

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Coronavirus

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As U.S. coronavirus deaths surpass 10,000, HHS watchdog says American hospitals face 'severe' shortages of equipment, staff and tests

By **Siobhán O'Grady**, **Rick Noack**, **Kim Bellware**, **Meryl Kornfield** and **Teo Armus**

April 6, 2020 at 10:46 p.m. CDT

PLEASE NOTE

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As [the official U.S. death toll surpassed 10,000](#) — standing at 10,530, including 4,758 in New York — Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams warned that this will be “the hardest and saddest week of most Americans’ lives.”

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, [sick with covid-19](#) and suffering from a persistent cough and fever, was moved to intensive care after his condition worsened on Monday afternoon.

Here are some significant developments:

- The fatalities in New York state held steady on Monday for the second consecutive day at about 600 deaths — a once-unthinkable statistic that now gives officials some cautious reason to [hope that the pandemic may be cresting there](#).
- A [survey of hospitals across the country](#) showed health-care workers are facing

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rejected the results of the report, which was compiled by the Inspector General of Health and Human Services, suggesting it was political.

- U.S. and global stock markets soared on Monday as investors took in overseas progress against the coronavirus.
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told fellow Democratic lawmakers Monday that the next coronavirus relief bill could “easily” pass \$1 trillion in cost. Congressional leaders and the White House are converging on the need for a new assistance package.
- A leading coronavirus forecast model used by the White House predicted Monday that the United States may need fewer hospital beds, ventilators and other equipment. Experts and state leaders, however, noted the model conflicts with others that show higher peaks.
- Rapid developments on Monday have left Wisconsin voters confused about the status of Tuesday’s elections. Hours after the governor suspended in-person voting, a court ruling reinstated it. The U.S. Supreme Court then reversed an extension of the mail-in ballot deadline, a decision criticized by Pelosi.

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10:46 p.m.

All Los Angeles residents can apply for testing

All 10 million residents of Los Angeles County can now apply to be tested for the novel coronavirus, Mayor Eric Garcetti (D) said Monday evening.

The country’s expanded testing capacity does not mean everyone in the county, the most populous in the nation, can get tested, Garcetti said. But an influx of more tests has allowed local health officials to lift preexisting limits and expand who can seek out a test.

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Los Angeles County had previously only allowed testing for certain groups of people: those over age 65, those with underlying medical conditions, or those with a weakened immune system.

Also on Monday, Garcetti said the city saw its smallest increase in new coronavirus cases since mid-March. But he cautioned against making too much of the good news, echoing warnings from other officials about the expected upsurge of the virus in the coming days.

“This will be a critical week in our fight against this crisis,” he said. “This week is a make-or-break week for us all.”

By **Teo Armus**

AD

10:09 p.m.

Acting Navy secretary apologizes for speech calling USS Roosevelt captain ‘too naive or too stupid’

After days of chaos and sickness, sailors aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt listened on Monday as the Navy’s top political official took to a loudspeaker and fumed about how wrong it was that their captain had raised the alarm about the Navy’s handling of a coronavirus outbreak on his ship in a letter that leaked to the media.

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In a profanity-laden speech, acting Navy secretary Thomas Modly told the sailors that Navy Capt. Brett Crozier, relieved of command on Thursday, committed a “betrayal” by writing the letter and distributing it to some people who were not in his chain of command.

“It was my opinion that if he didn’t think information was going to get out into the public in this information age that we live in, then he was either A, too naive or too stupid to be the commanding officer of a ship like this,” Modly said

A leak of his speech plunged the Navy and the Trump administration deeper into a political crisis and prompted calls from Democratic lawmakers for Modly’s resignation. Modly issued an apology on Monday evening but suggested he stood by his remarks about Crozier.

Read more [here](#).

By **Dan Lamothe and Paul Sonne**

AD

9:47 p.m.

