+2,644	+2,020	+2,049	+1,317	+1,295	+1,254
	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	
Minnesota	7,851	8,579	9,365	10,088	10,790	11,271	
Nebraska	6,438	6,771	7,190	7,831	8,234	8,315	
Montana	456	456	456	458	458	458	
Colorado	17,364	17,830	18,371	18,827	19,375	19,375	
Wyoming	452	479	483	490	495	504	
North Dakota	1266	1,323	1,371	1,425	1,464	1,491	
South Dakota	2,721	2,779	2,905	3,144	3,393	3,517	
United States	1,204,475	1,228,609	1,256,972	1,286,833	1,309,541	1,329,225	
US Deaths	71,078	73,431	75,670	77,280	78,794	79,525	
Minnesota	+617	+728	+786	+723	+702	+481	
Nebraska	+355	+333	+419	+741	+403	+81	
Montana	+8	0	0	+2	0	0	
Colorado	+457	+466	+541	+456	+548	-----	
Wyoming	+8	+27	+4	+7	+5	+9	
North Dakota	+41	+57	+48	+54	+39	+27	
South Dakota	+53	+58	+126	+239	+249	+124	
United States	+23,841	+24,134	+28,363	+29,861	+22,708	+19,684	
US Deaths	+2,144	+2,353	+2,239	+1,610	1,514	+731	



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## May 10th COVID-19 UPDATE

Groton Daily Independent from Dept. of Health Lab records

Aurora County fell off the fully recovered list with a new positive case. Pennington picked up seven new cases as they have ticked up to 26 total. Minnehaha County registered 100 new cases and Brown County had 10 positive and 3 recovered. There were no new deaths in the Dakotas.

South Dakota:

Positive: +124 (3,517 total) (125 less than yesterday)

Negative: +818 (19,559 total) (20377 total)

Hospitalized: +8 (261 total) - 77 currently hospitalized (2 less than yesterday)

Deaths: 34 total

Recovered: +22 (2147 total)

Active Cases: 1336 (102 more than yesterday)

Counties with no positive cases report the following negative tests: Bennett 18, Brule +1 (69), Butte +1 (80), Campbell +1 (14), Custer +2 (64), Dewey +1 (63), Edmunds +1 (29), Gregory +1 (35), Haakon 18, Hanson +2 (34), Harding 1, Jackson 13, Jones 6, Kingsburg 87, Mellette 19, Perkins 8, Potter 37, Tripp +4 (70), unassigned +114 (825).

Aurora: +1 positive (2 total)

Brown: +10 positive, +3 recovered (45 of 110 recovered)

Grant: +1 positive (3 total)

Lincoln: +2 positive, +3 recovered (128 of 188 recovered)

Minnehaha: +100 positive, +12 recovered (1743 of 2867 recovered)

Pennington: +7 positive (26 total)

Roberts: +1 positive, +1 recovered (6 of 14 recovered)

Todd: +1 positive, +1 recovered (4 of 9 recovered)

Yankton: +1 positive (29 total)

Fully recovered from positive cases (Lost Aurora): Bon Homme, Buffalo, Corson, Deuel, Douglas, Faulk, Hamlin, Hand, Hutchinson, Hyde, Lawrence, Marshall, McPherson, Miner, Oglala Lakota, Sanborn, Sully, Walworth.

The N.D. DoH & private labs report 936 total completed tests today for COVID-19, with 27 new positive cases, bringing the statewide total to 1,491.

State & private labs have conducted 44,869 total tests with 43,378 negative results.

792 ND patients are considered recovered.

### COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Active Cases	1336
Currently Hospitalized	77
Recovered	2147
Total Positive Cases*	3517
Total Negative Cases*	20377
Ever Hospitalized**	261
Deaths***	34

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County	Positive Cases	Recovered Cases	Negative Cases
Aurora	2	1	48
Beadle	21	19	211
Bennett	0	0	18
Bon Homme	4	4	126
Brookings	14	13	416
Brown	120	48	758
Brule	0	0	69
Buffalo	1	1	19
Butte	0	0	80
Campbell	0	0	14
Charles Mix	5	4	121
Clark	2	1	64
Clay	9	6	184
Codington	15	14	559
Corson	1	1	25
Custer	0	0	64
Davison	7	5	357
Day	10	4	73
Deuel	1	1	92
Dewey	0	0	63
Douglas	1	1	37
Edmunds	0	0	29
Fall River	2	1	74
Faulk	1	1	24
Grant	3	0	65
Gregory	0	0	35
Haakon	0	0	18
Hamlin	2	2	82
Hand	1	1	29
Hanson	0	0	34
Harding	0	0	1
Hughes	15	10	290
Hutchinson	3	3	116

Hyde	1	1	19
Jackson	0	0	13
Jerauld	6	5	42
Jones	0	0	6
Kingsbury	0	0	87
Lake	5	4	166
Lawrence	9	9	227
Lincoln	188	128	1754
Lyman	3	2	56
Marshall	1	1	59
McCook	4	3	126
McPherson	1	1	25
Meade	3	1	344
Mellette	0	0	19
Miner	1	1	23
Minnehaha	2867	1743	9454
Moody	14	4	115
Oglala Lakota	1	1	56
Pennington	26	10	1115
Perkins	0	0	8
Potter	0	0	37
Roberts	14	6	154
Sanborn	3	3	42
Spink	4	3	107
Stanley	9	7	48
Sully	1	1	16
Todd	9	4	109
Tripp	0	0	70
Turner	18	15	170
Union	53	25	284
Walworth	5	5	61
Yankton	30	23	532
Ziebach	1	0	13
Unassigned****	0	0	825

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

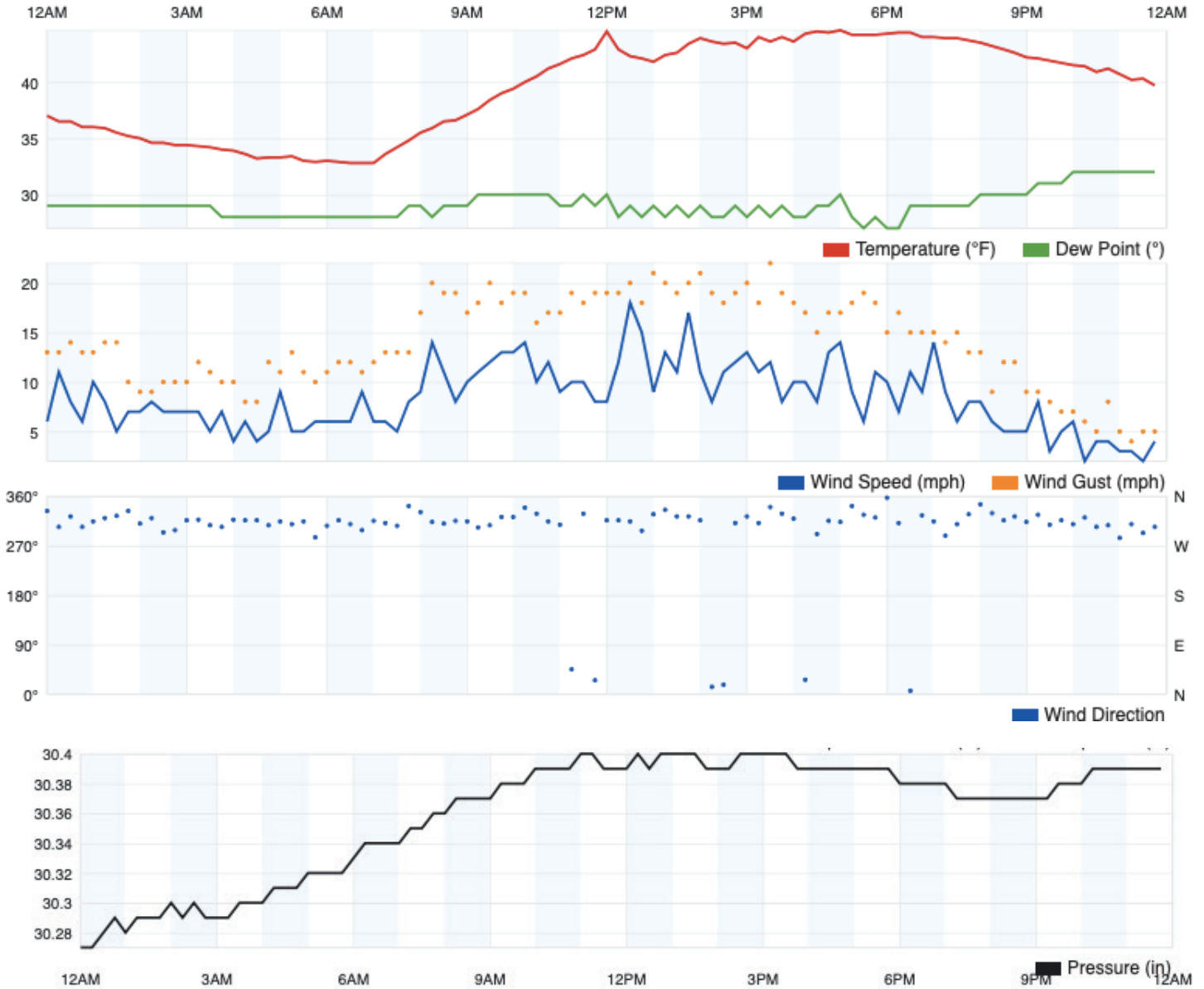
Sex	# of Cases	# of Deaths
Female	1599	17
Male	1918	17

County of Residence	# of Deaths
Beadle	2
Jerauld	1
McCook	1
Minnehaha	29
Pennington	1

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Frost then  
Sunny

High: 50 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy  
then Frost

Low: 25 °F

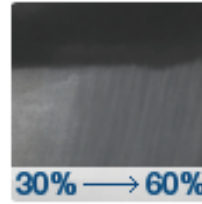
Tuesday



Frost then  
Partly Sunny

High: 54 °F

Tuesday  
Night

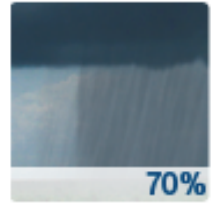


30% → 60%

Chance  
Showers then  
Showers  
Likely

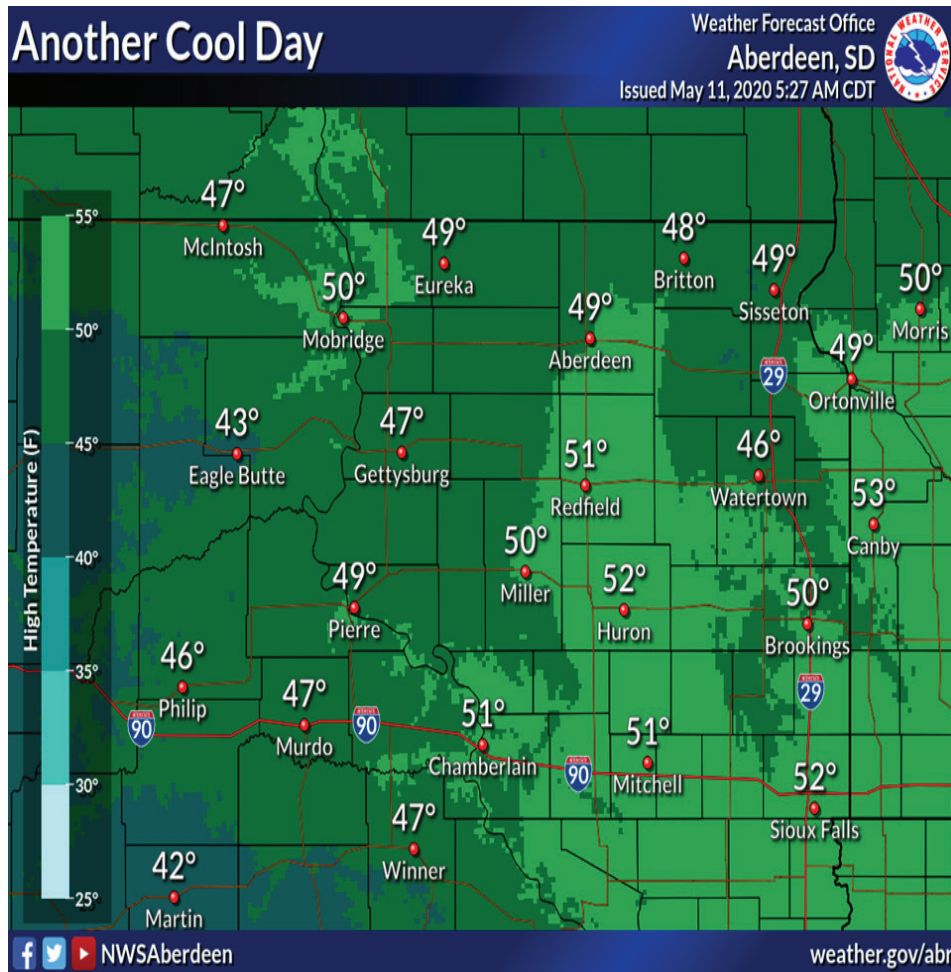
Low: 43 °F

Wednesday



Showers  
Likely and  
Breezy

High: 59 °F



Another cold day is expected with highs only reaching the mid-40s, to the low 50s. Low temperatures tonight will range from the mid-20s, in northeastern South Dakota, to the mid-30s, in central South Dakota.

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## Today in Weather History

May 11, 1966: Late season snow fell in parts of north central and northeast South Dakota and into west central Minnesota. Amounts include; 4 inches in Timber Lake; 3 in Eureka, 2 NNW of Mobridge, and Roscoe; and 2 inches in Artichoke Lake MN, Pollock, and Waubay.

May 11, 1998: Torrential rains of 2 to 4 inches with some amounts nearing 5 inches fell across a large part of Brown, Marshall, Day, Spink, and Clark counties on the evening of the 11th. This round of heavy rain only exacerbated the already extensive flooding occurring from many years of above-average precipitation. Day County was most affected by this round of heavy rain where area lakes were already at new record levels. Blue Dog, Waubay, Rush, and Bitter Lake in Day County were just a few of the lakes hard hit. In fact, extensive sandbagging was done around Blue Dog Lake to save many homes. Some residents of Blue Dog Lake said they had never seen the lake so high in over 35 years of living there. Many more roads become flooded after this heavy rain event and will remain so for quite some time. Spots on U.S. Highway 12 and U.S. Highway 25 become flooded near Holmquist and Webster. Also, more of U.S. Highway 212, 4 miles east of Clark was flooded. There remained only one road opened to the town of Grenville in northeastern Day County. In all five counties, the rising water took away many more acres of farm and pastureland, as well as drowning many crops that had already been planted. One farmer in Spink County said sixty percent of his farm was under water. Some farmhouses and outbuildings became surrounded by water leaving some families stranded. After this heavy rain, around sixty percent of the crop and pastureland in Day County and one-third of it in Spink County had been inundated by a swollen water table and several years of above normal precipitation. Overall, the continued flooding has had a tremendous impact on the economy in the five county areas. Some rainfall amounts on this day include; 4.7 inches just north of Crocker in Clark County; 4.52 at Webster; 4.01 at Doland; 3.81 at Waubay NWR; 3.60 at Turton; 2.63 at Conde; 2.60 at Groton; 2.41 at Clark; and 2.18 inches at Aberdeen.

Additional heavy rain of 2 to 4 inches fell mainly during the evening of the 11th across southern and central Hand County. Many creeks in the area became rushing torrents through the night and the day of the 12th. Also, low-lying areas and a lot of crop and pastureland were flooded. Some businesses and homes in the Miller, Saint Lawrence, Ree Heights, and Vayland areas were flooded. Some sandbagging was done to try and save some properties in Miller. U.S. Highway 14 at the east end of Miller was flooded over for several hours along with many other streets, county and township roads in southern and central Hand County. Many of the roads were damaged as the result of the flooding. Some people in Miller said they had never seen it flood this bad in 35 years. Some rainfall amounts include; 3.99 inches at Miller; 3.10 inches 3 miles south of Ree Heights; and 2.65 at Ree Heights.

1865: A tornado touched down in Philadelphia around 6 PM ET, killing one person and injuring 15 others. There was a considerable destruction of property, with 23 houses blown down, damage to the Reading Railroad depot, with the water tank, carried 150 yards. Fairmont Park was damaged to the amount of \$20,000.

1934: A tremendous dust storm affected the Plains as the Dust Bowl era was in full swing. According to The New York Times, dust "lodged itself in the eyes and throats of weeping and coughing New Yorkers," and even ships some 300 miles offshore sawdust collect on their decks. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

1953: A terrifying F5 tornado rips through downtown Waco, Texas, killing 114 people and injuring nearly 600 more. More than 850 homes, 600 businesses, and 2,000 cars are destroyed or severely damaged. Losses have been estimated at \$41 million. The tornado is the deadliest in Texas history and the tenth deadliest in the US.

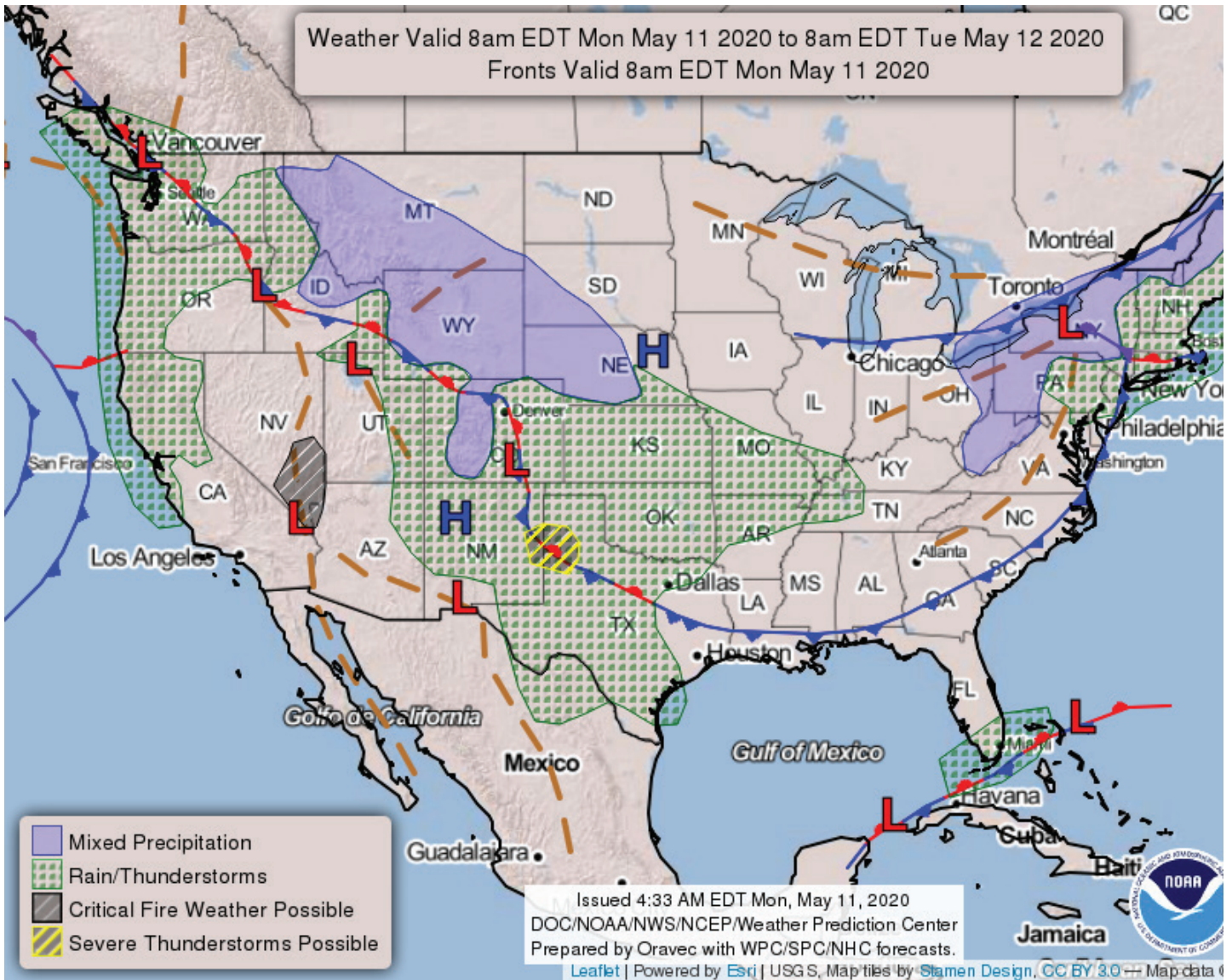
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 45 °F at 4:25 PM**  
**Low Temp: 33 °F at 6:21 AM**  
**Wind: 22 mph at 8:33 AM**  
**Precip: .00**

**Record High: 95° in 1900**  
**Record Low: 18° in 1946**  
**Average High: 68°F**  
**Average Low: 42°F**  
**Average Precip in May.: 1.03**  
**Precip to date in May.: 2.30**  
**Average Precip to date: 5.06**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.20**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:53 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:06 a.m.**



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## **SITTING UP OR LYING DOWN?**

A Red Cross representative was contacting local churches for planning purposes in the event of a disaster. Answering the phone, the pastor said, "Please, Ma'am, How may I help you?"

"I'm calling on behalf of the Red Cross," she said, "and I would like to know how many people might be able to lie down and sleep in your facilities in the event of a disaster."

Thinking for a moment about what might be possible, he responded with a smile, "I don't know how many might be able to lie down and sleep comfortably, but I know that about nine hundred sleep sitting upright every Sunday morning."