At a telephone town hall, questions to Graham are a microcosm of nation’s woes

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CHARLESTON, S.C. — Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) held an unusual telephone town hall Monday night that served a microcosm of the myriad issues playing out across the country.

After a new stay-at-home order from South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster (R) that discourages but does not prohibit church gatherings, he fielded calls from confused and concerned South Carolinians.

“You don’t have to be in a church to worship,” Graham said, appealing to clergy for the Passover and Easter observances. “To all the pastors out there, take good care of your flocks.”

One frustrated caller couldn’t get a Small Business Administration loan to cover his payroll because Wells Fargo had loaned all its allocated money. Graham replied that the Federal Reserve would buy the loans, freeing the bank to loan more, but he gave no date on when that might happen.

A gig-income-based musician complained that he could not collect unemployment. When Graham said he was “definitely qualified to get federal benefits,” the musician said South Carolina’s unemployment system is not set up to compensate gig-economy workers.

At several points, Graham praised the legislative compromises that led to the Cares Act, saying that he hoped President Trump and Congress would model their future work on the bipartisanship between former president Ronald Reagan, a Republican, and then-House Speaker Thomas “Tip” O’Neill (D-Mass.)

Trump, still angry about impeachment, hasn’t spoken to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) since October.

Graham, a close ally of Trump, defended the president.

“I think he’s doing a good job. I’m going to help him as much as I can, and the drugs are the key to this thing. And Dr. Fauci and his people are really smart,” Graham said.

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By **Chris Dixon**

AD

9:35 p.m.

Grocery workers are beginning to die of the coronavirus

Major supermarket chains are beginning to report their first coronavirus-related employee deaths, leading to store closures and increasing anxiety among grocery workers as the pandemic intensifies across the country.

A Trader Joe's worker in Scarsdale, N.Y., a greeter at a Giant store in Largo, Md., and two Walmart employees from the same Chicago-area store have died of covid-19, the disease the novel coronavirus causes, in recent days, the companies confirmed Monday.

Though more than 40 states have ordered nonessential businesses to close and told residents to stay home to stem the spread of the virus, supermarkets are among the retailers that remain open. Thousands of grocery employees have continued to report to work as U.S. infections and death rates continue to climb, with many reporting long shifts and extra workloads to keep up with spiking demand. Many workers say they don't have enough protective gear to deal with hundreds of customers a day. Dozens of grocery workers have tested positive for the coronavirus in recent weeks.

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Some companies have begun installing plexiglass sneeze guards at cash registers and requiring customers to stand six feet apart in line. The country's two largest grocers, Walmart and Kroger, are beginning to check employees' temperatures at the beginning of each shift and will provide workers with gloves and masks.

Read more [here](#).

By **Abha Bhattarai**

AD

9:10 p.m.

Pelosi denounces Supreme Court's decision on Wisconsin mail-in ballots

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) on Monday sharply criticized the Supreme Court's ruling that blocked the extension of a deadline for mail-in ballots in Wisconsin, denouncing the move as "shameful" and bad for democracy.

"You have the Supreme Court of the United States undermining our democracy," Pelosi said in an interview with MSNBC's Rachel Maddow. "It's really shameful. Five to four, surprise, surprise."

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The Supreme Court earlier Monday blocked a lower court's six-day extension of the receipt deadline for mailed ballots in Wisconsin, turning aside pleas from Democrats that thousands of the state's voters will be disenfranchised because of disruptions caused by the pandemic. The ruling was 5 to 4, with the court's conservatives in the majority.

Pelosi also broadly criticized Republicans who have pushed ahead with plans for Wisconsin's Tuesday election in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) issued an executive order Monday suspending in-person voting, but the state Supreme Court blocked it hours later.

"People should not have to decide between whether they can vote or be sick," Pelosi said. "That's just not a good choice for anyone in a democracy."

By **Felicia Sonmez and Amy Gardner**

AD

8:40 p.m.