Sleeping in church is a byproduct for many tired Sunday morning worshipers. Whether it is a sermon that is not mentally challenging or spiritually stimulating or the result of insufficient sleep or rest is not the point. We go to church to worship God and recognize our need to gather together in His name. We set aside time and things when we attend church that normally concerns us and focus minds and hearts on the greatness of our Creator - His holiness, power and grace, and our unworthiness, our need for His grace, and our dependence upon Him to meet our every need.

Gathering together for worship is our duty and responsibility and must be done with a sense of expectation, eagerness, and excitement.

Prayer: Lord, may we enter into Your presence with praise and thanksgiving, coming together to honor Your goodness, grace, and glory. May we do so with expectations. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 66:4 Everything on earth will worship you; they will sing your praises, shouting your name in glorious songs.

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## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- **CANCELLED** Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt - City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
  - **CANCELLED** Dueling Piano's Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion
  - **CANCELLED** Fireman's Fun Night (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
  - **POSTPONED** Front Porch 605 Rural Route Road Trip
  - **CANCELLED** Father/Daughter dance.
  - **CANCELLED** Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, (1st Saturday in May)
  - **CANCELLED** 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
  - **CANCELLED** 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



## News from the Associated Press

### Funeral homes adjust to pandemic restrictions

By CORA VAN OLSON Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Even though we are in the middle of a pandemic, families who lose a loved one can still choose to have a casket, a burial and, thanks to modern technology, funeral events that can still be shared with friends and family, according to local funeral directors.

According to recommendations by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), gatherings are limited to 10 participants, who must all be at least six feet apart and this limit applies to funerals as well.

Even so, local funeral directors say they are continuing to do their best to serve grieving families, as well as those that support them in their time of grieving.

"We set up a Zoom meeting, a virtual visitation, that people can click in and talk to the family for a bit," Steve Wintz of Wintz & Ray Funeral Home told the Press & Dakotan. "We feel it's important to have a time where people can still pay their respects, see the family and let them know they're thinking about them."

Though churches are mostly on lockdown, clergy have been happy to conduct services at the funeral home, said Kevin Opsahl of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.

"So, they just have the service here at the funeral home with a limited number of people," Opsahl said. "We expose the least number and we control what we clean later."

A morning funeral is followed by a thorough cleaning, and if there's an afternoon service, everything gets cleaned again, he said.

"Having a funeral is not out of the question at all," said Jim Goglin, funeral director for Goglin Funeral Home. "I encourage people to have a funeral if they wish. We'll make it happen, as long as we follow what the state says we have to do."

Though there are many families that want to wait to have a funeral until the COVID-19 crisis has subsided, there are still people who would like to do something now — and funeral directors are working to continue to provide options.

"I think the general public is having the knee-jerk reaction when a death happens that they're going to (have to) cremate right away — and that's not the case," Opsahl said. "We can embalm and we can have safe funeral services even though our numbers of people that can attend are limited."

Currently, funeral directors are also limiting access to the deceased, though the embalming process makes the chances of infection very low, according to industry reports.

"The social distancing isn't from the deceased," Goglin said. "It's from each other, so no one gets sick." Social distancing has affected the regular grieving patterns seen at funerals, he said.

"The comforting has gone away, and so it's even harder on the families now than it was before because they can't be comforted, even amongst each other," Goglin said. "Funerals are sad the way it is, but we'll do everything we can within our power to comfort them."

Touch is an important part of the way we connect, Opsahl said.

"I see them sitting there," Opsahl said. "Someone may begin to grieve, and to be able to reach out and press their hand or their elbow or just tap them on the hand or the on the arm — can't do it anymore — you miss that moment of connection."

Even families that opt for cremation may not want to wait months for a service, Wintz said.

"People want to reach out to the family — and the family needs that support during this time," he said. "We just hope everyone's staying safe and understands that we're trying to do the best we can to still meet their needs."

Deadwood casinos seeing visitors after reopening

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Casinos in Deadwood, South Dakota, are seeing customers after reopening last week during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Deadwood City Commission voted last Monday to allow businesses to reopen if they follow federal, state and local rules for preventing the spread of the coronavirus. The vote came after the Deadwood Gaming Association reported March gambling revenue dropped 20% compared with March 2019.

"Deadwood is open. We just remind everyone to be safe and do their part," Mayor David Ruth told the Rapid City Journal on Friday.

At Cadillac Jack's, general manager David Schneiter said Thursday's play was "better than a typical Thursday" at the casino. Schneiter said 180 employees were called back to work on Thursday.

"A lot of people are excited to come back in," he said.

Schneiter said staff will sanitize slots after each player.

South Dakota health officials on Sunday reported 124 new cases of the coronavirus, bringing the state's total to 3,517. South Dakota's death toll remains at 34.

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.

## Experts worry CDC is sidelined in coronavirus response

By **MIKE STOBBE, JASON DEAREN and ZEKE MILLER** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has repeatedly found its suggestions for fighting the coronavirus outbreak taking a backseat to other concerns within the Trump administration. That leaves public health experts outside government fearing the agency's decades of experience in beating back disease threats are going to waste.

"You have the greatest fighting force against infectious diseases in world history. Why would you not use them?" said Dr. Howard Markel, a public health historian at the University of Michigan.

The complaints have sounded for months. But they have become louder following repeated revelations that transmission-prevention guidance crafted by CDC scientists was never adopted by the White House.

The latest instance surfaced Thursday, when The Associated Press reported that President Donald Trump's administration shelved a CDC document containing step-by-step advice to local authorities on how and when to reopen restaurants and other public places during the current pandemic.

The administration has disputed the notion that the CDC had been sidelined, saying the agency is integral to the administration's plans to expand contact tracing nationwide.

But it's clear that the CDC is playing a much quieter role than it has during previous outbreaks.

The nation's COVID-19 response has seen a strange turn for the CDC, which opened in 1946 in Atlanta as The Communicable Disease Center to prevent the spread of malaria with a \$10 million budget and a few hundred employees. Today, the agency has a core budget of more than \$7 billion — a sum that has been shrinking in recent years — and employs nearly 11,000 people.

The CDC develops vaccines and diagnostic tests. Its experts advise doctors how best to treat people, and teach state, local and international officials how to fight and prevent disease. Among the CDC's elite workforce are hundreds of the world's foremost disease investigators — microbiologists, pathologists and other scientists dispatched to investigate new and mysterious illnesses.

In 2009, when a new type of flu virus known at the time as swine flu spread around the world, the CDC held almost daily briefings. Its experts released information on a regular basis to describe the unfolding scientific understanding of the virus, and the race for a vaccine.

The federal response to the coronavirus pandemic initially followed a similar pattern.

CDC first learned in late December of the emergence of a new disease in China, and the U.S. identified its first case in January. In those early days, the CDC held frequent calls with reporters. It also quickly developed a test it could run at its labs, and a test kit to be sent to state health department labs to detect the virus.

But February proved to be a disaster. The test kit was flawed, delaying the ability of states to do testing. A CDC-run surveillance system, meant to look for signs of the virus in people who had thought they had

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the flu, was slow to get off the ground. Officials at the CDC and at other federal agencies were slow to recognize infections from Europe were outpacing ones from travelers to China.

But politically speaking, one the most striking moments that month was something that the CDC — in the eyes of public health experts — got perfectly right.

In late February, Dr. Nancy Messonnier — a well-respected CDC official who was leading the agency's coronavirus response — contradicted statements by other federal officials that the virus was contained. "It's not so much a question of if this will happen anymore, but rather more a question of exactly when this will happen — and how many people in this country will have severe illness," she said.

Stocks plunged. President Donald Trump was enraged.

The White House Coronavirus Task Force moved to center stage. Vice President Mike Pence took control of clearing CDC communications about the virus. CDC news conferences stopped completely after March 9. Messonnier exited the public stage.

CDC Director Robert Redfield continued to keep the low profile he's had since getting the job. Two other task force members — Dr. Deborah Birx, the task force coordinator, and Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health — became the task force's chief scientific communicators.

Health experts have praised Fauci, but they say CDC's voice is sorely missed.

"At the White House briefings, they (CDC) should be talking about antibody tests and if they work. How long do people have the virus if they're infected? What are the data for that? The issue ought to be front and center. These are the questions CDC can answer," said Dr. James Curran, a former CDC star scientist who is now dean of Emory University's public health school.

The government has continued to look to CDC officials for information and guidance, but there have been repeated instances when what the agency's experts send to Washington is rejected.

In early March, administration officials overruled CDC doctors who wanted to recommend that elderly and physically fragile Americans be advised not to fly on commercial airlines because of the new coronavirus, the AP reported.

Last month, USA Today reported that the White House task force had forced the CDC had to change orders it had posted keeping cruise ships docked until August. The post was altered to say the ships could sail again in July, the newspaper reported.

And last week, officials nixed CDC draft guidance that was researched and written to help faith leaders, business owners, educators and state and local officials as they begin to reopen.

The 17 pages of guidelines were never approved by Redfield to present to the White House task force, said an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. They were only discussed at the task force level once the drafts leaked publicly, and no decisions about them were ever made.

Still, the CDC guidelines were the subject of intense debate at the upper echelons of the White House. Some officials saw them as essential to helping businesses and other organizations safely reopen.

Others, including chief of staff Mark Meadows, did not believe it appropriate for the federal government to set guidelines for specific sectors whose circumstances could vary widely depending on the level of outbreak in their areas, according to a person familiar with the discussion. What was necessary for a coffee shop in New York and one in Oklahoma was wildly different, in their view.

They worried about potential negative economic impact from the guidelines, and some aides expressed doubts about whether the government should be prescribing practices to religious communities.

The decision not to issue detailed sector guidance is also in keeping with the White House's strategic decision to leave the specific details of reopening to states. While Trump had at one point claimed absolute authority to detail how and when states open, he's adopted a largely hands-off approach as more and more states begin to lift lockdowns.

Trump suggests his decision is in keeping with the principles of federalism, but White House aides acknowledge that it also lessens the political peril for the president — who has come under pressure from conservative allies, particularly in states that haven't experienced wide outbreaks, to swiftly reopen the

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country.

On a conference call Thursday afternoon with the House members on the White House's "Opening Up America" panel, lawmakers in both parties pressed the White House to release sector-specific guidance of the sort currently held up by the administration.

"There was clear bipartisan support for the need to have CDC guidance and the need to have best practices," said Rep. Ted Deutch, D-Fla.

The CDC did not respond to a Thursday request for an interview with Redfield.

In a recent interview with the AP, the agency's No. 2 administrator, Dr. Anne Schuchat, was asked to address reports that CDC recommendations were being ignored in Washington.

She paused, and then replied slowly.

"The CDC is providing our best evidence-based information to policy makers and providing that on a daily basis to protect the American people," she said, without further comment.

## New week brings new challenges for White House

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration's leading health experts on safely dealing with the novel coronavirus will be testifying in a Senate hearing by a videoconference this week after three of them and the committee's chairman were exposed to people who tested positive for COVID-19.

Adding to a string of potentially awkward moments for President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence himself self-isolated for the weekend after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19. Pence leads Trump's coronavirus task force.

The images of top administration officials taking such precautions come as states seek to loosen economic restrictions put in place to mitigate the virus' spread.

In the Senate, a staff member for the office of Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., tested positive for COVID-19, leading Alexander to decide to preside over Tuesday's hearing by teleconference while self-quarantining at home in Tennessee for two weeks.

As the health experts discuss the administration's response to the outbreak, lawyers for Trump will hope to persuade a Supreme Court with two of his appointees to keep his tax and other financial records from being turned over to lawmakers and a New York district attorney.

The justices are hearing arguments by telephone in a pivotal legal fight that could affect the presidential campaign. Rulings against the president could result in the quick release of personal financial information that Trump has sought strenuously to keep private.

On Thursday, a House panels hears from Dr. Rick A. Bright, former director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority. Bright asserts that he was summarily removed from his job and reassigned to a lesser role because he resisted political pressure to allow widespread use of hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug favored by Trump.

Perhaps most important of all the week's developments, the administration and Congress will be watching how businesses and consumers react as states gradually loosen restrictions that were designed to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Decisions about how fast to reopen are being made with a general election less than six months away, and Trump and other incumbents face the prospect of seeking another term in the midst of a public health and economic crisis.

"If we do this carefully, working with the governors, I don't think there's a considerable risk," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on "Fox News Sunday." "Matter of fact, I think there's a considerable risk of not reopening. You're talking about what would be permanent economic damage to the American public."

Mnuchin was one of several economic advisers the White House dispatched on Sunday to place the focus on the merits of loosening restrictions on the economy. Yet attention to possible risks of infection also turned to how the virus seemed to find its way into the White House complex.

Top task force officials who have gone into quarantine because of exposure to a person at the White

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House who tested positive for the virus include Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the CDC; and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Stephen Hahn.

Fauci's institute said he was "taking appropriate precautions" to mitigate the risk to others while still carrying out his duties, teleworking from home but willing to go to the White House if called. Officials said both Redfield and Hahn will be self-quarantining for two weeks.

Pence's press secretary, Katie Miller, tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday, making her the second person who works at the White House complex known to test positive for the virus this week. A military service member who acts as a valet to the president tested positive on Thursday, the first known instance where a person in close proximity to the president at the White House had tested positive.

The precautions contrast with a president who has declined to wear a face covering in meetings at the White House or at his public events.

The White House has moved to shore up its protection protocols to protect the nation's political leaders. Trump said that some staffers who interact with him closely would now be tested daily. Pence told reporters that both he and Trump would now be tested daily as well.

Kevin Hassett, an adviser to Trump and the former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, acknowledged Sunday it's "scary to go to work" in the White House, calling the West Wing a "small, crowded place. It's, you know, a little bit risky."

Hassett said he wears a mask when necessary and practices "aggressive social distancing." Appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," he said any fears are tempered by frequent testing, access to an excellent medical team and his belief that this is a time "when people have to step up and serve their country."

The Senate will be in session this week. The House has not yet scheduled its return, as Democrats are determined to have a final coronavirus bill ready for voting before members are called back.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is also working behind the scenes to unify her caucus and finalize their opening coronavirus bill; the Senate is in wait-and-see mode, with Republicans divided on next steps.

The president says he's not in a hurry to pass another economic rescue package. Trump economic adviser Larry Kudlow said that the administration is, however, talking with lawmakers from both parties about possible next steps.

"I think that many people would like to just pause for a moment and take a look at the economic impact of this massive assistance program, which is the greatest in United States history. That's all that is being said," Kudlow said on ABC's "This Week."

## **Pandemic creates electoral uncertainty for Trump, Democrats**

**By STEVE PEOPLES and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press**

Presidential politics move fast. What we're watching heading into a new week on the 2020 campaign:

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Days to general election: 176

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### THE NARRATIVE

President Donald Trump's reelection is facing growing headwinds less than six months before Election Day. Coronavirus has breached the White House walls. The U.S. unemployment rate is at a 90-year high. And the death toll in the U.S. has surged past 80,000, far more than the Republican president's projections. Meanwhile, medical experts are warning of a major second wave of infections as states begin to reopen portions of their economies with Trump's blessing.

Democrat Joe Biden has political challenges of his own, but no incumbent president has faced anything like this in almost a century.

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### THE BIG QUESTIONS

Has the U.S. economy hit bottom?

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Just a few short months ago, Trump planned to campaign for reelection on the back of a robust economy. That's a distant memory after more than 20 million jobs were lost in April, leading to an unemployment rate of 14.7%, the highest since the Great Depression.

Economists suggest the genuine unemployment number is much higher. Trump is encouraging states to reopen their economies to help reverse the slide, even as health experts warn that reopening too soon could lead to a second wave that would wreak greater economic devastation.

The president needs things to start turning around quickly.

Can Biden's campaign compete with the Death Star?

High-profile Democrats have begun voicing public concerns over the direction of Biden's presidential campaign as Trump enjoys major organizational advantages.

Trump has more money, a more sophisticated digital operation and a big staffing advantage. Last week, former Obama strategists David Axelrod and David Plouffe, in addition to Pete Buttigieg strategist Lis Smith, wrote separate op-eds offering their own suggestions for Biden's political strategy.

At the same time, the Trump campaign is unleashing a \$10 million anti-Biden advertising blitz. Trump campaign manager Brad Parscale said the massive round of attack ads represents the first major shot for what he called a juggernaut "Death Star" campaign. Biden's team is supremely confident in his ability to compete, yet Democrats are decidedly playing catch-up.

Will voters hold Trump accountable for the rising death toll?

Trump and his allies have repeatedly declared success in the fight against the coronavirus, even as the U.S. death toll blows past his own projections.

As recently as April 20 Trump predicted during his daily press briefing that between 50,000 and 60,000 Americans would ultimately die as a result of COVID-19. The number of deaths has already exceeded 80,000. Trump has been forced to adjust his projections on the fly. He told a Fox News audience over the weekend that the final tally could reach 100,000 deaths. It's uncomfortable to think about the political ramifications of such horror, but the death toll represents one of the few pieces of quantitative evidence of Trump's job performance.

Are the Obamas back?

Former President Barack Obama called Trump's handling of the coronavirus an "absolute chaotic disaster" in a Friday conference call in which he encouraged his former team to embrace Biden's presidential bid.

It was Obama's latest step into the 2020 contest, albeit a modest one, having maintained regular private contact with Biden and other Democratic candidates in recent months.

Yet the former president's 2020 political star, at least for now, may be overshadowed by former first lady Michelle Obama, who starred in a Netflix documentary released last week exploring her life and rise in politics.

Coinciding with the release, a new group emerged to encourage the former first lady to embrace a role as Biden's running mate. Michelle Obama has sent strong signals that she has no interest in returning to the White House. But even if she stands firm, the Obamas are reminding the political world that they still hold tremendous political power.

How do Democrats recalibrate their convention?

Biden is the presumptive Democratic nominee. But the process of making it official is anything but settled.

First, it's far from clear whether host site Milwaukee will be open for even a scaled-down convention, said Melissa Baldauff, a spokeswoman for Democratic Gov. Tony Evers.

"We are really just in a place where the disease sets the timeline," Baldauff said. "Everyone would love to have the convention here in Milwaukee, even if it's in a limited capacity. But from our perspective, it's too soon to tell."

A month ago, the state Supreme Court overruled Evers' order to reschedule the primary election, despite a shortage of election workers in Milwaukee that forced officials to slash the city's 180 polling places to just five.

At least 67 Wisconsin residents were diagnosed with COVID-19 after voting in person or working at the polls April 7, though it wasn't clear how many of the infections were direct results of the election, state

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officials said.

An important next step in the altered nominating process comes Tuesday, when the Democratic National Committee's powerful Rules and Bylaws Committee meets — virtually, of course — to discuss granting waivers to states that missed deadlines by postponing their primaries due to the pandemic.

## THE FINAL THOUGHT

His campaign has massive organizational advantages, but they may not matter much if Trump cannot effectively govern the nation when it matters most. The death toll, unemployment and public confidence in his administration is moving in the wrong direction. Congress has passed multiple economic rescue packages already, but the president has yet to offer or execute a clear, comprehensive nationwide plan to take control of the health crisis.

## 'Tale of 2 outbreaks': Singapore tackles a costly setback

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Weeks after two of his roommates were diagnosed with COVID-19, Mohamad Arif Hassan says he's still waiting to be tested for the coronavirus. Quarantined in his room in a sprawling foreign workers' dormitory that has emerged as Singapore's biggest viral cluster, Arif says he isn't too worried because neither he nor his eight other roommates have any symptoms.

Still, the 28-year-old Bangladeshi construction worker couldn't be blamed if he were more than just a bit concerned.

Infections in Singapore, an affluent Southeast Asian city-state of fewer than 6 million people, have jumped more than a hundredfold in two months — from 226 in mid-March to more than 23,800, the most in Asia after China, India and Pakistan. Only 20 of the infections have resulted in deaths.

About 90% of Singapore's cases are linked to crowded foreign workers' dormitories that were a blind spot in the government's crisis management. Arif's dorm complex, which has 14,000 beds, accounts for 11% of total infections, with over 2,500 cases.

This massive second wave of infections caught Singapore off guard and exposed the danger of overlooking marginalized groups during a health crisis. Despite warnings from human rights activists as early as February about the dorms' crowded and often unsanitary living conditions, no action was taken until cases spread rampantly last month.

Singapore's costly oversight was also an important lesson to other countries in the region with large migrant populations. Neighboring Malaysia recently announced mandatory coronavirus testing for its more than 2 million foreign workers after dozens were diagnosed with COVID—19.

The slip-up highlighted Singapore's treatment of its large population of low-wage foreign workers, who play an integral part in the economy but live on the fringes in conditions where social distancing is impossible. The misjudgment was also an embarrassment for Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's government ahead of a general election anticipated in the next few months that is expected to be the last for Lee, who has led Singapore since 2004 and is planning to retire soon.

Singapore's nanny state government, which won global praise for its meticulous contact tracing and testing in the early stages of the crisis, quickly moved to contain the problem by treating the flare-up in the dorms as a separate outbreak from that in the local community, a policy that some say is discriminatory.

The government shut schools and nonessential businesses island-wide on April 7. So-called "safe distancing ambassadors" were recruited to remind people to wear masks and stay at least a meter apart from each other in public places, or face heavy penalties.

Meanwhile, all construction sites and dorms were locked down and foreign workers largely confined in their rooms. More than 10,000 foreign workers in essential services were moved to safer sites to reduce crowding, and testing was ramped up to include people with no symptoms.

In Arif's S11 Punggol dorm — advertised as the cheapest in Singapore — police have mounted a 24-hour patrol of the 13 multicolored housing blocks located in the island's northeast.

Arif, who was sharing a room with 11 other workers, said one of them was moved to an army camp in

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early April to help ease overcrowding. Shortly afterward, another roommate was hospitalized with a fever, and on April 17 another was isolated with light symptoms, with both testing positive for the coronavirus.

Arif said he hasn't been tested yet because thousands of residents of his dorm will probably have to be tested. But he said he was comforted by Singapore's top-notch medical facilities and its relatively low number of deaths from the virus.

He gets food delivered to his room, free Wi-Fi on his cellphone and, most importantly, he said the government has pledged that the workers' salaries will be paid.

"I am not worried because the government is taking good care of us like Singaporeans," said Arif, who has lived in Singapore for seven years. "Right now, we take our temperature twice a day, try to stay a meter apart from each other and constantly use hand sanitizer."

Once belittled as a tiny red dot on the global map, Singapore has relied on overseas workers to build infrastructure and help power its growth into one of the world's wealthiest nations.

Some 1.4 million foreign workers live in the city-state, accounting for 38% of its workforce. At least two thirds are low-wage, transient migrants from across Asia performing blue-collar jobs that locals shun, such as construction, shipping and maintenance, as well as working as maids.

Roughly 250,000 of the migrants live in 43 privately run dormitories mostly tucked away in the outskirts far from Singapore's stunning skyscrapers and luxury malls. Workers sleep in bunk beds in rooms usually packed with 12 people, sometimes up to 20, with a required minimum living space of 4.5 square meters (48 square feet) per person.

Another 120,000 migrant laborers live in factory-converted hostels or temporary facilities at work sites, where conditions are sometimes even more dismal.

Most of Singapore's migrants earn between 500 and 1,000 Singapore dollars (\$354-\$708) a month.

Since last month, the government's infection data has separated foreign workers' cases from those among the general population. Although cases continue to rise among foreign workers, infections have decreased in the local community. The government plans to gradually reopen the economy on Tuesday before island-wide restrictions end June 1, eager to show that it has remedied the situation and that measures have worked.

"The larger narrative that cannot be missed is the tale of two outbreaks in Singapore," said Eugene Tan, law professor at Singapore Management University. "The outbreak that Singaporeans should pay attention to is the local community. The other outbreak of foreign workers is getting its due attention from the government, but it should not be one that Singaporeans should be unduly concerned about."

## UK PM Johnson's 'go to work' advice sparks wide confusion

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Employees, business owners, police and trade unions in Britain expressed confusion Monday after the government switched from telling workers to stay at home to urging them to return to work — but preferably without getting near other people or using public transport.

In a televised statement Sunday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson extended most of the draconian restrictions on daily life imposed March 23 to slow the spread of the coronavirus, including closing schools, restaurants and most shops. He also sketched out how the lockdown will be eased in stages if the number of infections in the U.K. continues to fall.

Britain's official coronavirus death toll stands at almost 32,000, the highest in Europe and the second-highest in the world after the United States. While the number of new deaths and infections is falling, Johnson said it would be "madness" to loosen restrictions so much that there is a second spike in coronavirus cases.

But he made a dramatic shift in tone on the economy, saying "anyone who can't work from home, for instance those in construction or manufacturing, should be actively encouraged to go to work."

He said workplaces should observe social distancing and people should avoid public transport if possible, traveling "by car or even better by walking or bicycle."



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Critics said the advice was confusing, hard to follow and potentially dangerous — especially in a big city like London, where most people do not own cars and where subways are operating at a fraction of their usual capacity.

After Johnson spoke, London Mayor Sadiq Khan issued a statement stressing that the lockdown had not been lifted and saying Londoners “must not use public transport for any unnecessary journeys.”

London’s Waterloo station, usually the country’s busiest train hub, remained largely quiet Monday morning but commuters venturing back to work said they worried that services would soon be thronged again.

“I am nervous about going back, because I have a family and they have been isolating since the start. I feel like I am now putting them at risk,” said Peter Osu, 45, who was returning to work at a construction site for the first time since the lockdown started.

“People were sitting close together on the (subway) and others were having to stand,” he said. “There was no 2 meter spacing. This is the first day. Can you imagine what it’s going to look like by the end of the week?”

Johnson’s Conservative government said more details of the “road map” out of lockdown would come in a 50-page document being published Monday. But already Johnson was at odds with the leaders of Scotland and Wales, who decried his decision to replace the “Stay at Home” slogan that has been used for seven weeks with one urging people to “Stay Alert.”

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she didn’t know what the new advice meant and asked the U.K. government not to promote such a “vague and imprecise” message in Scotland.

In his statement, Johnson also said within weeks the U.K. would impose a 14-day quarantine on people arriving by air, though it is unclear how it will be enforced. Travelers from Ireland and France will be exempt.

The prime minister, who was hospitalized last month with a serious bout of COVID-19, said if the outbreak continues to recede, primary school pupils could start to return to class beginning June 1, and some outdoor cafes and restaurants might reopen in July, along with movie theaters and places of worship.

He offered modest changes that will take effect Wednesday only in England. People may take unlimited amounts of exercise, rather than just one bout a day, and will be allowed to sit and sunbathe outdoors. Driving to a park or beach will be permitted, and golf courses and tennis courts can reopen — though people can only play sports with members of their own household.

But confusion reigned over whether people could now meet up with friends or relatives outdoors as long as they stayed 2 meters (6.5 feet) apart.

Police organizations said the fuzzy rules made enforcement harder.

“Police officers will continue to do their best, but their work must be based on crystal clear guidance, not loose rules that are left open to interpretation — because that will be grossly unfair on officers, whose job is already challenging,” said John Apter, national chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales.

## Ukraine’s hospitals under strain, even with few virus cases

By MSTYSLAV CHERNOV and YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

CHERNIVTSI, Ukraine (AP) — Medical workers in homemade protective masks and suits, with plastic bags over their shoes. A hospital intended for 150 coronavirus patients now holding 250. A lack of filtration systems that forces autopsies to be done outside, under the trees, instead of in the hospital morgue.

Ukraine’s troubled health care system has been overwhelmed by COVID-19, even though it has reported a relatively low number of cases — 15,648 infections and 408 deaths as of Monday.

Nowhere is the problem more evident than in western city of Chernivtsi, with 2,324 confirmed infections in the city and the surrounding region. It is considered a hot spot of contagion, along with another western city, Ivano-Frankivsk, 100 kilometers (60 miles) away, and the capital, Kyiv.

Thousands of Ukrainians who had temporary jobs in Europe have returned home amid the pandemic and some brought the virus back with them.

As COVID-19 patients flood into the struggling hospitals, some doctors and nurses must buy their own

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protective gear or use improvised equipment. Many of them are getting sick: medical workers account for about a fifth of all coronavirus cases in Ukraine.

"My soul is crying!" said Mykola Sharakhlitsky, an anesthesiologist at Chernivtsi's main hospital as he cleaned a protective suit. "We are experiencing a shortage of medical equipment and protective gear, and we all get infected as a result."

There is not a hospital-grade ventilator for the 250 patients in the facility in Chernivtsi, a city of 266,000 people.

"I don't believe that a single hospital in Ukraine has all it needs," said ICU chief Kostyantyn Dronyk. "We are short of everything."

The crisis could not have struck at a worse time for Ukraine.

The country's corruption-ridden economy has been drained by six years of war with Russia-backed separatists in the east, and the year-old administration of President Volodymyr Zelenskiy inherited health care reforms begun by his predecessor that are still rolling out. The reforms have slashed government subsidies, leaving hospital workers underpaid and poorly equipped.

"The coronavirus has shown what kind of medical reform it was — hospitals aren't ready, there aren't enough beds for infected patients, salaries are very low, medical infrastructure is missing," Zelenskiy said. "We didn't even have 1,000 ventilators in working condition in a country of over 40 million. It's just a shame."

The health care reforms also sought to replace the old rules that allowed patients to choose their own doctors and consult with specialists with a system empowering family doctors to direct patients to other experts. But the new system has failed to work properly amid the outbreak.

"Family doctors have refrained from dealing with the problems," said Ivan Venzhynovych, a 51-year-old therapist in Pochaiv, a town in western Ukraine. "Doctors don't visit patients, they give consultations over the phone. Everyone is afraid of getting the virus."

Pochaiv's hospital doesn't have an infectious disease specialist: One left and another one has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

"All people have run away, and those who are left are working at their limit because of that reform," Venzhynovych said.

Aware of the health care problems, authorities began a strict coronavirus lockdown on March 12, complete with police patrols and tight restrictions on using public transportation. Farmers, businessmen and others have been pushing authorities to ease the rules, and the government said it would do so starting Monday.

Yet doctors fear it will lead to a new wave of contagion.

"You can see this sad picture of our readiness, and it happens in the fourth month of the epidemic," said Dr. Oleh Stetsiuk, a pathologist in the western city of Ternopil who wears a yellow protective suit that his friend, a shoemaker, made for him.

"They don't give us a penny to improve sanitary conditions," Stetsiuk said. He conducts autopsies on patients killed by the virus outdoors behind his hospital because its morgue lacks the proper air and water filtration system.

"Ukraine was completely unprepared for the epidemic, and it's a big question if it's ready now," he said, adding that the authorities rejected his plea to provide a tent for the autopsies, citing a lack of funds.

The government used to subsidize things like wages for medical workers and hospital utility bills, but under a second stage of the reforms that began last month, there will be further cuts to of the already-limited state funding.

Under the new rules, the state doesn't fully cover the cost of treatment. It only pays the equivalent of \$780 for treating a stroke patient, while experts estimate the cost at \$2,000-\$3,200.

Limited state funds have resulted in low wages. ICU doctors have monthly salaries ranging from \$148 to \$174, while nurses get \$111.

"It's sad and scary that I have to think not about my patients, but how not to die of hunger, how to pay for my apartment and feed my family," said Dr. Ihor Feldman, a 38-year-old lung specialist in Chernivtsi with 15 years of experience who makes \$174 a month.

The new system also redistributes subsidies among hospitals, with the most money going to those with

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more patients, putting many smaller and specialized clinics on the verge of closure.

Zelenskiy has vowed to revise the reforms, saying that it otherwise could lead to the closure of more than 300 hospitals, leaving 50,000 medical workers jobless.

"Except for the medics — the excellent professionals who are among the best in the world — we have nothing else," he said. The president hasn't specified how he could increase subsidies to the ailing health care sector in a cash-strapped country that badly depends on loans from the International Monetary Fund and other global lenders.

Medical workers across Ukraine have held rallies to protest the reforms and some hospital chiefs staged hunger strikes.

"We haven't fled from the front line," doctors in the southwestern city of Vynnytsia said in a statement. "We have abandoned our children, husbands and parents and have been practically living at the hospital to save lives. The government must decide whom it is fighting against — medics or the coronavirus."

## Iran friendly fire missile strike in drill kills 19 sailors

By **NASSER KARIMI Associated Press**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — An Iranian missile fired during a training exercise in the Gulf of Oman struck a support vessel near its target, killing 19 Iranian sailors and wounding 15, Iran's military and state media said Monday, amid heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington.

The statement significantly raised the death toll in Sunday's incident from what was reported just hours earlier, when Iran's state media said at least one sailor was killed.

The Konarak, a Hendijan-class support ship, which was taking part in the exercise, was too close to a target during an exercise on Sunday when the incident happened, the reports said. The vessel had been putting targets out for other ships to target. The media said the missile struck the vessel accidentally.

The friendly fire incident took place near the port of Jask, some 1,270 kilometers (790 miles) southeast of Tehran, in the Gulf of Oman, state TV said.

A local hospital admitted 12 sailors and treated another three with slight wounds, the state-run IRNA news agency reported.

Iranian media said the Konarak had been overhauled in 2018 and was able to launch sea and anti-ship missiles. The Dutch-made, 47-meter (155-foot) vessel was in service since 1988 and had capacity of 40 tons. It usually carries a crew of 20 sailors.

Iran towed the Konarak into a nearby naval base after the strike. A photograph released by the Iranian army showed burn marks and some damage to the vessel, though the military did not immediately offer detailed photographs of the site of the missile's impact.

Iran regularly holds exercises in the region, which is close to the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of the world's oil passes. The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which monitors the region, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Iranian media rarely report on mishaps during exercises by the country's armed forces, signaling the severity of the incident. It also comes amid months of heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018 and imposed crushing sanctions on the country.

It marks the second serious incident involving a misfired missile by Iran's armed forces this year. In January, after attacking U.S. forces in Iraq with ballistic missiles, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard accidentally shot down a Ukrainian jetliner, killing all 176 people on board.

## Restart or re-stop? Economies reopen but chaos abounds

By **LORI HINNANT and NICK PERRY Associated Press**

PARIS (AP) — Plastic barriers and millions of masks appeared Monday on the streets of Europe's newly reopened cities, as France and Belgium emerged from lockdowns, the Netherlands sent children back to

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school and Greece and Spain further eased restrictions. All faced a delicate balance of trying to restart battered economies without fueling a second wave of coronavirus infections.

Social distancing was the order of the day but just how to do that on public transit and in schools was the big question.

With Monday's partial reopening, the French did not have to carry forms allowing them to leave their homes but crowds quickly developed at some metro stations in Paris, one of France's viral hot spots. A last-minute legal challenge emerged to the government's practice of confining people to their own regions, further confusing the post-lockdown landscape.

Antoinette van Zalinge, principal of the De Notenkraker elementary school in Amsterdam, wore a wide white skirt and a hula hoop slung from her shoulders and carried a long stick with a hand at one end so she could shake hands with students while still keeping 1.5-meters (5-foot) apart.

In Paris, hairdressers practiced their new workflow over the weekend ahead of Monday's reopening, and planned to charge a "participation fee" for the new disposable protective gear they'll need for each customer. Walk-in customers will be a thing of the past, said Brigitte L'Hoste, manager of the "Hair de Beauté" salon, who expects the number of appointments to be cut in half.

"The face of beauty will change, meaning clients won't come here to relax. Clients will come because they need to," said Aurelie Bollini, a beautician at the salon. "They will come and aim at getting the maximum done in the shortest time possible."

Roughly half of Spain's 47 million people stepped into a softer version of the country's strict confinement, beginning to socialize, shop in small stores and enjoy outdoor seating in restaurants and bars. Its biggest cities of Madrid and Barcelona remained under lockdown, however.

Fears about new waves of infection have been born out in Germany, where a new cluster was linked to a slaughterhouse; in Wuhan, the Chinese city where the virus started; and in South Korea, where a single nightclub customer was linked to 85 new infections.

The South Korean government pushed back hard against that wave, halting the school re-openings that had been planned for this week and re-imposing restrictions on nightclubs and bars. It is now trying to track 5,500 people who had visited a popular Seoul entertainment district by checking credit-card transactions, mobile-phone records and security camera footage.

In Germany, gyms re-opened in the most populous state, but authorities there and in France have said any backsliding in the daily number of infections could lead to new restrictions.

"We're going to have to learn to live with the virus," Health Minister Olivier Veran said on BFM television.

The hurdles ahead for tourism and the service industries were clear, even in places where infections are diminished. Shanghai Disneyland reopened to visitors, but let in limited numbers and demanded that they wear face masks and have their temperatures checked.

"We hope that today's reopening serves as a beacon of light across the globe, providing hope and inspiration to everyone," the president of Shanghai Disney Resort, Joe Schott, told reporters.

In the U.K. — which has the second-most coronavirus deaths in the world behind the U.S. — Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a modest easing of the country's lockdown but urged citizens not to surrender the progress already made. Some people, however, were confused as the government shifted its slogan from "stay home" slogan to "stay alert" and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland stuck with the old slogan.

People in jobs that can't be done at home "should be actively encouraged to go to work" this week, he said. He also set a goal of June 1 to begin reopening schools and shops if the U.K. can control new infections and the rate that each patient infects others. Johnson himself is the only world leader to recover from a serious bout of COVID-19.

"We will be driven not by mere hope or economic necessity," Johnson promised. "We're going to be driven by the science, the data, and public health."

In the U.S., Trump administration officials spoke optimistically about a relatively quick rebound from the pandemic — but then had to announce that Vice President Mike Pence "self-isolating" after one of his

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aides tested positive.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin predicted the American economy would rebound in the second half of this year from unemployment rates that rival the Great Depression. Another 3.2 million U.S. workers applied for jobless benefits last week, bringing the total over seven weeks to 33.5 million unemployed.

The U.S. has seen 1.3 million infections and nearly 80,000 deaths, the most in the world by far, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Worldwide, 4 million people have been reported infected and more than 280,000 have died, over 150,000 of them in Europe. Health experts believe all those numbers understate the true toll of the pandemic for different reasons.

The director of the University of Washington institute that created a White House-endorsed coronavirus model said moves by states to reopen businesses "will translate into more cases and deaths in 10 days from now." Dr. Christopher Murray of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation said states where cases and deaths are going up more than expected include Illinois, Arizona, Florida and California.

India reported its biggest daily increase in coronavirus cases Monday as it prepared to resume train service to ease a lockdown that has hit migrant workers especially hard by eliminating the daily wages they use to feed their families. The government reported 4,213 new cases for more than 67,000 total, including 2,206 deaths.

The railway system is India's lifeline, transporting 23 million people across the vast subcontinent each day. When service restarts Tuesday, passengers must wear masks and pass health screenings before being allowed to board and the trains will make fewer stops than usual.

While unemployed workers in developed nations are temporarily buoyed by benefits and job-protection schemes, millions elsewhere are facing dire economic prospects. In a slum on the banks of a sewage-tainted river in Lebanon, Faiqqa Homsy feels that her family being pushed closer and closer to the edge.

A mother of five, she was already struggling, relying on donations to care for a baby daughter with cancer. The coronavirus shutdown cost her husband his meager income driving a school bus and upended her hopes of earning money selling juice.

"It is all closing in our face," Homsy said.

## Lebanon faces grave threat to stability as poverty mounts

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (AP) — Living in a slum built precariously on the banks of a sewage-tainted river in Lebanon, Faiqqa Homsy feels her family being pushed closer and closer to the edge.

A mother of five, she was already struggling, relying on donations to care for a baby daughter with cancer. The coronavirus shutdown cost her husband his meager income driving a school bus. She hoped to earn some change selling carrot juice after a charity gave her a juicer. But as Lebanon's currency collapsed, carrots became too expensive.

"It is all closing in our face," Homsy said.

Lebanese are growing more desperate as jobs disappear and their money's value evaporates in a terrifying confluence of events. An unprecedented economic crisis, nationwide protests and coronavirus pose the biggest threat to stability since the end of the civil war in 1990, and there are fears of a new slide into violence.

Nowhere is the despair deeper than in Tripoli, Homsy's hometown and Lebanon's poorest city. Overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim and home to over 700,000 people, Tripoli has suffered years of neglect and is stigmatized with violence and extremism. Mounting poverty is turning it into a powder keg.

Even before the crises, almost the entire city's workforce depended on day-to-day income, and 60% of them made less than \$1 a day. More than half of the families were in the poorest classification, lacking basic services, education and health care, said Suheir Ghali, a university professor who carried out a study of Tripoli.

Things will get worse as Lebanon's economy contracts. Already 45% of the country's population is below the poverty line. The currency has lost nearly 60% of its value to the dollar. Unemployment has risen to

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35%, nearly double the current U.S. figures rivaling the Great Depression.

Divisions among Lebanon's sectarian leadership hamper attempts to address the crisis. Hezbollah, which dominates the government, reluctantly supported plans to seek help from the International Monetary Fund, a sign of its concern about widening hardships. IMF support will likely mean cuts in the public sector, the largest employer, likely to cause squabbling among political factions. The prime minister, a Sunni, has Hezbollah's backing but little within his own sect or in Tripoli.

Tripoli was thrust into the forefront of the anti-government protests that first broke out in October. Its boisterous rallies inspired other protesters, who called it the "bride" of the uprising.

Protests returned late last month, more furious and violent, targeting banks. A protester was killed in Tripoli when the army broke up a rally.

"The risk that things might go on a downward spiral (in Tripoli) is real," said Nasser Yassin, a professor of policy planning at the American University of Beirut.

Tripoli has been the scene of some of Lebanon's worst violence since the civil war's end. For weeks in 2007, Islamists battled troops north of the city. The uprising in Syria reignited a bloody rivalry between some of Tripoli's Sunni and Alawite residents, who belong to the same sect as Syria's leadership.

Syria's war — now in its 10th year — stripped Tripoli of its strong trade ties with Syria, a key lifeline. Hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees have moved into Tripoli and surrounding areas.

Residents are also bitter over grand promises that never materialize from rival Sunni politicians vying for their support. Development of Tripoli's port, a hoped-for gateway for rebuilding post-war Syria, never picked up. A trade fairground designed by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer in the 1960s remains abandoned. At a crafts market project, workshops are shutting down one after the other.

Growing numbers of poor scramble for aid.

Homsy broke into tears when she saw a woman, the age of her mother-in-law, pushed around in a line for food stamps.

Homsy lives in Mulawiya, an illegal favela-like settlement of narrow alleys and ramshackle houses built on top of each other up the steep banks of Abu Ali River. Homsi's family is crammed into two bedrooms — the kids sleeping in bunk beds next to the kitchen. A large collection of tea and coffee cups — part of her wedding trousseau — is neatly stacked on the kitchen shelves.

Her daughter Maya was diagnosed with cancer as a newborn three years ago. Homsi takes her twice a month to Beirut, a 90-minute bus ride, to a hospital where her treatment is paid for by philanthropists. The little girl has lost half her hair from the chemo and radiotherapy.

Homsy's eldest son, now 17, dropped out of school to help the family. A fifth of her husband's \$340-a-month salary went for the trip to Beirut. Now that income is gone.