Civil rights group calls for release of race and ethnicity data on infections and deaths

A civil rights group and hundreds of doctors are calling on the federal government to release race and ethnicity data on infections and deaths from covid-19, citing reports that the pandemic is affecting African Americans at a disproportionate rate.

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The information is necessary to “better inform a robust public health response in the Black community” and to “ensure COVID-19 tests are not being administered or withheld in a racially discriminatory manner,” says a letter sent to Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar from the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

The states of Illinois and North Carolina report covid-19 cases and death by race and ethnicity. In Illinois, black people are 14 percent of the population but account for 30 percent of the confirmed cases and 41 percent of the deaths. In North Carolina, African Americans are 22 percent of the population and make up 37 percent of cases and 22 percent of deaths.

Read more [here](#).

By **Vanessa Williams**

AD

8:03 p.m.

House Armed Services Committee chairman calls for acting Navy secretary to resign over remarks on ousted captain

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A growing number of House Democrats, including the House Armed Services Committee chairman, are calling for acting Navy secretary Thomas Modly to resign in the wake of reports of his remarks about Capt. Brett Crozier, the ousted commander of an aircraft carrier afflicted by the coronavirus.

Modly told sailors Monday that Crozier was “too naive or too stupid to command a ship,” or that he leaked a letter raising concerns about the service’s handling of the crisis to the media.

In a statement, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) said that Modly’s decision to address the sailors “shows a tone-deaf approach more focused on personal ego than one of the calm, steady leadership we so desperately need in this crisis.”

“I no longer have confidence in Acting Secretary Modly’s leadership of the Navy and believe he should be removed from his position,” Smith said.

Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.), who leads the panel’s subcommittee that oversees the Navy, also called on Modly to resign, as did Rep. Elaine Luria (D-Va.), a Navy veteran, and Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.), who denounced Modly’s “rant.”

Two other military veterans, Reps. Ted Lieu (D-Calif.) and Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), also called for Modly’s resignation. In a letter to Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper, the two Democrats noted that Modly relieved Crozier of command in part because his private letter was leaked. The same principle should apply to Modly, whose “private speech was also leaked,” they argued.

Trump, who previously said he supported Crozier’s removal, told reporters Monday that he was “going to look into it.”

By **Felicia Sonmez and Dan Lamothe**

AD

7:30 p.m.

Everything you need to know about Monday's White House briefing

The White House coronavirus task force held its daily briefing on Monday, updating the press and the nation on the status of the outbreak and the government's response.

Among the topics in Monday's briefing:

- Anthony S. Fauci downplayed the idea of getting 'back to normal' before a vaccine is developed
- The USNS Comfort is now a coronavirus-treatment ship
- Trump offered drug treatments for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is in intensive care

Read the full rundown [here](#).

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By **Aaron Blake**

AD

7:23 p.m.

What's behind Trump's embrace of hydroxychloroquine?

As he stares down a pandemic, economic collapse and a political crisis of his own, President Trump thinks he may have found a silver bullet: hydroxychloroquine.

Never mind that hydroxychloroquine is an unproven treatment for covid-19 and is still in the testing stages, or that it has dangerous side effects, or that medical professionals are divided on its capability. The infectious disease expert on Trump's own coronavirus task force, Anthony S. Fauci, has privately pleaded with the president to be more cautious.

But Trump — who famously has said he trusts his gut more than anything an expert could counsel him — is again letting his impulses guide what he tells a locked-down nation eager to return to normal.

Read more [here](#).

By **Philip Rucker, Robert Costa, Laurie McGinley and Josh Dawsey**

7:04 p.m.

Wisconsin rulings reinstate in-person voting, reverse mail-in extension

Rapid developments on Monday have left Wisconsin voters confused about the status of Tuesday's state elections.

Hours after Gov. Tony Evers (D) suspended in-person voting because of concerns over spreading the coronavirus, the Wisconsin Supreme Court blocked his executive order.