"I try as best as I can. Sometimes it is at the expense of the other children. It is not because I am harsh, but because there are things I can't secure," she said. It took her weeks to fix her 7-year-old son's broken glasses.

Nearby Bab al-Tebanneh, one of Tripoli's poorest slums, has always been a destination for Lebanese to fix a broken car or wooden door at low cost.

On an early afternoon this week, a mini-mart was nearly empty. A produce vendor, Mohamed Harou, said he doesn't display fruit because no one can afford it. His friend, Ibrahim Abdulla, a scrap metal dealer, idled outside his shop with no work.

No one in the market wore a face mask or gloves.

"The virus won't survive here," said Harou, pointing to sewage water collecting at his building entrance.

Harou, 54, said a local politician used to pay for his daughters' education, but then stopped after the 2018 parliament elections. "They don't need us now," he said.

Abdulla predicted that more chaos was coming. Smashing banks "was just a poke. Imagine when the balloon explodes."

Linda Borghol, an activist, started a soup kitchen during the protests. She negotiated to keep it going after the protest camp was broken up.

She now distributes 600 meals a day to the poor.

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"We are heading toward a famine. I want to be there, even if with something this small," she said.

## 5 things to know today - that aren't about the virus

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at nonvirus stories in the news:

1. OFFICIAL VOWS "ANSWERS" IN GEORGIA DEATH The U.S. Department of Justice has been asked by the state's attorney general to investigate the handling of the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a black man said to have died at the hands of two white men as he ran through a neighborhood.
2. FRIENDLY FIRE KILLS 19 IRANIAN SAILORS An Iranian missile fired during a training exercise in the Gulf of Oman struck a support vessel near its target, also wounding 15 seamen.
3. COMEDY LEGEND JERRY STILLER DIES AT 92 His career stretched from dozens of appearances with his late wife Anne Meara on "The Ed Sullivan Show" to roles on "Seinfeld," "King of Queens" and son Ben's "Zoolander."
4. PRESIDENT RESTRAINED ON ACCUSATION AGAINST RIVAL Donald Trump is facing a complicated calculus as he tries to weaponize Joe Biden's potential vulnerability when he himself has been accused of assault and unwanted touching by a long list of women — allegations he, too, denies.
5. OVER 200 PROTESTERS ARRESTED IN HONG KONG The semi-autonomous Chinese territory's pro-democracy movement has shown signs of reviving in recent weeks as the coronavirus threat eases.

## Shanghai Disneyland reopens with anti-virus controls

By SAM McNEIL Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — Visitors in face masks streamed into Shanghai Disneyland as the theme park reopened Monday in a high-profile step toward reviving tourism that was shut down by the coronavirus pandemic.

The House of Mouse's experience in Shanghai, the first of its parks to reopen, foreshadows hurdles global entertainment industries might face. Disney is limiting visitor numbers, requiring masks and checking for the virus's telltale fever.

China, where the pandemic began in December, was the first country to reopen factories and other businesses after declaring the disease under control in March even as infections rise and controls are tightened in some other countries.

"We hope that today's reopening serves as a beacon of light across the globe, providing hope and inspiration to everyone," the president of Shanghai Disney Resort, Joe Schott, told reporters.

Tourism has been hit especially hard by controls imposed worldwide that shut down airline and cruise ship travel, theme parks and cinemas. Disney blamed a 91% plunge in its latest quarter profit on \$1.4 billion in virus-related costs.

Shanghai Disneyland and Disney's park in Hong Kong closed on Jan. 25 as China isolated cities with 60 million people to try to contain the outbreak. Tokyo Disneyland closed the following month and parks in the United States and Europe in March.

China has allowed shops and offices to reopen but is keeping cinemas, bars, karaoke parlors and other businesses closed.

Disney guests, some wearing Mickey Mouse ears, and children in Little Mermaid, Mulan, Minnie Mouse and Snow White costumes were checked Monday for fever at the park gate and then walked down nearly empty lanes as employees waved to them. The company's signature tune, "When You Wish Upon a Star," played over loudspeakers.

"It really felt like a princess's homecoming, especially when the staff lined up after the ticket check and said, 'Welcome home!'" said visitor Dilys Ding of Shanghai.

"It feels like so many fewer people than normal. You don't need to line up," said Ding, 26. "You can play all the entertainment items at least once. That's very good."

Decals on sidewalks and at lines for attractions show visitors where to stand to leave space between

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themselves. The company said rides will be limited to one group of visitors per car to keep strangers apart. "We don't want people too close — front, back or side," said Andrew Bolstein, the park's senior vice president for operations.

The company said its plans were based on the experience of Disneytown, an adjacent shopping and entertainment facility that reopened earlier in the 1,000-acre (400-hectare) Shanghai Disney Resort.

Advance reservations are required and visitors are assigned times to enter. The company said earlier guest numbers will be limited to one-third of the usual daily level of 80,000 at the start and will gradually increase.

"Excited about the opening of the gate!" people in the first group of guests shouted as they entered the park at 9:30 a.m.

Shanghai Disneyland, which opened in 2016, is a joint venture between Walt Disney Co. and a company owned by the Shanghai city government.

Disney has a 43% stake in the Shanghai Disney Resort, which includes the theme park, two hotels and Disneytown. The resort said earlier it attracted about 12 million guests last year and a total of 66 million since it opened.

Disney, headquartered in Burbank, California, said some outlets in Disney Springs, a shopping, dining and entertainment complex attached to the Disney World theme park in Florida will reopen this month. The company has yet to set a date for reopening Disney World or its other parks worldwide.

Visitors to Shanghai Disney are required to show government-issued identification and use a smartphone app issued by the Shanghai city government that tracks their health and contacts with anyone who might have been exposed to the virus.

That allows the company to "understand and regulate the flow of traffic," said Bolstein.

Activities including children's play areas and indoor theater shows are closed in line with government restrictions, Bolstein said.

"We hope to bring them back some time soon," he said.

## Jerry Stiller, comedian and 'Seinfeld' actor, dies at 92

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Comedy veteran Jerry Stiller, who launched his career opposite wife Anne Meara in the 1950s and reemerged four decades later as the hysterically high-strung Frank Costanza on the smash television show "Seinfeld," died at 92, his son Ben Stiller announced Monday.

He died of natural causes, his son — a comedy star himself — said in a tweet.

Jerry Stiller was a multi-talented performer who appeared in an assortment of movies, playing Walter Matthau's police sidekick in the thriller "The Taking of Pelham One Two Three" and Divine's husband Wilbur Turnblad in John Waters' twisted comedy "Hairspray."

He also wrote an autobiography, "Married to Laughter," about his 50-plus year marriage to soul mate and comedic cohort Meara, who died in 2015. And his myriad television spots included everything from "Murder She Wrote" to "Law & Order" — along with 36 appearances alongside Meara on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

Stiller, although a supporting player on "Seinfeld," created some of the Emmy-winning show's most enduring moments: co-creator and model for the "bro," a brassiere for men; a Korean War cook who inflicted food poisoning on his entire unit; an ever-simmering salesman controlling his explosive temper with the shouted mantra, "Serenity now!"

Stiller earned a 1997 Emmy nomination for his indelible "Seinfeld" performance. In a 2005 Esquire interview, Stiller recalled that he was out of work and not the first choice for the role of Frank Costanza, father to Jason Alexander's neurotic George.

"My manager had retired," he said. "I was close to 70 years old, and had nowhere to go."

He was initially told to play the role as a milquetoast husband with an overbearing wife, Estelle, played by Estelle Harris. But the character wasn't working — until Stiller suggested his reincarnation as an over-the-top crank who matched his wife scream for scream.



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It jump-started the septuagenarian's career, landing him a spot playing Vince Lombardi in a Nike commercial and the role of another over-the-top dad on the long-running sitcom "King of Queens."

While he was known as a nut-job father on the small screen, Stiller and wife Meara raised two children in their longtime home on Manhattan's Upper West Side: daughter Amy, who became an actress, and son Ben, who became a writer, director and actor in such films as "Dodgeball," "There's Something About Mary" and "Meet the Parents."

He and Ben performed together in "Shoeshine," which was nominated for a 1988 Academy Award in the short subject category.

Stiller was considerably quieter and reflective in person than in character — although just as funny. The son of a bus driver and a housewife, Stiller grew up in Depression-era Brooklyn. His inspiration to enter show business came at age 8, when his father took him to see the Marx Brothers in the comedy classic "A Night at the Opera."

Years later, Stiller met Groucho Marx and thanked him.

Stiller earned a drama degree at Syracuse University after serving in World War II, and then headed to New York City to launch his career. There was a brief involvement in Shakespearean theater, including a \$55 a week job with Jack Klugman in "Coriolanus."

But his life and career took off after he met Meara in spring 1953. They were married that fall.

The seemingly mismatched pair — he a short, stocky Jewish guy from Brooklyn, she a tall, Irish Catholic from the Long Island suburbs — shared an immediate onstage chemistry, too. They were soon appearing on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and working nightclubs nationwide.

The pair also wrote and performed radio commercials, most memorably a series of bits for a little-known wine called Blue Nun. The duo's ads boosted sales by 500%. Ben Stiller recalled trips with his sister to California when his parents would head west to do television appearances.

The couple went on to appear as a team in dozens of film, stage and television productions. One of them was "After-Play," a 1995 off-Broadway show written by Meara.

Stiller joined "Seinfeld" in 1993, and moved on to "King of Queens" when the other Jerry & company went off the air in 1998. He also appeared in Ben Stiller's spoof on modeling, "Zoolander," released in 2001.

## African nations seek their own solutions in virus crisis

By CARLEY PETESCH Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — A loud hiss and grunt come from a green bag pressing air through a tube, as Senegalese researchers work to develop a prototype ventilator that could cost a mere \$160 each instead of tens of thousands of dollars.

The team is using 3-D printed parts as it works to find a homegrown solution to a medical shortfall that has struck even the richest countries: how to have enough breathing machines to handle an avalanche of COVID-19 patients who need the devices to help increase their blood oxygen levels.

Complicating the task in Africa is the fact that the peak in coronavirus cases for the continent' is expected to come later than in Europe and the United States, well after dozens of other countries have bought out available supplies.

"Africans must find their own solutions to their problems. We must show our independence. It's a big motivation for this," said Ibrahima Gueye, a professor at the Polytechnic School of Thies in Senegal, on the 12-member team developing the prototype ventilator.

Their efforts are being mirrored elsewhere across the continent, where medical supplies are usually imported.

Many hope that these efforts to develop ventilators, personal protective equipment, sanitizers and quick-result antibody tests will lead to more independent solutions for future health crises.

Although the quality of some products won't meet as high a standard as in the U.S. or Europe, Gueye said there is excitement that level can be reached eventually, with enough time and investment.

In Ethiopia, biomedical engineer Bilisumma Anbesse is among those volunteers repairing and upgrading

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old ventilators. While the country has tried to procure more than 1,000 ventilators abroad, progress has been thwarted by the high demand.

"U.S. and Chinese companies that produce mechanical ventilators are saying they can't accept new orders until July. The same is true with other medical items like PPE and gloves," Annbesse said, referring to the personal protective gear worn to minimize exposure to health hazards.

Africans also are helping to develop tools for disease prevention and surveillance.

Institut Pasteur in Dakar is working on a rapid test for COVID-19 in partnership with the British biotech company Mologic, which developed a rapid Ebola test. They hope the coronavirus test, which can give results in 10 minutes, could be distributed across Africa as early as June. Once a prototype is validated, the test kits will be made in the U.K. and at a new facility in Senegal for infectious disease testing, DiaTropix, that was founded by Institut Pasteur.

Workers in Dakar are using laser cutters to make about 1,000 face shields per week for health care workers. They also are creating key chains with prevention messages such as "Stay Home."

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are being produced in Zimbabwe on university and technical college campuses that have been transformed into "COVID response factories." Higher Education Minister Amon Murwira said the teams are also producing face masks, gowns and aprons.

It's not known whether these projects will be finished before the virus hits its peak in Africa, but observers say the longer-term impact of such ingenuity is substantial.

"Necessity is the mother of invention," Dr. Ahmed Ogwel, deputy director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told The Associated Press. "What we're seeing in Africa is going to change the way medical supplies in particular are manufactured."

He predicted there would be a "new public health order" after the pandemic, with changes in global supply chains. Countries already are taking steps toward not having to rely on help from abroad.

Developing countries are scrambling for equipment as deliveries are hindered. But even India, where some engineers are also trying to build low-cost ventilators, has access to more than 19,000 of them in addition to domestic manufacturers who are expected to deliver tens of thousands more.

African nations are understanding the importance of local production and ingenuity.

Ghana is using drone technology to transport COVID-19 tests and protective gear in collaboration with a U.S.-based company called Zipline that already was distributing vaccines and other medical products to remote parts of the country.

"This is a global pandemic: 210 countries and territories across the globe are affected," Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari tweeted recently. "We cannot expect others to come to our assistance. No one is coming to defeat this virus for us."

## Strangeness of the day: For Americans, an in-between moment

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

In coming years, when they write the narrative histories of the 2020 pandemic — those paperweight-level volumes that reconstruct these strange days in painstaking and vivid detail — the past week in American life will be a particularly curious moment to unpack. It was unlike what came before, and almost certainly unlike what is still ahead.

On social media and in real life, Americans fought fervent pitched battles about getting back to their lives — when, where and under what conditions. Mostly, these battles were verbal. Sometimes, they got physical.

Job numbers confirmed what everyone already suspected: the worst unemployment rate since the Great Depression. The face mask evolved from a piece of protective equipment into a political litmus test.

The coronavirus itself hit the White House just as conspiracy-theory fervor abruptly hit its stride. Mortality numbers were questioned, and a slick and misleading video, "Plandemic," left some Americans scratching their heads and wondering.

As the storied halls of the nation's highest court became virtual, in the background of one oral argument

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you could distinctly hear what sounded like a toilet flushing. On Saturday, in parts of the Northeast, there was snow — in the first week of May.

And finally, naturally, the “murder hornets” arrived on American shores to great and misguided fanfare. Minuscule threat though they are, they claimed an instant spot as the ideal metaphor for what everyone has been thinking: Hasn't there been enough already?

These events are not all related, no matter what the apocalypticists might tell us. And yet somehow they feel of a piece. Right now, Americans are the insects, caught in amber, suspended for an uncertain moment between the isolation of a national shutdown and the revving up of a much-disputed return.

Old political polarities are setting in, smoothly superimposing themselves upon the new circumstances as the country finds itself beset not only by uncertainty about the virus but — now — by uncertainty about the uncertainty as well.

“We are living through something truly unprecedented, and a lot of things about it don't make sense,” Lifestacker's senior health editor, Beth Skwarecki, wrote in a fact check about the “Plandemic” video Friday.

“We're hungry for anything that can make this moment in our lives feel a little bit less weird,” she said.

But the utter weirdness of this part of the COVID-19 storyline is its own distinct kind of crazy, where the road map has run out and the next page of the script is blank.

All those Hollywood productions, those movies and video games about huge cataclysms that challenge humanity? Whether they're about zombies or aliens or asteroids or nuclear Armageddons, they don't usually tell you about this part.

They chronicle the arrival of the threat and the things it does, the destruction it causes. And sometimes they spend time on the parts about humanity rebuilding itself.

But they don't linger much on the part after the first wave of events, when things might look normal but aren't yet. When people peek their heads out of their houses and wonder if anyone's actually still writing that script — and what it's going to say. When rational Americans, confronted with untenable circumstances, start to question everything in front of them.

Part of the problem, of course, is that those very circumstances have left many millions of people stuck in their homes with a lot of opportunity to contemplate their lot — and contemplate, and contemplate, and contemplate. Thanks to all the isolation, time feels out of joint in American life — just as those who lived through this in China said in January and February, just as fellow humans in Italy and Spain said in March.

Normal life, after all, has its inflection points, its ways to clearly mark the advancing of the clock — the spikes in the EKG of existence that reassure us that the heart of the world is still beating.

Workdays themselves provide one arc, as does the week that points toward the weekend. Holidays and visits with friends break up the routine. Sports seasons begin, blossom and end. There is something you have just done, something you're doing, something you're going to do. Life isn't all just one thing in one place, as it has been for so many people over so many weeks.

The American system — the federal government doing some things, the states doing others, local officials doing still others — is a multilayered approach to governing. That helps protect 320 million people from too many monolithic solutions.

Yet all those layers can produce confusion, too — lots of people giving lots of orders and coming up with lots of (sometimes divergent) solutions. That is particularly confusing during these in-between moments, when the already muddy path forward is almost quicksand, when the road forks in multiple directions and a fog is setting in.

Of course, the very existence of an in-between moment suggests two bookends. The first has already been laid down — and, for the fortunate, lived through. The second lies ahead. Will it provide clarity? That depends on this uniquely curious moment, and where it leads.

“We're still here,” a grocery clerk north of Pittsburgh told a customer last week. “Not sure where ‘here’ is anymore, but here we are.”

## In New York's subway shutdown, an unthinkable departure

By JAKE COYLE Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not the end of the line. But it once was.

When the first New York subway line connected Lower Manhattan to Harlem in 1904, the stop at 145th Street was its terminus. Since that inaugural run, the subway has never ceased running. There were brief blips of interruption after 9/11 and in the last decade for hurricanes and blizzards, but for more than 115 years, the rumbling on the rails has kept the click-clack heartbeat of New York. A second, tunneled city that, like the skyward metropolis above, never sleeps.

Last week, for the first time, the trains stopped running in a planned shutdown. Between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., the subways and New York's 472 stations began closing for a nightly cleaning to disinfect trains. It's a humbling concession for a swaggering, all-night town that, as much as anything, shows how the coronavirus pandemic has seized the gears of New York, one of the world's hardest hit cities.

On a recent late night, as the trains began to slow, the sole person on the platform at 145th Street was Joe Hall, a 58-year-old homeless man. He pushed a cart of plastic bottles and waited for one of the last downtown trains. Unwilling to go to a shelter (too dangerous, he said, because of the high rate of infection) and soon to be turned out of the subway, he planned to sleep on the street.

"I'm hungry," he said.

Except for commuters fleeing to the suburbs, the entire concept of "last train" is anathema in New York. London, sure. Boston, of course. Even Tokyo. But not in New York. Through the night, trains have always shuttled early-morning workers and late-night revelers. A four-hour shutdown may not seem like a drastic change given all the transformations wrought by the pandemic. But in New York, it means a tear in the fabric.

"Without the subway, New York does not work. People are saying now, 'What happens if people drive after the epidemic has passed?' Well, they can't do it. If all the people who wanted to drive in New York drove, you'd have to pave over Long Island to park all of the cars," says Kenneth T. Jackson, a history professor at Columbia and author of "Empire City: New York Through the Centuries." "It's more important than the public schools. It's more important than anything."

Even at a time when New York remains on lockdown, stopping the subway for even four hours has an enormous effect. Ridership in April was down more than 90%, but the Metropolitan Transportation Authority still estimates that 11,000 people had been using the trains during that overnight period. Many are essential workers and others — caregivers, custodians — can't afford not to work.

"You see the growing gap between the haves and have-nots everywhere in New York City. This really rips that Band-Aid off," says Clifton Hood, author of "722 Miles: The Building of the Subways and How They Transformed New York." "Most professionals are, by and large, able to work from home. What you're seeing now is the people who had no other choice."

The homeless have borne the brunt of the shutdown. Typically, some 2,000 homeless people rely on trains as a warm place to pass the night. Now, at 1 a.m., they're met at end-of-the-line stations by police (some 1,000 officers were used for the first night's shutdown), hundreds of cleaners and a handful of outreach workers who can steer people to shelters or hospitals. On the first night, 139 of the 252 homeless people engaged accepted some support, the city said.

Giselle Routhier, policy director for the Coalition for the Homeless, believes the city needs to do more, and supply homeless people with hotel rooms. Particularly after Gov. Andrew Cuomo referred to a Daily News photo of a homeless person sleeping on the train as "disgusting," Routhier sees an effort to eradicate homeless people from one of their few refuges.

"People are afraid for their lives, and they're taking refuge in the subways because they feel it's the safest option for them. What the city's doing now is using the police to move people to the streets and further out into the open," says Routhier. "It's a visible manifestation of our policy failures to address homelessness."

Sarah Feinberg, the interim president of the MTA, says it can't be the transit system's duty to care for the homeless.

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Feinberg, who took over in February from the popular Andy Byford, who resigned after he clashed with Cuomo, never expected to be the one to make history in shutting down New York's subway system.

"It's bittersweet to close the system for even a minute," she says.

At the elevated Woodlawn stop in the Bronx, near the famous cemetery where some of New York's dead from COVID-19 have been buried, transit workers cheerfully elbow-bumped as they passed one another, easily outnumbering the few passengers disembarking. Roberto Rosario, a 53-year-old MTA worker, was happy to be above ground and upbeat about the nightly shutdown.

"I've never seen the trains so clean," he said.

More than 100 transit workers in New York have been killed by complications related to the virus. Bus drivers, who are being used to keep service running between 1-5 a.m., have had it especially hard.

Sarah Kaufman, associate director of NYU's Rudin Center for Transportation, thinks this could be an opportunity for New York to explore alternative modes of transportation, possibly expanding the CitiBike bike-share program or the car-free open streets movement.

Cities around the world are contemplating how they safely function with more normal levels of ridership. New York's subways were already under criticism for overcrowding; some 5 million use New York's transit system on an average weekday. Current social distancing protocols would not be feasible, says Feinberg.

"We have to depend on the medical experts to start to give good solid advice on how folks return to a public transit system," Feinberg says. "I don't think anybody feels like they really know when ridership will come back and at what level. It will come back. We have no option in New York City."

For now, the arteries of New York remain momentarily blocked. The city sleeps, so long as the sound of sirens doesn't wake it. Along lines like the 7 train, nicknamed "the international express" for its pathway through the immigrant neighborhoods of Queens, it's as if separate countries have been marooned from one another.

But as hard as it is to imagine New York, in all its diversity and density, reanimated, it will happen, historians say confidently. A mass of humanity will again board the express. After 9/11, some predicted the end of the skyscraper and that people would fearfully turn away from turnstiles. Instead, a building boom followed and ridership soared.

"I prefer to think about the shutdown as more akin to a spring cleaning than an augury of doom," says Mike Wallace, author of "Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898." "For all the horror of the last weeks, New York has weathered other calamities and its resilience should not be underestimated."

## Trump takes cautious approach to highlighting Biden accuser

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump rarely holds his fire, hurling accusations true and false.

But when it comes to the sexual assault allegation leveled against Joe Biden, his Democratic rival, the president has been unusually reticent.

Trump didn't publicly address the issue until April 30, more than a month after former Senate staffer Tara Reade alleged on a podcast that Biden sexually assaulted her in a Capitol Hill basement in 1993. Biden has vehemently denied the allegation, saying it never happened.

When Trump has talked about the accusation, he's been tepid.

"I don't know anything about it," Trump first said in response to a reporter's question. "I think he should respond. You know ... it could be false accusations. I know all about false accusations. I've been falsely charged numerous times. And there is such a thing."

He offered the same line on Friday during an interview with TV's "Fox & Friends."

"Look, he's got to fight that battle. I've had battles, too, where I've had false accusations, many times," he said. "I've had many false accusations made, I can tell you that. Many. And maybe it is a false accusation. Frankly, I hope it is, for his sake."

Trump's comments highlight the complicated calculus he faces as he tries to weaponize a rival's potential vulnerability when he himself has been accused of assault and unwanted touching by a long list of women

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— allegations he, too, denies.

While Trump has never been shy about using his own weaknesses as ammunition — an “I’m rubber, you’re glue” strategy he used in 2016 to try to blunt attacks against him — the November contest between Biden and Trump is the first presidential race since the dawn of the #MeToo era. The movement has spurred numerous women to come forward with allegations of sexual assault, including against prominent men in politics, entertainment and other industries.

Trump is stepping up his attacks on Biden on other fronts, particularly an effort to portray him as soft on China. But in resisting the urge to seize on Reade’s allegation, Trump is acknowledging the bind he’s in with women, who could help decide the election.

And some supporters say the bigger issue heading into the fall will be Trump’s response to the coronavirus and economic collapse.

“The specifics of the Reade allegation are secondary,” said Jason Miller, who served as the communications director for Trump’s 2016 campaign and argued that the allegations are less damaging to Biden than other weaknesses the episode exposes.

“This just reminds people that Biden has been in office” for more than 40 years, Miller said. “It reminds people that he’s part of that permanent political class.”

It was a different story during the closing months of Trump’s 2016 campaign against Hillary Clinton, when Trump repeatedly invoked allegations against her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

Following the release of the “Access Hollywood” tape in which Trump bragged about using his fame to sexually assault women, Trump launched a scorched-earth campaign against Hillary Clinton that included inviting her husband’s accusers to the second presidential debate. His campaign organized a surprise news conference featuring four of Bill Clinton’s accusers in an attempt to throw Hillary Clinton off her game.

Four years later, the landscape is different. In the wake of the #MeToo movement, Trump and his campaign have instead focused much of their response to Brett Kavanaugh, the Supreme Court Justice whose nomination was nearly derailed by sexual misconduct allegations.

“This is an outstanding man. He was falsely charged. What happened with him was an absolute disgrace to our country,” Trump said of Kavanaugh on the day he first spoke about Reade.

Trump’s campaign has also highlighted statements made by Democrats during the Kavanaugh episode to try to portray them as having a double standard when it comes to which accusers they believe.

“During Justice Kavanaugh’s hearings, Biden made clear that all women should be believed when they come forward with allegations of sexual assault,” Trump campaign spokeswoman Erin Perrine said in a statement. “In a dramatic shift, Biden now says ‘believe women’ doesn’t actually mean ‘believe women.’”

It’s a message the Trump campaign is reinforcing to supporters.

“Joe Biden & the Dems believe he should be held to a different standard than the one they set for Brett Kavanaugh. Let’s hold them accountable,” read one text sent to supporters.

For its part, the Biden campaign has sometimes struggled to respond to the Reade allegation. It initially released a written statement denying the accusation while arguing that women should have the right to come forward with their stories, which should be reviewed by the media.

Biden himself didn’t publicly address the accusation until a May 1 interview on MSNBC in which he unequivocally denied Reade’s allegation. He repeated that denial in subsequent media appearances last week.

But the weeks of relative silence prompted much hand-wringing among Democratic operatives, who worried Biden was letting the allegation overtake his campaign. Female voters remain a key voting bloc for the Democratic Party, and some expressed concern that the allegation could significantly undermine Biden’s support among women, particularly young women.

Biden is trying to move the focus back to policy and Trump’s handling of the pandemic’s fallout. In a Friday speech focused on the economy, Biden said Trump “utterly failed to prepare for this pandemic and delayed in taking the necessary steps to safeguard our nation.”

The question is whether Trump will continue to hold back as the campaign intensifies. He has occasionally come close to giving Reade’s accusation credence, including during a podcast interview this month with conservative commentator Dan Bongino.

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Trump told Bongino that Reade's accusation was "credible" even as he said it would be a "great thing" if Biden had records he could use to "dispose" of the allegation.

"If it's not true, you deny it. I've been a total victim of this nonsense," he said.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump's perfect China 'ban,' death toll myths

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Truth often takes a beating when President Donald Trump talks about his administration's response to the coronavirus and the subsequent death toll in the U.S. This past week was no exception.

Over the weekend, the president claimed strong marks for himself for the handling of the pandemic after imposing a "very early ban of people from China." It actually wasn't a total ban and had plenty of gaps in containment. One of the government's top health officials has described the China restrictions as too little, too late.

Trump also asserted that the United States is on par with Germany in keeping down COVID-19 deaths, which is not the case in mortality reports. And he's brushed off projections that deaths in his country will double from earlier forecasts, misrepresenting how the numbers were calculated.

These distortions emerged over the past week alongside his relentless bragging about the U.S. testing system, which failed in the crucial early weeks and remains globally subpar.

A look at Trump's remarks, also covering his former national security adviser Michael Flynn:

### TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

TRUMP: "We are getting great marks for the handling of the CoronaVirus pandemic, especially the very early BAN of people from China, the infectious source, entering the USA." — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: This is one of Trump's favorite exaggerations, asserting that travel restrictions he imposed on China in late January had averted much of the virus' entry into the U.S.

In fact, Trump didn't "ban" all the people infected with coronavirus from entering the U.S. from China. There were many gaps in containment and initial delays in testing, leading to the U.S. rising to No. 1 globally in the number of people infected by COVID-19.

His order temporarily barred entry by foreign nationals who had traveled in China within the previous 14 days, with exceptions for the immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents as well as American citizens.

In addition, Dr. Anne Schuchat, the No. 2 official at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told The Associated Press earlier this month the federal government was slow to understand how much coronavirus was spreading from Europe, which helped drive the acceleration of outbreaks across the U.S. in late February. Trump didn't announce travel restrictions for many European countries until mid-March.

"The extensive travel from Europe, once Europe was having outbreaks, really accelerated our importations and the rapid spread," she told the AP. "I think the timing of our travel alerts should have been earlier."

TRUMP: "Compare that to the Obama/Sleepy Joe disaster known as H1N1 Swine Flu. Poor marks ... didn't have a clue!" — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: His suggestion that former President Barack Obama and his vice president, Joe Biden, were oblivious and did nothing during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, initially called "swine flu," is wrong.

Then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's flu surveillance network actually sounded the alarm, spotting two children in California who were the first diagnosed cases of the new flu strain. About two weeks later, the Obama administration declared a public health emergency and CDC began releasing anti-flu drugs from the national stockpile to help hospitals get ready. In contrast, Trump declared a state of emergency in early March, seven weeks after the first U.S. case of COVID-19 was announced.

### DEATH COUNTS

TRUMP on pandemic deaths: "Now, Germany — we're very close to Germany. We have a very good

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relationship with Germany. Germany has done very good. They have a very low mortality rate like we do. We have a low mortality rate also.” — remarks Thursday in meeting with Gov. Greg Abbott, R-Texas.

THE FACTS: The U.S. is not in Germany’s league in this regard.

The U.S. is experiencing far more reported COVID-19 deaths as a proportion of its population than is Germany. The U.S. has reported COVID-19 deaths at a rate of 234 per 1 million people. For Germany, that rate is 90 deaths per million. The U.S. surpasses many other countries in reported deaths per million, too, and it leads the world in deaths from the virus overall.

Because countries track COVID-19 deaths somewhat differently, exact conclusions can’t be reached when comparing nations.

The mortality rate is a different measure from deaths per million. It refers to what percentage of people who get the disease die from it.

The answer is as yet unknown, and there are several reasons for that.

First, the count changes every day as new infections and deaths are recorded. More important, every country is testing differently. Knowing the real denominator, the true number of people who become infected, is key to determining what portion of them die.

Some countries, the U.S. among them, have had trouble making enough tests available. A test shortage means the sickest get tested first. Even with a good supply of tests, someone who’s otherwise healthy and has mild symptoms may not be tested and thus go uncounted.

TRUMP: “And, frankly, if you took New York out of the equation, we would really have a low mortality rate.” — remarks with Abbott.

THE FACTS: New York, being part of the U.S., cannot be subtracted from it to make the numbers look better.

It’s true that New York has experienced far more COVID-19 deaths than has any other state.

TRUMP, asked about a White House-endorsed model showing 134,000 deaths from the coronavirus by August, doubling its previous prediction: “Those projections are with no mitigation. We are doing mitigation.” — remarks to reporters Tuesday.

THE FACTS: That’s incorrect. The projections last Monday by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation do take into account social distancing and other mitigation, which have begun to be loosened in several states at Trump’s urging. On Sunday, the institute revised its estimates upward again, to 137,000.

The institute, based at the University of Washington, said both sets of estimates reflect the recent re-opening of many states and relaxing of social distancing restrictions. Its initial estimates assumed longer stay at home orders lasting through May.

“What’s driving the change is, simply put, the rise in mobility,” Dr. Christopher Murray, the institute’s director, told CBS’ “Face the Nation” on Sunday. “We’re seeing in some states, you know, a 20 percentage point increase in just 10 days in mobility. And that will translate into more human contact, more transmission.”

More than 30 states have taken steps this month to ease stay-at-home orders.

“Our model now assumes that mandates that are currently still in place and have not been scheduled to be relaxed will stay in place through at least August 4,” the institute said on its website. Officials on the White House coronavirus task force have praised the institute’s work and cited its research in their briefings.

FLYNN

TRUMP, on the Justice Department’s move to drop the criminal case against former national security adviser Michael Flynn: “He was targeted by the Obama administration and he was targeted in order to try and take down a president, and what they’ve done is a disgrace.” — remarks Thursday.

THE FACTS: He’s suggesting partisan Democratic politics were completely behind Flynn’s investigation that isn’t so.

It is true that the investigation into ties between Russia and the Trump campaign, and into Russia in particular, began during the Obama administration. But it continued well into Trump’s own administration.



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The investigation into Flynn was taken over by a special counsel who was appointed by Rod Rosenstein, Trump's own deputy attorney general.

The internal FBI correspondence that has emerged in the last two weeks also doesn't reveal agents saying that the goal of the investigation was to "take down a president."

## VIRUS TESTING

TRUMP: "In any event, we have great testing capacity, and have performed 6.5 million tests, which is more than every country in the world, combined!" — tweet on May 4.

THE FACTS: The claim that the U.S. has performed tests "more than every country in the world, combined" was not remotely true when he said it and it's no closer to the truth now.

The U.S. has tested far fewer than all other countries combined. It also lags dozens of countries in testing its population proportionally.

Together, just three countries — Russia, Germany and Italy — had reported more tests than the U.S. when Trump tweeted.

That remains the case. As of late Friday, the U.S. had reported conducting more than 8.3 million tests since the pandemic began. That compared with more than 18.7 million tests by the other countries in the top 10 of the testing count.

The U.S. was followed by Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Britain, India, France, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

## CHILDREN & COVID-19

TRUMP: "With young children and children, we'd like to see the schools open early next season and on time. It's incredible how the — it's very unique how the children aren't affected, but people that have problems and older people are — can be very badly hurt, injured, or die from this problem." — remarks with Native American leaders Tuesday in Phoenix.

TRUMP: "You see how well children seem to do. It's incredible. We realize how strong children are, right?" — remarks with nurses Wednesday.

TRUMP: "It affects older people. It infects — if you have any problem — heart, diabetes, even a little weak heart, a little diabetes, a little — this thing is vicious, and it can take you out, and it can take you out very strongly. But children do very well." — remarks May 3 on Fox News.

THE FACTS: His suggestion that children are in the clear is false. To say they "do very well" with the disease is more accurate, based on what is known so far. His implication that the risk is limited to the old and sick is incorrect.

It's true kids get sick less often than do adults and tend to be less ill when they do get sick. But his statements overlook severe COVID-19 illnesses and at least several deaths of children in the U.S. And they gloss over the fact that kids can spread disease without showing symptoms themselves.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied the pandemic's effect on different ages in the U.S. early on and reviewed preliminary research in China, where the coronavirus started. It said social distancing is important for children, too, for their own safety and that of others.

"Whereas most COVID-19 cases in children are not severe, serious COVID-19 illness resulting in hospitalization still occurs in this age group," the CDC study says.

At the beginning of April, the CDC analyzed nearly 150,000 laboratory-confirmed U.S. COVID-19 cases and found nearly 2,600 children with the disease. Since then the number of confirmed cases overall in the U.S. has rocketed, making the April findings very preliminary.

The pediatric cases that were found at the time, though relatively few, spanned all ages of childhood. The median age of children sick with COVID-19 was 11. More than 5%, perhaps as many as 20%, required hospitalization.

People 18 to 64 were by far the largest age group sickened by the virus — 76% of the confirmed cases studied by the CDC. COVID-19 was not and is not limited to the oldest people, even if they are the most vulnerable age group.

## **Pence spends weekend at home after exposure to infected aide**

**By KEVIN FREKING and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence was self-isolating Sunday after an aide tested positive for the coronavirus last week, but he planned to return to the White House on Monday.

An administration official said Pence was voluntarily keeping his distance from other people in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has repeatedly tested negative for COVID-19 since his exposure but was following the advice of medical officials.

His action came after three of the nation's top scientists took their own protective steps following possible exposure to a White House staffer infected by the coronavirus.

"Vice President Pence will continue to follow the advice of the White House Medical Unit and is not in quarantine," spokesman Devin O'Malley said Sunday. "Additionally, Vice President Pence has tested negative every single day and plans to be at the White House tomorrow."

Pence has been at home since returning to Washington from a day trip to Iowa on Friday and did not appear at President Donald Trump's meeting with military leaders Saturday at the White House. Pence was informed of the aide's positive test shortly before departing for that trip.

An official initially said Pence planned to continue working from home, before Pence's office clarified that he planned to work from the White House on Monday. It was not immediately clear how Pence's steps to self-isolate would impact his professional or public engagements.

Pence has led the White House coronavirus task force for more than two months. Top officials who have gone into quarantine because of exposure to a person at the White House who tested positive for the virus are Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the CDC; and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Stephen Hahn.

Pence's press secretary, Katie Miller, tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday, making her the second person who works at the White House complex known to test positive for the virus this week.

A military service member who acts as a valet to the president tested positive on Thursday, the first known instance where a person in close proximity to the president at the White House had tested positive.

After Miller was identified as having tested positive, Trump said he was "not worried" about the virus spreading in the White House. Nonetheless, officials said they were stepping up safety protocols for the complex.

The three other task force members have indicated varying plans for dealing with their exposure. None has announced testing positive for the virus and, taking into account what has been described as limited exposure to the infected person, are considered at relatively low risk for infection.

Fauci's institute said he was "taking appropriate precautions" to mitigate the risk to others while still carrying out his duties, teleworking from home but willing to go to the White House if called. Officials said both Redfield and Hahn will be self-quarantining for two weeks.

The three officials were expected to testify by videoconference before a Senate health committee on Tuesday. On Sunday night, the office of the chairman of the committee, Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., announced that the senator would be self-quarantining in Tennessee for two weeks after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19. Alexander too will participate in the hearing by videoconference.

## **What you need to know today about the virus outbreak**

**By The Associated Press**

Nations struggled to balance public and economic health Sunday, feeling pressure to reopen shuttered businesses and aspects of life amid worries that relaxing restrictions too much could ignite a second wave of coronavirus infections.

South Korea, China and Germany, all seen as nations with success in clamping down on COVID-19, have seen small upticks. Yet Germany, like much of Europe, is continuing to loosen restrictions. Britain, which

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has the continent's most deaths from the virus and a prime minister who came close to dying from it himself, announced a modest easing of its lockdown.

In Washington, where three members of the Trump administration's coronavirus task force are in self-quarantine, some of the president's top economic advisers emphasized the importance of getting more businesses and offices opened.

Here are some of AP's top stories Sunday on the 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:

— Vice President Mike Pence was self-isolating after an aide tested positive for the coronavirus last week, but he planned to return to the White House on Monday.

— As President Donald Trump turns to governors to handle much of the next phase of coronavirus response, some members of both parties in Congress are pushing their own proposals.

— The Senate's top Democrat says the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to give Congress more information on veterans treated with a drug promoted by Trump that has not been proven to be safe and effective for the virus.

— The virus and the response to it is making the difference between European and American social safety nets ever more stark.

— Dozens of U.S. virus patients and some businesses are suing China over the spread of the coronavirus. The cases face an uphill climb.

— French schools will be welcoming some students back starting Monday, but many parents aren't sure they want their children to go.

— A day after an AP report laying out the criticism New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has received over the state's response to the virus in nursing homes, he announced major changes in his approach, most notably ending a directive that forced nursing homes to take recovering COVID-19 patients.

— Saturday night's UFC 249 could serve as a blueprint for sports leagues around the country and the world as they start to resume during a global pandemic.

— The coronavirus has complicated a yearlong Arctic research mission aimed at improving the models used for forecasting climate change.

— The closure of hundreds of tribal casinos to slow the virus' spread cost some Native American communities their main source of income.

— How many people were staying at your home on April 1? That standard census question is flummoxing some whose lives have been upended by COVID-19.

— Venezuelans living abroad and sending money home to their troubled nation have been hit especially hard by the virus' economic impact.

— Every business has been affected by the virus — even drug dealing.

— Among the winners: Albanian flamingos.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

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. 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.

You should wash your phone, too. Here's how.

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TRACKING THE VIRUS: Drill down and zoom in at the individual county level, and you can access numbers that will show you the situation where you are, and where loved ones or people you're worried about live.

## ONE NUMBER:

35: At least 35 people convicted in killings were granted parole by Virginia in March amid concerns over spreading the virus. Prosecutors and victims' families say they weren't notified as the law requires.

## IN OTHER NEWS:

— INFORMATION OVERLOAD: Most Americans are following virus news closely, but most of them say they also need to unplug.

— BIG FAMILIES, BIG PROBLEMS: For the millions of Americans who live in multigenerational homes, where one of the main strategies for avoiding infection — following social distancing protocols — can be almost impossible.

— OPENING ACT: Devastated that her graduate recital was canceled, Brooke Mead went to the Philadelphia Orchestra seeking advice. The viola student got a lot more than that.

## Leaders balance optimism with threat of second virus wave

By FRANK JORDANS and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Trump administration officials spoke optimistically about a relatively quick rebound from the coronavirus Sunday as life within the White House reflected the stark challenges still posed by the pandemic, with Vice President Mike Pence "self-isolating" after one of his aides tested positive.

A balancing act was playing out the world over, with leaders starting to loosen lockdowns that have left millions unemployed while also warning of the threat of a second wave of infections.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin predicted the American economy would rebound in the second half of this year from unemployment rates that rival the Great Depression. Another 3.2 million U.S. workers applied for jobless benefits last week, bringing the total over the last seven weeks to 33.5 million.

"I think you're going to see a bounce-back from a low standpoint," said Mnuchin, speaking on "Fox News Sunday."

But the director of the University of Washington institute that created a White House-endorsed coronavirus model said the moves by states to re-open businesses "will translate into more cases and deaths in 10 days from now." Dr. Christopher Murray of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation said states where cases and deaths are going up more than expected include Illinois, Arizona, Florida and California.

A reminder of the continued threat, Pence's move came after three members of the White House's coronavirus task force placed themselves in quarantine after coming into contact with the aide. An administration official said Pence was voluntarily keeping his distance from other people and has repeatedly tested negative for COVID-19 since his exposure. He plans to be at the White House Monday.

Families, meanwhile, marked Mother's Day in a time of social distancing. For many, it was their first without loved ones lost in the pandemic. Others sent good wishes from a safe distance or through phone and video calls.

The virus has caused particular suffering for the elderly, with more than 26,000 deaths in nursing homes and long-term care facilities in the United States, according to an Associated Press tally.

At a senior center in Smyrna, Georgia, 73-year-old Mary Washington spoke to her daughter Courtney Crosby and grandchild Sydney Crosby through a window.

In Germany, children who live outside the country were allowed to enter for a Mother's Day visit. Germany's restrictions currently forbid entry except for "compelling reasons," such as work.