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And later Monday, in a 5-to-4 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed a lower-court order extending the deadline for mail-in ballots. As it stands, those ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday.

The day's events left open questions of how many poll workers would show up, how many polling sites would be able to open, and whether sufficient precautions would be possible to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Citing the pandemic, Evers said he had sought to postpone in-person voting because, "at the end of the day, this is about the people of Wisconsin. They frankly don't care much about Republicans and Democrats fighting. They're scared. We have the surgeon general saying this is Pearl Harbor. It's time to act."

Tuesday's contests include the Democratic presidential primary and local races, including a place on the state Supreme Court.

Read more [here](#).

By **Steven Goff, Amy Gardner, Elise Viebeck and Dan Simmons**

6:34 p.m.

A coronavirus model revised its estimates downward, but not all agree

A leading forecasting model used by the White House to chart the coronavirus pandemic predicted Monday that the United States may need fewer hospital beds, ventilators and other equipment than previously projected and that some states may reach their peak of covid-19 deaths sooner than expected.

Experts and state leaders, however, continued to steel themselves for grim weeks ahead, noting that the revised model created by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington conflicts with many other models showing higher equipment shortages, deaths and projected peaks.

Read more [here](#).

By **William Wan and Carolyn Y. Johnson**

6:33 p.m.

Trump rejects HHS watchdog's report on severe hospital shortages

At Monday's coronavirus task force briefing, Trump rejected a report by the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services outlining the severe equipment shortages facing the country's hospitals, claiming without evidence that the results were politically biased.

"It's wrong," Trump told reporters. "Give me the name of the inspector general. Could politics be entered into that?"

The report, which was released earlier Monday, found that some hospitals are so desperate for protective masks that they are scrounging them from auto-body shops and nail salons. At least one hospital is making its own hand sanitizer by mixing gel used for ultrasounds with alcohol from a nearby distillery, the report said.

Trump dismissed its findings by noting that Christi A. Grimm, the HHS principal deputy inspector general who issued the report, previously worked in the Obama administration — even though Grimm began working at the Office of the Inspector General in 1999, according to [her official biography](#).

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By **Felicia Sonmez and Amy Goldstein**

6:13 p.m.

3M to provide 165.5 million more masks for U.S. health-care workers, Trump says

President Trump said the federal government has struck a deal with 3M for “an additional” 166.5 million protective masks over the next three months.

3M said in a statement that it will import the masks “primarily from its manufacturing facility in China, starting in April.”

Trump last week invoked the Defense Production Act in relation to 3M, saying he was not happy with the company’s delivery of N95 masks to U.S. health-care workers fighting the coronavirus. The DPA order required 3M to prioritize orders from the federal government.

At a briefing Monday evening, Trump said he had resolved things after speaking with 3M chief executive Michael Roman.

“We have reached an agreement, a very amicable agreement, with 3M for the delivery of an additional 55.5 million face masks each month, so that we’re going to be getting over the next couple of months 166.5 million masks for our front-line health-care workers,” Trump said. “So the 3M saga ends very happily.”

Read more [here](#).

By **Jeanne Whalen**

5:26 p.m.

USNS Comfort will now take in coronavirus patients, after refusing to do so for a week

New York and New Jersey will finally receive a small amount of comfort for its crowded hospitals.

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On Monday night, hours after New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy (D) thanked President Trump on Twitter for allowing covid-19 patients to be treated aboard USNS Comfort, New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) also announced the navy ship's new purpose in the fight against the novel coronavirus.

“This will provide much-needed relief to our overstressed hospital systems,” Cuomo said in a tweet.

Trump confirmed the move at Monday's coronavirus task force briefing, noting that “hopefully that will be very helpful to both states.”

The naval hospital ship will provide 1,000 additional beds staffed by federal medical personnel, but its approval to treat patients of the contagious virus came a week after USNS Comfort had already docked in New York Harbor. On March 28, with a wartime-like fanfare, Trump attended the ship's send-off and proclaimed: “We are marshaling the full power of the American nation — economic, scientific, medical and military — to vanish the virus.”