In Grafton, West Virginia, where the tradition of Mother's Day began 112 years ago, the brick building now known as the International Mother's Day Shrine held its first online-only audience. Anna Jarvis first held a memorial service for her mother and all mothers on the second Sunday of May in 1908.

"Sheltered safely at home with the family together would be viewed by Anna Jarvis as exactly the way

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she wanted Mother's Day to be observed," said Marvin Gelhausen, chairman of the shrine's board of trustees, in an address on YouTube.

Matilda Cuomo, the mother of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, called into her son's daily briefing so he and his three daughters could wish her a happy Mother's Day.

"I am so blessed as many mothers today are," she said.

The governor announced two policy reversals a day after an Associated Press report in which residents' relatives, watchdog groups and politicians alleged he was not doing enough to counter the surge of deaths in nursing homes, where about 5,300 residents have died. Nursing home staff in New York will now have to undergo COVID-19 tests twice a week, and facilities will no longer be required to take in hospital patients who were infected.

The U.S. has seen 1.3 million infections and nearly 80,000 deaths, the most in the world by far, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Worldwide, 4 million people have been reported infected and more than 280,000 have died, according to Johns Hopkins.

In the U.K., Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a modest easing of the country's coronavirus lockdown but urged citizens not to surrender the progress already made.

Those in jobs that can't be done at home "should be actively encouraged to go to work" this week, he said. Johnson, who has taken a tougher line after falling ill himself with what he called "this devilish illness," set a goal of June 1 to begin reopening schools and shops if the U.K. can control new infections and the transmission rate of each infected person.

"We will be driven not by mere hope or economic necessity," he said. "We're going to be driven by the science, the data, and public health."

Germany, which managed to push new infections below 1,000 daily before deciding to loosen restrictions, has seen regional spikes in cases linked to slaughterhouses and nursing homes.

France is letting some younger students go back to school Monday after almost two months out. Attendance won't be compulsory right away. Residents of some Spanish regions will be able to enjoy limited seating at bars, restaurants and other public places Monday, but Madrid and Barcelona will remain shut down.

China reported 17 new cases on Monday, the second day of double-digit increases. Five were in the city of Wuhan, the original epicenter of the pandemic where a strict lockdown was lifted last month. Another five were in northeastern provinces, including Jilin, which borders North Korea.

Despite the new cases raising concerns about a reignited outbreak, 82,000 third-year middle school students in Beijing returned to classes Monday to prepare for their high school entrance exams. And Shanghai Disneyland, closed since late January, reopened, with reservations required and social distancing measures in place. Visitors wearing masks and often Mickey Mouse ears or character costumes were checked for fevers at the gate.

South Korea reported 35 new cases Monday, the second day in a row that its daily jump was above 30 for the first time in a month. Many of its recently confirmed cases were tied to nightclubs that welcomed hundreds of people after reopening. Authorities in the Seoul metropolitan area subsequently ordered the temporary closing of its nightlife establishments to guard against a possible resurgence.

## Georgia AG requests federal probe in handling of Arbery case

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia's attorney general on Sunday asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the handling of the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, a black man who authorities say died at the hands of two white men as he ran through a neighborhood.

Arbery was shot and killed Feb. 23. No arrests were made until this month after national outrage over the case swelled when video surfaced that appeared to show the shooting.

"We are committed to a complete and transparent review of how the Ahmaud Arbery case was handled from the outset," Attorney General Chris Carr said in a statement. "The family, the community and the

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state of Georgia deserve answers, and we will work with others in law enforcement at the state and federal level to find those answers.”

Attorneys for Arbery’s mother and father applauded Carr for reaching out to federal officials.

“We have requested the involvement of the DOJ since we first took this case,” attorneys S. Lee Merritt, Benjamin Crump and L. Chris Stewart said in a statement. “There are far too many questions about how this case was handled and why it took 74 days for two of the killers to be arrested and charged in Mr. Arbery’s death.”

Last week, a Justice Department spokesman said the FBI is assisting in the investigation and the DOJ would assist if a federal crime is uncovered.

Shortly after the video’s leak, Gregory McMichael, 64, and his son Travis McMichael, 34, were arrested and charged with murder and aggravated assault. The arrests came hours after officials asked the GBI to start investigating. The inquiry was previously in the hands of local officials.

The father and son said they thought Arbery matched the appearance of a burglary suspect who they said had been recorded on a surveillance camera some time before.

Arbery’s mother, Wanda Cooper Jones, has said she thinks her 25-year-old son, a former high school football player, was just jogging in the neighborhood before he was killed.

On Saturday, the GBI confirmed that it has obtained other photos of video that might shed light on the case. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution published footage from a surveillance camera at a Brunswick home near where Arbery was shot that shows someone who appears to be Arbery walking into a home under construction. Arbery then came back out and ran down the street. Someone else comes out across the street from the construction site, and then a vehicle drives off farther down the street, near where Travis McMichael lives.

Lawyers for Arbery’s family say the video bolsters their position that Arbery did nothing wrong, and shows he did not commit a felony. Under Georgia law, someone who isn’t a sworn police officer can arrest and detain another person only if a felony is committed in the presence of the arresting citizen.

“Ahmaud’s actions at this empty home under construction were in no way a felony under Georgia law,” the lawyers wrote in a social media post. “This video confirms that Mr. Arbery’s murder was not justified and the actions of the men who pursued him and ambushed him were unjustified.”

The social justice arm of Jay-Z’s Roc Nation entertainment company on Sunday called on Georgia officials to take quick action in the case.

Also Sunday, Georgia authorities said they had arrested a 20-year-old man after investigating an online threat against people protesting the killing of Arbery.

Several hundred people had protested the case Friday in Brunswick, near the site where Arbery was fatally shot.

The GBI said state police arrested Rashawn Smith and charged him with dissemination of information relating to terroristic acts. He was taken into custody in Midway, a town about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Brunswick.

Earlier in the day, the GBI said it had “been made aware of a Facebook post that contains a threat to future protests related to Ahmaud Arbery.”

Investigators later said they believe the threat was a hoax.

“Smith created a Facebook User ID of an unwitting individual to post a hoax threat,” the GBI tweeted. It was not immediately clear if Smith has an attorney who could comment on the charge.

## Trump advisers cite need to stop ‘permanent’ economic toll

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some of President Donald Trump’s top economic advisers emphasized on Sunday the importance of states getting more businesses and offices open even as the pandemic makes its way to the White House complex, forcing three members of the administration’s coronavirus task force into self-quarantine.

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The president and governors who will decide when to reopen their states are facing competing pressures. More economic activity and travel will likely lead to more people contracting COVID-19. But tight restrictions on which businesses can operate are causing millions of people to join the ranks of the unemployed. Decisions about how fast to reopen come with a general election less than six months away, and Trump and other incumbents facing the prospects of seeking another term in the midst of a public health and economic crisis.

"If we do this carefully, working with the governors, I don't think there's a considerable risk," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on "Fox News Sunday." "Matter of fact, I think there's a considerable risk of not reopening. You're talking about what would be permanent economic damage to the American public."

Another 3.2 million U.S. workers applied for jobless benefits last week, bringing the total over the last seven weeks to 33.5 million as states restrict activities to slow the spread of the virus. Mnuchin said the jobless numbers "are probably going to get worse before they get better," but he expected the economic numbers to improve in the second half of 2020 and that next year would be a "great year."

Gov. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, announced this past week that his state's bars and restaurants can fully reopen in two weeks, on May 21, with outside dining allowed a few days earlier. Barbershops, hair salons, nail salons and day spas will also reopen this coming Friday.

He said he wished the number of coronavirus cases were going down, but the state needs to come back "very carefully."

"We've got to try to do two things at once and it's, you know, no one is underestimating how difficult this is, but it's something that we have to do," DeWine said on Fox.

The White House dispatched several of its top economic advisers to hit the Sunday talk shows. The appearances came on the heels of three key advisers, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, taking new precautionary steps after coming into contact with someone who had tested positive for COVID-19.

Fauci is the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and has become nationally known for his simple and direct explanations to the public about the coronavirus and COVID-19, the disease it causes. Also quarantining are Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Stephen Hahn.

Fauci's institute said that he has tested negative for COVID-19 and will continue to be tested regularly. It added that he is considered at "relatively low risk" based on the degree of his exposure, and that he would be "taking appropriate precautions" to mitigate the risk to personal contacts while still carrying out his duties. While he will stay at home and telework, Fauci will go to the White House if called and take every precaution, the institute said.

Redfield will be "teleworking for the next two weeks" after it was determined he had a "low-risk exposure" to a person at the White House, the CDC said in a statement Saturday evening. The statement said he felt fine and has no symptoms.

Just a few hours earlier, the Food and Drug Administration confirmed that Hahn had come in contact with someone who tested positive and was in self-quarantine for the next two weeks. He also tested negative for the virus.

All three were scheduled to testify before a Senate panel during a Tuesday hearing focused on how to safely return people to work and school. Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the panel's Republican chairman, announced Sunday that Fauci will be joining all of the administration's witnesses in testifying by videoconference "in an abundance of caution for our witnesses, senators, and the staff." Alexander also will attend by videoconference from his home state after a member of his staff tested positive, an aide said Sunday.

Statements from the agencies the officials oversee took care not to identify the person they had contact with earlier last week. Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary, Katie Miller, tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday, making her the second person who works at the White House complex known to test positive for the virus in the past week. White House officials had confirmed Thursday that a member of the military serving as one of Trump's valets had tested positive for COVID-19 a day earlier.

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White House adviser Kevin Hassett noted that the vice president's press secretary tested negative one day and positive the next. He appeared on CBS's "Face the Nation."

"And so this is a very, very scary virus. You know, that people are going to go back to work and they're gonna be worried about things," Hassett said. "And it's going to take awhile for things to get back to normal, absolutely."

At the same time, he said some \$9 trillion has been injected into the economy through actions taken by Congress, the White House and the Federal Reserve.

"I think that right now we have bought some time with all the money that we've thrown at the economy and we've been using the time to do things like develop treatments, improve our treatments, learn more about social distancing and so on," Hassett said.

## Becoming 'King of Ventilators' may result in unexpected glut

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and TOM KRISHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As requests for ventilators from the national stockpile reached a crescendo in late March, President Donald Trump made what seemed like a bold claim: His administration would have 100,000 within 100 days.

At the time, the Department of Health and Human Services had not ordered any new ventilators since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in January. But records show that over the following three weeks, the agency scrambled to turn Trump's pledge into a reality, spending nearly \$3 billion to spur U.S. manufacturers to crank out the breathing machines at an unprecedented pace.

An analysis of federal contracting data by The Associated Press shows the agency is now on track to exceed 100,000 new ventilators by around July 13, about a week later than the 100-day deadline Trump first gave on March 27.

By the end of 2020, the administration is expected to take delivery of nearly 200,000 new ventilators, based on the AP's review of current federal purchasing contracts. That would more than double the estimated 160,000 ventilators hospitals across the U.S. had before the pandemic.

"We became the king of ventilators, thousands and thousands of ventilators," Trump boasted in an April 29 speech.

But over the past month, demand for ventilators has decreased even as the U.S. death toll from the novel coronavirus has surged past 80,000. After observing unusually high death rates for coronavirus victims who were put on ventilators, many doctors are using them only as a last resort.

That's raising the unexpected prospect that the United States could soon be awash in surplus ventilators, so much so the White House is now planning to ship thousands overseas to help boost the virus response of other nations.

In a speech to Republican members of Congress on Friday, the president credited his son-in-law, White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, with heading up the effort to purchase the ventilators.

"We built, and we built, and we built," Trump said. "Now we have nine factories that are throwing out ventilators at numbers that nobody can believe. It was really — there's not been anything like that, since the Second World War, where we did the same thing with other types of product."

Daniel Adelman, a professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business who teaches health care analytics, said the U.S. government is now buying more than twice the number of ventilators it needs, even under a worst-case scenario forecasting the spread of COVID-19.

But Adelman said mathematical models cannot predict with certainty how many ventilators will be needed if there is a resurgence of the coronavirus later in the year or if there is another pandemic in the future.

"It seems incongruent with the forecasts that you're seeing," Adelman said of the government purchases. "I'd probably rather they order too many rather than ordering too few."

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In patients with severe cases of COVID-19, the virus attacks the lungs, causing fluid to collect in tiny air sacs called alveoli. That makes it difficult for the lungs to transfer oxygen from the air to the blood, which



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can be deadly. To treat these low oxygen levels, doctors have historically relied on ventilators.

The Strategic National Stockpile, the federal government's emergency reserve of medical supplies, had about 16,660 ventilators ready to deploy at the start of March, with an additional 2,400 out for maintenance.

By the middle of the month, health officials and governors in states with the worst virus outbreaks began expressing concerns that the supply of breathing machines could run out, potentially leaving thousands of critically ill patients gasping for air.

Among those calling for additional ventilators was Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.), who predicted on March 24 that all of the ventilators in his state would be in use, and patients in need would be left without proper treatment. Cuomo said projections showed New York would need at least 30,000 additional ventilators to get through the mid-April peak of the outbreak. At that point, FEMA had sent New York 400.

Trump expressed skepticism at Cuomo's figures even as his administration rushed to send New York 4,000 additional ventilators — about one-quarter of the nation's entire emergency stockpile. Still, Cuomo pleaded for more.

"You pick the 26,000 people who are going to die," Cuomo said at a news conference,

It wasn't just New York, however. Similarly dire projections of a ventilator shortfall were also then circulating within the White House.

"The scariest day of my life was about a month ago when, after a long day of meetings, my team told me that we were going to be needing 130,000 ventilators; that we were short hundreds of thousands of ventilators," Trump recounted in an April 14 briefing. "I had governors requesting unreasonable sums that the federal government just didn't have."

By late March, a bipartisan chorus of state governors and members of Congress were calling on the president to exercise his emergency authority under the Defense Production Act to force U.S. companies to produce ventilators.

Trump had resisted invoking the Korean War-era law, which grants the president sole authority to direct U.S. industrial production of critical supplies in times of national emergency, saying the private sector was stepping up production of ventilators and other medical supplies on its own.

But on March 27, Trump changed course, announcing that he would invoke the Defense Production Act to produce ventilators, which meant companies would have to give priority to federal orders over other customers.

"In the next 100 days — well, first of all, we've already delivered thousands of them — but within the next 100 days, we will either make or get, in some form, over 100,000 additional units," Trump said.

By the start of April, FEMA officials confirmed to the House Oversight and Reform Committee that demand for ventilators would soon outpace the available supply. To ration what was left, FEMA Administrator Peter Gaynor directed that the remaining ventilators in the national stockpile be designated as a "strategic national asset" — to be provided to states only on a case-by-case basis where hospitals could demonstrate an "exigent need" to sustain life within 72 hours.

Federal purchasing records show that three months into the pandemic, HHS, which includes the Strategic National Stockpile, had not yet placed any orders for new ventilators in 2020.

That changed within three days of Trump's March 27 edict, with HSS signing a \$350 million deal with Zoll Medical Corp. Records show a flurry of about a dozen big orders with other ventilator makers over the next two weeks, most of them no-bid contracts exempted from the typical federal purchasing rules due to the national emergency.

In a typical year, U.S. companies produce about 29,000 ventilators, according to data cited by the White House. Though several domestic manufacturers had already announced they were adding extra shifts and hiring additional workers to ramp up production, AP's analysis of HHS contracts show that even with the emergency no-bid orders the traditional medical device makers would deliver about 73,990 new ventilators by July 6 — the 100-day mark since Trump's March 27 pledge.

It was clear additional industrial capacity would be needed to get 100,000 units by the president's deadline.

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General Motors, which had shut down auto production, had already entered into a partnership on March 20 with Ventec Life Systems, a small ventilator company, to simplify an off-the-shelf design for rapid production at GM's Kokomo, Indiana, plant.

Though GM had announced it was "working night and day" to launch production, Trump accused CEO Mary Barra via Twitter of dragging her feet, and revived his long-running feud with the company over its 2019 closure of an Ohio factory that Trump had pledged to save.

"As usual with 'this' General Motors, things just never seem to work out," Trump tweeted on March 27. "General Motors MUST immediately open their stupidly abandoned Lordstown plant in Ohio, or some other plant, and START MAKING VENTILATORS, NOW!!!!!!!"

GM had sold the Lordstown factory in 2019.

The president also took aim at Ford Motor Co., tweeting that the rival automaker should also "GET GOING ON VENTILATORS, FAST!!!!!!!"

On April 8, HHS announced it had reached a \$489.4 million deal with GM to produce 30,000 ventilators by the end of August, with the first 6,132 delivered by June 1.

The following week, HHS announced a \$336 million contract with Ford and General Electric, which teamed up to make 50,000 of GE Healthcare's ventilators by July 13.

Assuming all the companies meet their deadlines, AP's analysis shows the national stockpile should surpass 100,000 new ventilators by mid-July.

HHS declined to release to AP its contracts with ventilator producers without a Freedom of Information Act request, a legal process that can often take months or even years.

But AP's analysis of the limited contract data available online and figures taken from HHS media releases shows the agency will spend more than \$2.9 billion for 198,890 ventilators by the end of 2020, an average per-unit cost of \$14,618.

Whether that's a good deal for U.S. taxpayers is difficult to determine because medical device makers generally don't publish their prices. HHS is buying at least 13 different models of ventilators from 10 different companies, all with different capabilities, features and accessories.

When AP sought details from HHS about the per-unit cost of four models from manufacturer Hamilton Medical, the agency's press office provided figures that did not add up to the totals announced in earlier media releases. An HHS spokesperson said the previously provided figures were wrong and would be corrected on the agency's website.

AP found several instances where the U.S. government had purchased the same models of ventilators before the pandemic. For example, contracting data does show that in December the Department of Defense bought a single, portable ventilator from Zoll Medical for \$12,260.

Under its current contract with Zoll, HHS is purchasing 18,900 of the same model for slightly more than \$350 million. That works out to about \$18,500 each, which would be a more than 50 percent increase from what the Pentagon paid less than five months ago.

A HHS spokeswoman said Friday the government was paying about \$12,100 for each ventilator, and that the additional money was for hoses, face masks and other related supplies needed to treat COVID-19 patients. The ventilators also came with a wheeled plastic case with power port, which cost an additional \$722 each, according to HHS.

The Defense Department did not respond to questions Friday about whether its 2019 ventilator deliveries also included accessories.

Zoll's top executive said his company's pricing had remained consistent.

"Zoll is supplying the U.S. government with its requested products at our usual and customary government pricing, absorbing the additional costs associated with Zoll's rapid increase in production capacity," Zoll CEO Jonathan Rennert said Friday. "We are focused on fulfilling the government's order on time and meeting this urgent public need."

Erik Gordon, a business professor at the University of Michigan who studies the medical device industry, said ventilator companies are probably incurring increased costs as they ramp up production to meet high

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demand. Manufacturers haven't had time to bulk buy additional parts and probably had to add workers to make more of the machines, he said.

U.S. ventilator makers have raised production from a rate of about 700 per week in February to about 5,000 per week by early April, according to the Advanced Medical Technology Association, an industry trade group.

"If you don't have time to change your manufacturing processes to get those economies of scale, you get there by brute force, extra labor," said Gordon, who teaches a course in monetizing medical device ideas. "Your costs actually go up, not down."

With the federal government buying most of the new ventilators being made in the U.S., state governments and hospital systems urgently seeking the machines have often been forced to go through middlemen or foreign suppliers.

Cuomo has compared the free-for-all bidding to going on eBay, and said during a March 31 briefing that New York had ordered 17,000 ventilators from China for \$25,000 each.

"We are paying \$25,000 per ventilator, and we are broke," Cuomo said. "The last thing I want to do is buy a single ventilator I don't need."

More than a month later, only 2,500 of the Chinese machines have been delivered, according to Cuomo's office. In a separate case, New York officials are trying to recover another \$69.1 million paid to a Silicon Valley electrical engineer who promised 1,450 ventilators that never materialized.

With nearly 200,000 new ventilators set for delivery to the federal stockpile by the end of the year, Trump is declaring victory. But it is now unclear whether the stockpile of new ventilators will be needed.

In the little more than a month since Trump announced the buying spree, a series of medical studies has spurred questions about whether ventilators are effective at saving the lives of critically ill COVID-19 patients.

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine on March 30 found that only 1 of 7 patients older than 70 who were put on a ventilator survived. For patients younger than 70, just 36% lived.

In New York City, state officials say 80% or more of coronavirus patients placed on the machines died.

The studies have caused doctors to reevaluate the use of ventilators in favor of less intensive forms of respiratory support.

Trump administration officials say the new ventilators could still prove valuable if the virus outbreak were to intensify into a second wave after the warm summer months.

"It's very important that we have a completely refreshed and a comprehensive stockpile going into the fall," Dr. Deborah Birx, a medical adviser on the White House Coronavirus Task Force, said at a briefing on April 21. "I think that's why we've continued to bring in those shipments and work on the ventilators so that those would be available not only for the United States but certainly if other partner countries have this level of tragedy."

Trump said he intends to ship thousands of the breathing machines overseas, where the needs are greater.

On Tuesday, Mexico said it received a shipment of ventilators from the United States. Trump said last week Russia is also set to receive U.S. ventilators, along with other countries.

"People dying because they don't have ventilators, and they're not equipped to do what we did," Trump said Friday. "So we're giving thousands and thousands of these ventilators away to many countries that have suffered greatly: Italy, France, Spain, so many countries. And Nigeria called. Tremendous problems in Nigeria. Tremendous problems all over. And so they're very happy."

## Schumer calls on VA to explain use of unproven drug on vets

By HOPE YEN and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate's top Democrat on Sunday called on the Department of Veterans Affairs to explain why it allowed the use of an unproven drug on veterans for the coronavirus, saying patients may have been put at unnecessary risk.

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Sen. Charles Schumer of New York said the VA needs to provide Congress more information about a recent bulk order for \$208,000 worth of hydroxychloroquine. President Donald Trump has heavily promoted the malaria drug, without evidence, as a treatment for COVID-19.

Schumer's request comes after a whistleblower complaint filed this past week by former Health and Human Services official Rick Bright alleged that the Trump administration, eager for a quick fix to the onslaught of the coronavirus, wanted to "flood" hot spots in New York and New Jersey with the drug. Major veterans organizations have urged VA to explain under what circumstances VA doctors initiate discussion of hydroxychloroquine with veterans as a treatment option.

"There are concerns that they are using this drug when the medical evidence says it doesn't help and could hurt," Schumer said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He said given the fact the malaria drug, despite being untested, had been repeatedly pushed publicly by Trump, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie must address whether anyone at the department was pressured by the White House or the administration to use hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19.

Schumer said Wilkie also should answer questions about a recent analysis of VA hospital data that showed there were more deaths among patients given hydroxychloroquine versus standard care, including how much patients knew about the drug's risks before taking it.

In a statement Sunday, VA spokeswoman Christina Noel called it "preposterous" for anyone to suggest that VA would make treatment decisions based on anything other than "the best medical interests of patients."

"VA only permits use of the drug after ensuring veterans and caretakers are aware of potential risks associated with it, as we do with any other drug or treatment," she said.

Wilkie in recent weeks has denied that veterans were used as test subjects for the drug and that it was instead administered at government-run VA hospitals only when medically appropriate, with mutual consent between doctor and patient.

Still, Wilkie and the department have repeatedly declined to say how widely the drug was being used for COVID-19, including how many veterans were given the drug, and whether VA doctors were given guidance by VA headquarters on specific scenarios when it should be used.

In a weekly call with veterans' groups this past week, Wilkie continued to defend VA's use of hydroxychloroquine. He dismissed the recent analysis of VA hospital data showing no benefits to patients, suggesting the poor outcomes were because the cases involved older, very sick veterans.

"Use of this medication for treatment of COVID-19 is considered 'off label' — perfectly legal and not rare," he wrote in an April 29 letter to veterans' groups.

The analysis of hospital data, done by independent researchers at two universities with VA approval, was not a rigorous experiment. Researchers analyzed medical records of 368 older male veterans hospitalized with confirmed coronavirus infection at VA medical centers who died or were discharged by April 11.

About 28% of veterans who were given hydroxychloroquine plus usual care died, versus 11% of those getting routine care alone.

The VA recently said most of its recent bulk order for hydroxychloroquine was being used for approved uses, such as treating lupus and rheumatoid arthritis, but it didn't provide breakdowns.

Wilkie in recent weeks took advocacy of the drug even further than Trump by claiming without evidence that it has been effective for young and middle-aged veterans in particular. In fact, there is no published evidence showing that.

Veterans are "very concerned that we still do not have clarity on the VA's past and present use of hydroxychloroquine in treating veterans with COVID-19," Jeremy Butler, chief executive officer of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, told the AP.

"Now that the federal government issued an emergency use authorization for remdesivir to treat COVID-19, we need answers to these questions as well as the VA's plans for administering, or not administering, remdesivir," he said. That action by the Food and Drug Administration came after preliminary results from a government-sponsored study showed that remdesivir shortened the time to recovery by 31%, or about four days on average, for hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

In a tweet Sunday, former VA Secretary David Shulkin urged the department to immediately curtail use

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of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19. "With studies showing no benefit, VA should restrict use exclusively to clinical trials," he wrote. Shulkin was fired by Trump in March 2018, and Wilkie replaced him.

Schumer said his main concern is determining whether the VA had conducted any "clandestine studies to determine whether hydroxychloroquine was effective without their permission." He said there's also concern that the department won't address specifically where the drug was sent.

"These are people who risked their lives for us," Schumer said. "They should be treated only with the utmost dignity, respect and high standards of care."

The drug has long been used to treat malaria and other ailments. A few, very small preliminary studies suggested it might help prevent the coronavirus from entering cells and possibly help patients clear the virus sooner. But the FDA last month warned doctors against prescribing the drug for COVID-19 outside hospitals because of the risks of serious side effects and death.

## UFC's return could provide blueprint for other pro leagues

By **MARK LONG AP Sports Writer**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — UFC President Dana White wanted a major fight card weeks ago. He was confident his team could pull it off whether it took place on a tribal land, on a private island or in any of the 10 states offering to host it.

Coronavirus testing. Fan-free arena. Social distancing. Self-isolation. White looked at all those unprecedented details that seemed too complex and too risky to some outsiders as merely extra challenges.

"I knew we could do this," he said following UFC 249 on Saturday night. "I knew we could figure it out. Even with all the hurdles that we had early on, this has been fun. It's been challenging and it's been fun.

"I know that sounds a little demented to say I've had fun going through this. It's been challenging and I've enjoyed the whole game of it, if you will."

White and the UFC look like the big winners following their rousing show at Veterans Memorial Arena in Jacksonville, an event that could serve as a blueprint for other sports leagues around the country and the world as they start to resume during a global pandemic.

The NFL, NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball and NASCAR, all of them had to have an eye on how the UFC approached and handled the first major human-centric sporting event in the U.S. since the new coronavirus shuttered much of the country nearly two months ago. The UFC created a 25-page document to address health and safety protocols, which included disinfecting the octagon between bouts and mandating tests and masks for nearly everyone in attendance.

The spotlight only intensified when one fighter, Jacaré Souza, and two of his cornermen tested positive for COVID-19 a day before the stacked card.

Souza was pulled from the fight and removed from the hotel where hundreds of UFC employees are staying this week. The UFC's medical team continues to provide assistance and is helping with necessary treatment, White said.

The UFC has two more fight nights scheduled this week in Jacksonville, beginning Wednesday, and plans to administer more than 1,000 more coronavirus tests for everyone scheduled to take part.

"However it was handled this week, this was our first week," White said. "It will only get better. And we can share what we learned here doing three events with other sports leagues who are reaching out to us and asking.

"A lot can be learned by what we're doing here. Not just for professional sports but for sending people back to work and lot of other things in life."

White said he never considered postponing UFC 249 following Souza's positive test and got support from the Florida Athletic Commission, the governor and local authorities.

The show went on and, by most accounts, got rave reviews.

Justin Gaethje stunned Tony Ferguson in the main event, earning a TKO in a lightweight bout that set the winner up to fight titleholder Khabib Nurmagomedov next. Henry Cejudo, with blood gushing from his head and dripping down his chest, defended his bantamweight title against Dominick Cruz and then announced his retirement.

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Heavyweight contender Francis Ngannou pummeled his fourth straight opponent, this one in 20 seconds. Former NFL defensive end Greg Hardy won for the sixth time in eight fights. And former welterweight champion and fan favorite Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone lost on the undercard, his fourth consecutive defeat.

About the only negative was the empty arena, where punches, kicks, grunts, steps, trash talk, corner coaching and TV commentary echoed off metal beams and vacant seats.

"It was weird," White conceded. "There's so many things that you love about live sports, whether you're home, in a bar or there live. One of the big, key components to live sports are the group of people that you're with and the energy that you get when cool things happen.

"Tonight was an amazing event, but that was definitely missing tonight, these moments. ... It's all part of what makes this so great."

Finding a way to recreate those missing moments could be the next challenge, one White surely would welcome as long as the show goes on.

"We're still figuring this whole thing out," he said. "This was the first one. It was a success. Wednesday will be better. Saturday will be better than that."

## As Trump pulls back from virus, Congress races to fill void

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump tries to move on from the coronavirus, Congress is rushing to fill the void and prepare the country for the long fight ahead.

Compelled by the lack of comprehensive federal planning as states begin to reopen, lawmakers of both parties, from the senior-most senators to the newest House member, are jumping in to develop policies and unleash resources to prevent a second wave.

In the House and Senate, lawmakers are pushing sweeping proposals for a national virus testing strategy. One seasoned Republican wants a war-like public health fund. A New Jersey freshman launched neighboring colleagues on a regional bipartisan task force to help guide Northeastern states back to work.

"This is going to be on us," said Rep. Mikie Sherrill, D-N.J., a former Navy helicopter pilot in her first term in Congress.

The legislative branch is stepping up in the absence of a consistent, convincing White House strategy, in much the way governors have been forced to go it alone during the nation's pandemic response.

Congress is preparing its fifth coronavirus aid package, a "Rooseveltian" effort, as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York put it. It's a Democratic-heavy plan that wary Republicans are watching, despite support in the party for some provisions.

Unlike the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, when President George W. Bush called on Congress to create a Department of Homeland Security, or during the Great Depression, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt led the nation to the New Deal, Trump is not seeking a legacy-defining accomplishment in the heat of national crisis.

Instead, Trump has turned the life-and-death decision-making away from the federal government and onto the states for the next phase of the response. He expects governors to arrange virus testing systems and find their own medical gear, saying the federal government is a "supplier of last resort." The White House coronavirus task force has abandoned daily briefings.

Encouraging the economic rebound, Trump said Thursday he's looking forward to "getting on with it."

"When the nation is in the middle of the major, historic crisis, the norm is that both branches focus on the issue," said Julian E. Zelizer, a Princeton professor of history and public policy. "It's not normal for the president to just move on."

The administration issued guidelines for reopening state and local economies, but shelved a more detailed 17-page report from the experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

New projections say the death toll could essentially double this summer, from more than 70,000 as of Friday to 137,000 by early August, as states loosen stay-home restrictions, according to a model from the University of Washington.

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"It is lot for Congress to take on," Andy Slavitt, a former federal health official, told the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Friday.

"There's never been a greater time when Americans need the support of Congress and their state and local leaders."

As the Senate resumed this past week while the House stayed largely away, lawmakers drilled into pandemic policy.

Tom Frieden, a former CDC director, outlined a 10-point strategy in testimony before a House Appropriations subcommittee.

"As bad as this has been, it's just the beginning," Frieden warned of the long wait ahead for improved treatments and an eventual vaccine.

Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, the ranking Republican on the committee, was particularly interested in Frieden's proposal for a new public health fund modeled on those Congress uses to pay the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, separate from budget caps.

"There needs to be a whole big plan," said Cole.

On the other side of the Capitol, an exasperated Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., grilled officials about the national testing strategy she has pushed since early March.

"We can't reopen our country safely," she said, until tests are "are fast, free, and everywhere."

Health officials say a robust national testing effort, with the ability to trace the contacts of those who have been infected — so those people isolate and prevent spread — should be central to any plan returning Americans to work. Several lawmakers want the federal government to hire out-of-work Americans into an "army" of the estimated 300,000 public health workers needed for the job.

To ensure enough medical supplies, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., wants to wrest manufacturing away from China with "Buy American" rules to kick-start domestic industry.

While many of the proposals coming from Congress are bipartisan, pushback is strong from some corners.

Conservative Republicans in particular resist a robust federal government intervention, preferring a state-by-state approach. Many share Trump's view that "the remedy can't be worse" than the disease, as record Americans are out of work. Trump will need to sign any legislation into law.

At the House hearing, Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., an anesthesiologist, argued that indefinite stay-home orders make no sense.

"We're safer from death if we're not born," he said.

Cole, a former history professor, said Trump is constrained by the built-in balance between Washington and the states, which ensures "50 laboratories" as states try different options for confronting the virus.

"We're going to know pretty quick whether or not these guys starting up early are right," he said.

Weeks ago, Sherrill, the first-term Democrat, grew frustrated during a briefing about the lack of protective equipment for front-line workers.

"We're not where we need to be," she said. "So the question comes up: Why?"

She launched the five-state task force that's trying to stand up mobile virus testing at work sites and get gear to health offices.

Much the way governors have formed compacts with neighboring states, lawmakers often agree there's no one-size-fits-all approach despite the need for robust federal role to ensure equitable outcomes for Americans.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., a member of the new House Select Committee on Coronavirus Crisis, said the pandemic poses a "stress test" for America's federalist system.

"This period is going to be about whether we can make the Founders' vision of federalism work," he said at the Capitol, during "the worst public health crisis of our lifetimes."

## US census stirs uncertainty for those displaced by virus

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — It's not meant to be a trick question, but many filling out their 2020 U.S. census form struggle to answer: How many people were staying at your home on April 1?

The pandemic has fostered sudden, unexpected dislocation, making a typically easy question confusing for the newly displaced.

Some people living in coronavirus hot spots fled their homes or were hospitalized. Students living off-campus moved in with their parents once universities closed. Travelers got stuck far from home because of health concerns.

Fran Kunitz left St. Louis to visit her sister and brother-in-law in Fort Myers, Florida, in mid-March. She was supposed to fly back on April 1 but nixed those plans. She has a weak immune system and asthma and didn't want to risk catching the virus on a flight.

Census Bureau guidance puts her in St. Louis, so when she fills out her form, she'll have to ignore the part about where she was on April 1 — the date that determines where people are counted once a decade.

"I'm anxious to go home, but everyone tells me not to," Kunitz said recently from Florida.

The displacement is especially worrisome in New York City, which has been the epicenter of the nation's coronavirus outbreak.

It's leading to low response rates in wealthy enclaves of the Upper East Side and midtown Manhattan where many residents have left for the Hamptons, Florida or elsewhere. Some believe they need the census ID number that was mailed to them to fill out the form online, but that's not necessary, said Julie Menin, director of NYC Census 2020.

"It's a problem that we're having. People are under the misimpression that if for any reason they have left New York City during COVID, they still believe they need the paper form with a computer code," Menin said.

People who answer the questionnaire without an ID number are identified and counted by their address.

The response rates are lowest in some of the New York City neighborhoods where the virus hit hardest, such as Elmhurst in Queens, which had more than 7,000 confirmed cases in the first few weeks of the outbreak. That coincided with the period in March when most people could begin answering the questionnaire.

Census Bureau guidelines say a person should be counted where they usually live if they expect to go back there.

"If they are not sure whether they will return to their usual residence after the crisis ends, then they should be counted where they are staying on April 1, 2020," the agency said.

For college students living away from home, that means at school. Students living in college housing before the pandemic mostly are being counted by their schools, but it's confusing for those living off campus who have moved back in with their parents. For graduating seniors, the uncertainty is compounded because they're not returning to campus. The bureau says they should still be counted at school.

Jake Mershon, who just finished his sophomore year at Florida State University in Tallahassee, moved back in with his mother, her fiance and his sister in Atlanta after on-campus classes shut down in mid-March. His mother included him on the census form for her household, and neither Mershon nor his three roommates filled out a questionnaire for their Tallahassee apartment.

"She was like, 'Of course, I'll count you here,'" Mershon said. "There's no way I will be counted in Tallahassee because of everything going on."

The pandemic has forced the Census Bureau to push back its deadline for finishing the 2020 count from the end of July to the end of October. The bureau also is asking Congress for permission to delay deadlines next year for giving census data to the states so they can draw new voting maps. The 2020 census will determine how many congressional seats each state gets as well as how some \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is doled out.

"It's hard to think of another census when there's been this disruption nationwide," said D'Vera Cohn, a census expert at the Pew Research Center. "Certainly, there have been hurricanes or other national disasters that have displaced people, but this particular set of circumstances seems to be unique, being



nationwide.”

As lockdowns started in mid-March, Shana Roen left her apartment in Atlanta for her parents’ home in Orlando, Florida, remembering to bring her census notice. She filled out the form online at the end of April before heading back to Georgia, where stay-at-home restrictions were loosening before the rest of the U.S.

“I came down to Florida to be around family and do stuff for my parents and be with somebody rather than by myself in my apartment,” Roen said. “But I put myself down as a Georgia resident.”

## Parole grants spark criticism from prosecutors, families

By SARAH RANKIN and DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — During a push to accelerate the review of parole-eligible inmates because of the coronavirus pandemic, Virginia released dozens of violent offenders, including killers, rapists and kidnapers, blindsiding prosecutors and victims’ families who say they were not properly notified as required by law, a review by The Associated Press has found.

“I mean, good grief. What, they were never going to tell us and here we are thinking this killer is still in jail?” said Juanita Gillis, who was informed by an AP reporter that the man who fatally shot her brother in 1993 was paroled by the board in March.

Thomas Runyon’s killer, Dwayne Markee Reid, was among at least 35 people convicted in killings who were granted parole in March, according to an Associated Press review of parole board records, court records and interviews with prosecutors. Ninety-five inmates were paroled in March, the most recent month for which decisions are public, just over half the number approved in all of 2019.

Many of those released had served decades in prison.

“The Parole Board, already inclined to grant parole prior to the pandemic, felt that expediting certain cases was appropriate due to age of the offender, underlying health conditions, and the Board was confident that the release was compatible with public safety,” board chair Tonya Chapman, who took over that role in April, wrote in an email.

She said that in normal circumstances there’s usually time for prosecutor notification, “however, these are unprecedented times.”

Brian Moran, Virginia’s secretary of public safety and homeland security, said Gov. Ralph Northam’s administration has full confidence in the board and its ability to decide which offenders have been reformed.

Moran has repeatedly emphasized that only a small number of the approximately 30,000 inmates held in state prisons — about 2,300 — are eligible for parole and that under Virginia’s parole system, the majority of those have been locked up for a long time after committing violent crimes.

Virginia lawmakers abolished discretionary parole in 1995, so most inmates who are eligible either committed their crimes before then or are older than 60 and meet certain conditions making them eligible for geriatric release.

“These are tough cases,” Moran said.

Some prosecutors are outraged about releases in their jurisdictions and have criticized the board for what they say is a lack of transparency and communication. The board is largely exempt from Virginia’s public records law and does not explain its reasoning for granting releases.

“These are the most violent criminals you can get,” said Phil Ferguson, the longtime commonwealth’s attorney in Suffolk, where Reid was charged.

Reid was 16 when he shot Runyon during an attempted drug buy, according to Runyon’s sister and news accounts of his trial, where a prosecutor called the shooting “a killing for fun.” He had already served time in a juvenile correctional facility in connection with a previous killing, according to Ferguson. Attempts to reach him and the attorney who represented him at trial were not successful.

Chapman said the board attempted to notify the Runyon family using a national, online victim notification system called VINE.

“Unfortunately, there was only one anonymous phone number registered in VINE and it was no longer in service,” she wrote in an email.

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The board has one part-time employee assigned as the victim services coordinator, and Chapman said that since she took the role of chair April 16, she has used an investigator to help with locating potential victims.

In Halifax County, along the North Carolina border, Commonwealth's Attorney Tracy Quackenbush Martin has objected to the geriatric release of Debra Scribner, a 66-year-old convicted in 2011 of first-degree murder, conspiracy and a firearms charge in the death of her son-in-law, Eric Wynn.

Martin said she was not notified of Scribner's impending release as required by state law and questioned why the board would release someone convicted of such a serious crime who has spent less than 10 years in prison.

"Will people start to think, no matter what a jury says, that they can kill their enemies and be out in five so long as they wait until they are 60?" Martin wrote in an email.

Kevin Wynn, Eric Wynn's brother, said he also was not notified of the board's decision.

"I think we were passed over like we were nothing," he said.

After he learned of Scribner's release, Wynn found out that the board had sent him a letter — with the wrong address. Wynn said he's lived in the same home for more than 20 years, well before Scribner's arrest.

State code says the parole board must "endeavor diligently" to contact the victim before making any decision to release an inmate on discretionary parole, and the definition of a victim in a homicide includes relatives.

Neither Scribner nor her attorney at trial could be reached.

Criminal justice reform advocates have long said the state is too stingy with parole.

Shannon Ellis, an attorney with the Legal Aid Justice Center, said it isn't fair to criticize the release of a prisoner only because of their offense.

"I think you have to ask a lot more questions ... including how long that person had served, whether that person under any credible assessment would be considered a danger to the public, to what degree does keeping a person incarcerated during a crisis like this could that be giving them a death sentence?" Ellis said.

But Gillis, Runyon's sister, said she doesn't think the now-43-year-old Reid deserves the freedom he's been granted.

"He killed a human being. Doesn't that mean anything anymore?" she said.

## Virus prevents diaspora Venezuelans from sending money home

By SCOTT SMITH and CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — After fleeing Venezuela along with millions of others amid the country's grueling humanitarian crisis, Misael Cocho made his way by bus to Peru — where he got odd jobs and sent money home monthly to support his mother and his 5-year-old son.

But just after Cocho landed his steadiest work so far in Lima, coronavirus cases skyrocketed. He lost his job, sold his TV to buy food and hasn't been able to wire money for months to Caracas to pay for food for the boy and Cocho's mother.

The pandemic's economic fallout left many Venezuelans abroad and the relatives back home who rely on them in dire straits. And as work disappears in countries like Peru and Colombia, humanitarian groups say many Venezuelans who fled hunger are now going hungry.

Cocho, 24, faces a dilemma: Should he stay in Peru in case the economy improves, or go back to Caracas where life is precarious but might not get worse?

"The truth is that this pandemic has really hit me hard," he said.

Venezuela's population peaked at 30 million in 2015, but 5 million alarmed at the country's economic implosion migrated elsewhere in South America and to the U.S. and Europe, according to the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration. Most who stayed behind get by on a minimum wage that's the equivalent of about \$2 a month.

About half of the Venezuelans who emigrated to other South American countries are so-called "informal"

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sector workers — laborers, vendors, street performers and waiters, estimated Provash Budden, regional Americas director for the Mercy Corps humanitarian aid group. Those jobs were hit hard by the virus' economic impact and there are few if any social safety nets to help the people who had them.