However, upon arrival, the ship accepted only 20 patients, according to the New York Times, and restricted anyone infected by the coronavirus. Michael Dowling, president and CEO of Northwell Health within the state's hospital system, described the ship's refusal of covid-19 patients as “a joke.”

By Sunday, however, Trump reversed course in a task force briefing and said the Navy ship would be “ready” to assist hospitals overburdened by coronavirus cases.

“That was not supposed to be for the virus at all and under circumstances. It looks like more and more we'll be using it for that,” Trump told reporters at a coronavirus task force briefing at the White House. “The ship is ready and if we need it for the virus, we'll use it for that.”

By **Candace Buckner and Felicia Sonmez**

5:18 p.m.

Louisiana will no longer overshoot ventilator supply and hospital beds this

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week, governor says

Louisiana is no longer on a path to exceed its supply of ventilators and hospital beds this week, which had been the gloomy forecast for the past couple weeks, Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) said at a news briefing Monday.

Edwards credited relatively good compliance with stay-at-home orders, the work of hospitals to find ways to free up ventilators and beds more quickly and the trickle of new ventilators coming into the state. Louisiana just received 200 ventilators from the national stockpile, plus a donation of five ventilators from Arkansas, for a total of 753 ventilators from all sources, Edwards said.

Edwards said he did not have a new projection for when the state's medical capacity could give out. He announced that he will start wearing a mask in public.

A more disturbing trend, Edwards said, is that more than 70 percent of the 512 people who have died of covid-19 in Louisiana are African Americans, who only make up 32 percent of the state's population. It's the first time the state has publicly reported racial statistics related to the pandemic. Those numbers will update weekly, Edwards said.

He offered no explanation for the racial disparity, saying: "We're going to have to dig into that to see what we can do to slow that trend down." The leading underlying condition of all patients who have died in the state is hypertension, he added.

Louisiana continues to have the third-highest number of cases per capita, and six of the top 10 counties in deaths per 100,000 residents are in Louisiana. The state reported a total of 14,867 cases, including 4,565 cases and 171 deaths in New Orleans.

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry announced at the briefing an arrangement with pharmaceutical companies to provide nearly 500,000 tablets of the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine, the same drug President Trump has touted, plus a partner drug for use in treating covid-19 patients. Its effectiveness has yet to be proved, but some doctors say it may reduce symptoms.

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By **David Montgomery**

5:10 p.m.

Trump says conversation with Biden about coronavirus response was ‘very friendly’

Former vice president Joe Biden spoke with President Trump on Monday afternoon about the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a senior administration official and another person with knowledge of the conversation.

The conversation was “very cordial,” the administration official said. Both people spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the exchange.

Biden’s campaign said last week it was working on setting up a call with the president after Trump told reporters that he would “absolutely” be willing to speak with Biden on the matter.

Biden’s deputy campaign manager, Kate Bedingfield, said in a statement that the two “had a good call.”

“VP Biden shared several suggestions for actions the Administration can take now to address the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and expressed his appreciation for the spirit of the American people in meeting the challenges facing the nation,” Bedingfield said.

Trump confirmed at Monday’s coronavirus task force briefing that he had spoken with Biden for “probably 15 minutes” and that the two had “a really wonderful, warm conversation.”

“He gave me his point of view, and I fully understood that,” Trump said. “And we just had a very friendly conversation.”

News of Monday’s conversation was first reported by NBC News.

5:01 p.m.

Amazon workers who violate social distancing rules are subject to firing

Amazon warehouse employees who intentionally violate social-distancing rules multiple times are subject to being fired.

The company told CNBC that workers violating the rule will receive warnings and, on the second offense, “termination could occur.”

“We’ve had some instances of employees intentionally violating our clear guidelines on social distancing at our sites, which endangers both the individual and their colleagues,” Amazon said.