Cocho first found work in Peru shoveling manure and sweeping streets and recently landed a better-paying job at a family-owned corner store. But he was laid off as the coronavirus spread. Peru has about 65,000 confirmed cases and, with more than 1,800 deaths, the second highest Latin American death count after Brazil, where more than 10,000 have died.

He sleeps on a mattress in a crowded home filled with Venezuelan migrants. The landlord has let him skip the rent so far, but Cocho doesn't know how long the generosity will last.

"I've had no other choice but to sell the things I don't use in order to get by," he said.

Venezuela was once a wealthy nation sitting atop the world's largest reserves of oil. But years of political confrontation, corruption and resource mismanagement by the socialist government left most Venezuelans with increasingly scarce water, electricity, gasoline and inadequate medical care.

Of the 15% of Venezuelans who abandoned their country, about 1.8 million went to neighboring Colombia. Others headed to Brazil, Ecuador and Peru. Those who found more success than informal sector workers started businesses and enrolled their children in schools.

But the coronavirus abruptly halted many migrants' aspirations and limited their ability to help economically hurting relatives back home.

"Like everyone here, my mission in Peru has been to help my family in Venezuela," Cocho said.

Because of Colombia's strict stay-at-home order for the pandemic, many migrants in Bogota must break the law to go outside and make money to buy food or stay behind closed doors and go hungry, aid groups said.

"All of a sudden, they've become invisible, locked away behind closed doors," said Marianne Menjivar, director for Colombia and Venezuela for the International Rescue Committee humanitarian aid group.

About 20,000 Venezuelans went home since early March, according to Colombia's government, which has paid for about 396 bus trips to take them to the Venezuelan border.

Yonaiker García, 22, was making a decent living after leaving Venezuela for Bogota — earning \$500 monthly as a graphic artist until the pandemic hit and he became jobless and homeless.

"They kicked us out onto the street," García said on the outskirts of Bogota late last month while taking part in a protest to try to persuade the Colombian government to pay for more buses to the border.

Venezuelans abroad in South America are at high risk of infection because they must work in public or remain cooped up in increasingly crowded apartments, said Budden, of Mercy Corps.

"From a public health point of view, it's a recipe for disaster," he said.

Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro has said Venezuelans are welcomed home, but images shared by the returning migrants suggest otherwise.

Some who arrived at the small city of San Cristobal near the border with Colombia last month were held for two weeks in a sports complex under military guard, in tight quarters that made social distancing difficult. An Associated Press journalist heard those inside shouting demands to be allowed to go home.

The returning migrants find communities with shuttered hospitals because thousands of doctors and nurses left the country.

Venezuela has so far reported only 402 cases of coronavirus and 10 COVID-19 deaths. Experts believe the actual number is much higher because so little testing has been done and the type of testing does not reveal recent infections.

In Caracas, Cocho's mother, Maylin Pérez, 48, says the potential spread of the virus weighs on her heavily.

She lives up several flights of stairs in a spartan, three-room apartment with old photos of her son on the walls. Cocho last sent his mother \$10 in a February wire transfer that helped buy groceries.

So she knits colorful face masks to barter for extras besides the lentils and rice from a monthly, government subsidized box of food she usually eats with her grandson. They can't afford eggs, cheese or meat.

Pérez said the highlights of her days are the text messages from her son, who also calls every few days

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so the son can hear his father's voice.

She said she tries to convince Cocho he shouldn't worry about not sending money because she's more concerned about him getting infected.

"Take care of yourself," she said she tells him. "Your first priority is your health, your life."

## Amid coronavirus news, many need to step away

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Heidi Van Roekel makes instructional art videos for YouTube when coronavirus news overwhelms her. Bill Webb takes his boat out. Stacy Mitchell searches her TV for something — anything — to make her laugh.

Paradoxically, Kevin Reed, a software designer from Kenmore, Washington, has binged "The Walking Dead" after turning off the news. He'd rather watch fake, flesh-eating zombies than a real-life pandemic.

It's no surprise that news outlets are in demand with a story that directly affects so many people, whether they've gotten sick, lost jobs or are locked down at home. A Pew Research Center survey taken the third week of April found that 88 percent of Americans said they were following coronavirus news either very or fairly closely.

Yet that takes a toll. Pew also found that 71 percent of Americans said that they need to take breaks from the news. To watch something else. To do something else. To breathe a little.

"A week and a half ago I just had to throttle it down," said Webb, a writer and consultant who lives in Sarasota, Florida. "I think you get overwhelmed by it. You're sitting in your house and there's nothing you can do about things."

Mitchell, a consultant in human resources from Dayton, Ohio, said she watches the "Today" show in the morning, the network evening news and tries to catch her state's governor, Mike DeWine, at least at the beginning of his regular briefings.

But she hit a wall.

"It was just COVID-19 overload," Mitchell said. "I was very anxious. I had a full-blown anxiety attack and I decided that I was not going to watch more of that stuff."

Science supports them. Roxane Cohen Silver, Dana Rose Garfin and E. Alison Holman, researchers at the University of California at Irvine who have been studying the affect of prolonged media exposure to bad news following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, wrote an article for Health Psychology magazine in February — before coronavirus was even on the radar for many Americans — warning of this effect.

People who watch too much can have nightmares, feelings of anxiety and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, Silver said. In the long run, they're more likely to report cardiovascular disorders.

Some people who consumed a heavy diet of news about the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013 were actually more stressed out than people on the scene, the researchers found.

"The news is distressing," Silver said. "There are not many uplifting stories. It's the repetitive bad news that is so draining."

The pandemic story is particularly difficult because it's not a single event that fades with time. There's no telling how long it will go on. Because of unemployment and stay-at-home orders, more people have time to follow it.

That's precisely what is happening with Jose Moreno of San Antonio, Texas, a caretaker for his elderly mother. The news makes him overthink, he said.

"When I leave the house, I'm wondering, 'Am I doing something that I shouldn't be doing?' It's a lot of stress," he said.

Some news organizations recognize the impact of a steady diet of sobering news and have sought ways to offer relief.

CBS News reporter Steve Hartman, with his regular "On the Road" series grounded, is "teaching" an online class in kindness. On the other side of the world, the Sydney Morning Herald and other Australian newspapers hunt for stories to fit their "Good News Initiative."

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During a meeting with fellow editors at The Associated Press one morning in March, running down a particularly distressing list of the day's stories, Sally Stapleton offered some light in the dark clouds.

She promoted a story about a homebound woman in Norway who asked people on Facebook to send birthday greetings to her children, and people all over the world did. A college student sent home to New York after classes were suspended organized 1,300 volunteers in three days to shop and make deliveries for shut-ins.

The stories got such a positive reaction that "One Good Thing" is now a daily feature. AP journalists all over the world compete to have a story included.

"I just think it's news," said Stapleton, global religion editor. "These stories are everywhere, all the time. Mostly we ignore them. This is not a time to ignore them."

Fox News has similarly collected more than 700 television and online stories showing resiliency under the "America Together" banner. The featured articles have received more than 25 million page views.

"If you're in a position to spread these stories that warm the heart at a time when there is uncertainty, sadness and fear, I think it's our obligation to do so," said Fox News anchor Dana Perino.

Even people who need to step away from the tough news recognize that it's essential.

Lucretia King, a private tutor from San Joaquin County in California, has lost her job since the outbreak began. But her husband and son both work, so she follows the news and texts them if there's anything they need to know urgently.

UCal-Irvine's Silver stays informed by reading online news sites in the morning and evening, and gets notifications during the day. She said she watches no television.

She doesn't expect many others will avoid TV altogether — her husband and son certainly don't — but recommends against keeping the TV or news radio on constantly in the background.

"People should make a conscious effort to monitor their exposure," Silver said.

Van Roekel, a stay-at-home mom from Los Alamos, N.M., said she limits her exposure to national news to four days a week, and makes sure she stays away from social media before bedtime.

She said her husband has been catching up with old sitcoms and she loves actor John Krasinski's YouTube series, "Some Good News." Mitchell and her husband have watched Disney's "Avengers" movies. King checks out home makeovers on HGTV.

Everyone has a personal stress relief valve.

"You've got to take a break for your mental health," Van Roekel said.

## A big-city orchestra salvages a student's canceled recital

By MICHAEL R. SISK Associated Press

Devastated after her graduate recital was canceled due to coronavirus concerns, Brooke Mead nearly gave up. Faced with recording the concert alone, at home, the 23-year-old viola student stopped practicing altogether.

But then, the music took an amazing turn.

After seeking out advice in an online question-and-answer session with the Philadelphia Orchestra, she was invited to perform her recital on the renowned body's live webcast as the lead-in to a rebroadcast of one of its performances.

That allowed her to reach hundreds of classical music fans around the world who otherwise wouldn't have gotten to hear her play, had her performance gone on as originally planned at Temple University's Philadelphia campus.

"It's been a bit of a roller coaster emotionally, just thinking about going from a packed hall to no hall, to having possibly to record yourself, to then having this virtual audience," Mead said.

In the online session, Mead asked the orchestra's assistant principal cellist, Yumi Kendall, how she should deal with her disappointment. Mead had done intern-level work for the orchestra from September to March, and Kendall recognized her name.

"Instinctively I just raised my hand," Kendall said. "I was like, 'Oh, OK. I'll be there. You have an audi-

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ence of at least one and I'll definitely be there."

People watching the discussion chimed in: They wanted to be a part of Mead's audience, too. The orchestra's president and CEO, Matias Tarnopolsky, decided then and there to incorporate Mead's recital into the organization's online platform.

Mead felt re-energized. Her apartment became her stage. Her in-person audience was limited to just roommates and a dog (the cats were too noisy to let into the room where she performed).

Mead and Kendall, who served as master of ceremonies for the online recital, ran through the program ahead of time to work out logistical kinks. The live show -- pieces by German composers Johann Sebastian Bach and Jean Paul Hindemith, and American folk musician Jay Ungar's "Ashokan Farewell" -- went off without a hitch.

When the university canceled gatherings in mid-March, spurred by widespread social distancing measures, Mead didn't really think she was entitled to be disappointed.

Coronavirus was killing people, among them her boyfriend's percussion instructor, longtime Philadelphia Orchestra musician Alan Abel, who died the day after her performance at age 91. Doctors and nurses were risking their health to save others. And here she was, mourning the loss of a concert.

But music has been Mead's life. She fell in love with it around age 2, when her college professor mother took her to children's music classes on her campus in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She started playing the viola in third grade.

Now, as she looks to a career as an orchestra performer or administrator, she has a memento to inspire her: a printout to remind her of all the wonderful feedback she received during her recital, virtual cheers and scores of emojis — clapping hands, smiling faces and lots of fire.

"I get to read the real-time reactions to my performance for the rest of my life," Mead said.

## US virus patients and businesses sue China over outbreak

By CURT ANDERSON AP Legal Affairs Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Before the coronavirus outbreak, Sandra Andringa-Meuer was a healthy 61-year-old mother of six who never smoked or drank alcohol. Then she became seriously ill with the disease after traveling from her Wisconsin home to help her son move from college in Connecticut.

She was hospitalized in March, ending up in a coma and on a ventilator for 14 days. Doctors told her family she had a slim chance to live. When she emerged, she was told she was the sickest COVID-19 patient they had seen survive.

Now Andringa-Meuer has joined with dozens of other American virus patients and some U.S. businesses in taking a new legal step: They are attempting to sue China over the spread of the virus, which has killed at least 75,000 people in the United States.

"I do feel that they hid it from the world and from Americans," she said. "I don't feel we had to have the loss of life. I don't think we had to have the economy shut down. It disrupted all of American lives. I do believe we need to right some of these wrongs."

So far, at least nine lawsuits have been filed in the U.S. against China claiming authorities there did not do enough to corral the virus initially, tried to hide what was happening in the outbreak center of Wuhan and sought to conceal their actions and what they knew.

Eight of the lawsuits are potential class actions that would represent thousands of people and businesses. One was filed by the attorney general of Missouri, which is so far the only state to take legal action against China.

The cases face several hurdles under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, which states that foreign governments cannot be sued in the U.S. unless certain exceptions are met. And those are not easy to prove, experts say.

"We think it's going to be an uphill battle for them to ultimately take advantage of those exceptions," said Robert Boone, an attorney in Los Angeles who specializes in class action cases.

One exception involves commercial activity that directly affects the U.S. Another is misconduct inside the

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U.S. under certain circumstances that is traceable to a foreign government. A third exception is whether the foreign entity explicitly waived its immunity, such as through language in a contract.

Attorneys who have filed the lawsuits say they can prove those claims, and, if they win, find some method of collecting damages, perhaps by seizing Chinese bank accounts or other assets in the U.S. if the Chinese refuse to pay.

In one case filed in Miami federal court on behalf of Andringa-Meurer and many others, attorneys Matthew Moore and Jeremy Alters are suing the Chinese Communist Party as an entity separate from the Chinese government.

"They have their own assets. They are recognized as an independent organization. We are going to argue they are not a part of the government," Moore said. "There has been personal injury that happened in the United States."

Added Alters: "They're going to have to pay ... We can say, 'We're not going to do business with you anymore.' When you hit them in the (gross domestic product), it hurts."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang defended his country's record of fighting the virus. He said the lawsuit filed by the Missouri attorney general is "very absurd and has no factual and legal basis."

Since the outbreak began, China has proceeded in an "open, transparent, and responsible manner," and the U.S. government should "dismiss such vexatious litigation," he said.

Efforts are underway in Congress and in some state legislatures to make it easier to sue China and other countries. One bill was introduced by Republican U.S. Sens. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee and Martha McSally of Arizona, and GOP U.S. Rep. Lance Gooden of Texas in the House.

"The Chinese government must be held accountable for the pain it's inflicted across the United States," McSally said in a statement. The proposed legislation "will give the U.S. a piece of justice."

In New Jersey, three Republican state lawmakers introduced a resolution urging President Donald Trump and Congress to pass a bill letting citizens sue China for "mishandling" the pandemic.

State Sen. Jim Holzapfel and Assemblymen Greg McGuckin and John Catalano said in a statement that they believe Chinese leaders did little to stop the spread of the virus and that residents and local governments should be legally allowed to recover some of what they lost financially.

It's not clear if any of the legislation will pass. If the bills were enacted, legal experts say they could open the floodgates for hundreds more lawsuits against China.

"If that immunity were stripped, it's going to produce a gigantic burden on the court system," said Boone, the class action lawyer. "That's a factor that will need to be weighed in deciding whether to pass it."

As for Andringa-Meurer, she said she's still somewhat frail but getting better all the time.

"I'm weak, but I'm fabulous. I'm alive," she said. "I want to give back, not only to the doctors and nurses who gave me the opportunity to live. They are the heroes. But also to all of the Americans who were affected by this."

## Coronavirus complicates safety for families living together

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — At the age of 24, Francy Sandoval has unwittingly become the sole breadwinner for her family, after her mom, dad and brother — a nanny, a painter and a server — all lost their jobs in the coronavirus pandemic.

Her family needs the money, so the aspiring nurse feels she has no choice but to keep her high-risk job at the front desk of a suburban Chicago community health clinic treating many COVID-19 patients. But her home hardly feels like a haven either.

"Working during this time is not as stressful as coming home," she said. "You were surrounded with patients who could have been or are positive and you might get your parents sick by just opening the door."

Sandoval, an immigrant from Colombia, is among tens of millions of Americans living in multigenerational homes where one of the main strategies for avoiding infection — following social distancing protocols — can be near impossible.

The problem reverberates deepest in communities of color, where families from different generations

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live together at much higher rates, in some cases nearly double that of white families. Joint living also often intersects with factors like poverty, health issues and jobs that can't be done from home, offering another glimpse of what fuels the troubling racial disparities of COVID-19.

"When you have generations in a household, some of them have to work, especially if they are in the service jobs or the retail or the grocery. They have to come in and out of that household," said the Rev. Willie Briscoe, who leads a black church on Milwaukee's north side, where the pandemic has hit hard. "You cannot safely quarantine."

Families live together for many reasons — saving money, pooling resources, child care, elderly care or just culture. It's a practice that's been on the rise since the 1980s, particularly after the recession, experts say.

In the U.S., roughly 64 million people live in multigenerational family households, or 1 in 5 households, according to Richard Fry, a senior researcher at the Pew Research Center. But it's far more common among people of color: 29% of those households are Asian, 27% are Hispanic, 26% are African American and 16% are white.

Fry said two major factors accounting for multigenerational living are location, with higher rates in densely populated urban centers where the cost of living is high, and culture, especially for immigrants in the U.S. Living with family into adulthood, common in many parts of the world, was blamed for contributing to the spread of the coronavirus in Spain and Italy.

For families of color in the U.S., there's also more chance that household members can't work from home as federal guidelines suggest. Fewer than 20% of black workers can telework, according to a March study by the nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute.

Anthony Travis, a 65-year-old retired black man who's diabetic, has high blood pressure and is a cancer survivor, shares a home with his adult daughter and his elderly sister. The daughter works as a technician for a cable and internet company — a job deemed essential during the pandemic.

For them, living together in suburban Chicago was a matter of taking care of one another. Then Travis got diagnosed with COVID-19.

For weeks, he suffered alone in his room, with sweats and chills, struggling to breathe. He would think twice about venturing to the microwave, where his sister, who has a heart condition, would leave his food.

The worst part was when his daughter got pneumonia: He could hear her through the walls.

"I have to, as a parent, sit up and listen to my child go through pain and agony and suffering because of not being able to breathe," he said. "I couldn't give her comfort, other than with my words."

Dr. Garth Walker, an emergency room physician at a Chicago veterans' hospital, said he has trouble counseling families living in cramped quarters about what they should do. His best advice is to choose one person to grocery shop and consider sending the most at-risk person to live elsewhere if possible.

"They just have a difficulty adapting to a pandemic because they can't adhere to the recommendations that we suggest to everybody, like physical distancing, because it is a privilege," he said of multigenerational families.

That's echoed by Dr. Lisa Green, who runs the Family Christian Health Center south of Chicago, a low-income clinic where most of the nearly 20,000 patients each year are black or Latino and multigenerational living is common.

"Those options that we are telling everyone else over the phone to do are not options for them," Green said. "When you have a fixed income, your options are fixed."

Sandoval follows strict procedures at home, removing her work clothes immediately and wiping every surface she touches before retreating alone to the attic. That's where she spends her time, including her most recent birthday.

She hopes to start nursing school online soon and dreams of stress-free family time again.

"My mom said, 'I can't wait until you are able to come home, and I can hug you,'" Sandoval said.



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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 11, the 132nd day of 2020. There are 234 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 11, 1502, Christopher Columbus left Cadiz, Spain, on his fourth and final trip to the Western Hemisphere.

On this date:

In 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state of the Union.

In 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces landed on the Aleutian island of Attu, which was held by the Japanese; the Americans took the island 19 days later.

In 1947, the B.F. Goodrich Company of Akron, Ohio, announced the development of a tubeless tire.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman formally dedicated the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington state.

In 1953, a tornado devastated Waco, Texas, claiming 114 lives.

In 1960, Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1973, the espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case came to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismissed all charges, citing government misconduct.

In 1981, legendary reggae artist Bob Marley died in a Miami hospital at age 36.

In 1996, an Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 caught fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

In 1998, India set off three underground atomic blasts, its first nuclear tests in 24 years. A French mint produced the first coins of Europe's single currency, the euro.

In 2006, lawmakers demanded answers after a USA Today report that the National Security Agency was secretly collecting records of millions of ordinary Americans' phone calls; President George W. Bush sought to assure Americans their civil liberties were being "fiercely protected."

Ten years ago: Conservative leader David Cameron, at age 43, became Britain's youngest prime minister in almost 200 years after Gordon Brown stepped down and ended 13 years of Labour government.

Five years ago: Joyce Hardin Garrard, the Alabama woman convicted of running her 9-year-old granddaughter, Savannah Hardin, to death as punishment for lying about candy, was sentenced by a judge in Gadsden to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The NFL came down hard on its biggest star and its championship team, suspending Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady for the first four games of the season, fining the New England Patriots \$1 million and taking away two draft picks as punishment for deflating footballs used in the AFC title game.

One year ago: Gay rights activists organizing on social media held an unauthorized march down eight blocks of one of the main streets in Cuba's capital before being stopped by police. Election officials in South Africa announced that the ruling African National Congress had achieved its weakest victory in national elections in a quarter-century, with 57.5% of the vote.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Mort Sahl is 93. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan is 87. Jazz keyboardist Carla Bley is 84. Rock singer Eric Burdon (The Animals; War) is 79. Actress Pam Ferris is 72. Former White House chief of staff John F. Kelly is 70. Actress Shohreh Aghdashloo (SHOH'-reh ahg-DAHSH'-loo) is 68. Actress Frances Fisher is 68. Sports columnist Mike Lupica is 68. Actor Boyd Gaines is 67. Country musician Mark Herndon (formerly with Alabama) is 65. Actress Martha Quinn is 61. Country singer-musician Tim Raybon (The Raybon Brothers) is 57. Actor Tim Blake Nelson is 56. Actor Jeffrey Donovan is 52. Country musician Keith West (Heartland) is 52. Actor Nicky Katt is 50. Actor Coby Bell is 45. Cellist Perttu Kivilaakso (PER'-tuh KEE'-wee-lahk-soh) is 42. Actor Austin O'Brien is 39. Actor-singer Jonathan Jackson is 38. Rapper Ace Hood is 32. Latin singer Prince Royce is 31. Actress Annabelle Attanasio (TV: "Bull") is 27. Musician Howard Lawrence (Disclosure) is 26.

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Thought for Today: "Life is 10 percent what you make it, and 90 percent how you take it." — Irving Berlin, American songwriter (born this date in 1888, died 1989).

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