(Jeff Bezos, Amazon’s founder and chief executive, owns The Washington Post.)

Amazon has ordered warehouse personnel across the country to stay six feet from their colleagues in to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus. It has also instituted temperature checks and supplied workers with face masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

In recent weeks, Amazon workers in New York, Chicago and Detroit have staged protests over safety concerns related to the coronavirus.

By **Steven Goff**

4:25 p.m.

New CDC guidance bans commercial flights for passengers trying to get home from coronavirus-stricken ships, Princess Cruises says

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Princess Cruises said Sunday that new guidance issued overnight by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that cruise passengers cannot travel on commercial flights or share transportation with non-cruise guests.

The company said the new guidelines require an adjustment to its plan to let passengers off the Coral Princess ship, which is docked at PortMiami.

“This will unfortunately result in further delays in disembarkation and onward travel for many guests as we work through this complex, challenging and unfortunate situation,” Princess said in a statement. “We express continued gratitude to our guests for their patience and understanding as we work to adapt to these new requirements.”

The ship arrived in Miami on Saturday with 1,020 guests on board after receiving approval for a plan to transport the five sickest passengers to hospitals, keep 65 with symptoms on board to recover and get the rest home.

By **Hannah Sampson**

4:12 p.m.

Pelosi: House prepared to spend at least \$1 trillion on next rescue package

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) told fellow Democratic lawmakers Monday that the next coronavirus relief bill could “easily” pass \$1 trillion in cost — following on the heels of the \$2.2 trillion rescue legislation that Congress passed last month.

Pelosi made the comment on a conference call with House Democrats, laying out plans to increase the amount of aid to small businesses and the unemployed, as well as direct payments to taxpayers and increases in other federal benefits such as food stamps.

“Easily another trillion to do this,” she said, according to two Democrats on the call who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the private briefing.

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The spending that Pelosi described did not include the trillions of dollars in recovery funding that Democrats have discussed — such as a multitrillion-dollar infrastructure plan.

It does include expanded aid to states and local jurisdictions, as well as backfilling the programs created in the last rescue bill, known as the Cares Act.

Already, some officials have warned that the more than \$350 billion in small-business assistance is likely to be quickly depleted, while others say a \$600-per-month federal expansion of unemployment insurance benefits may need to be indefinitely extended.

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By **Mike DeBonis**

3:56 p.m.

Protesters in Ivory Coast wreck coronavirus testing center

Protesters in the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan dismantled a coronavirus testing center Sunday and Monday. Images shared on social media show people setting fires and tearing the unfinished structure, saying they were afraid it would cause the virus to spread in the area.

“They want to kill us. We don’t want this center here,” protester Joel Blehi told Reuters. Police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators.

Ivory Coast government officials said the facility was one of several being constructed in the city for voluntary coronavirus testing and not what protesters, in a misunderstanding, had thought was a place to treat coronavirus patients.

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The West African country of more than 24 million people has just over 260 confirmed cases of the coronavirus. The government has imposed strict social control measures, setting a nightly curfew and closing schools and shops. Like many countries in Africa and around the world, the Ivory Coast's health system does not have enough respirators and hospital resources needed to treat the pandemic.

John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned last week that the virus could pose an "existential threat" to the continent. He told the Associated Press that countries, including the Ivory Coast, had asked for tents because they were already running out of hospital beds.

By **Ruby Mellen**

3:52 p.m.

California to lend 500 ventilators to the national stockpile

While speaking in front of construction crews inside a once-abandoned entertainment venue, California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) announced Monday that the state will loan 500 ventilators from its cache to the national stockpile.

The ventilators will be redistributed to other states with the most need, particularly New York, where 599 people died of covid-19 since the previous day. Newsom offered "thoughts and prayers" to states such as the Empire State, but also said California could offer more in "meeting this very difficult week ahead."

On Sunday, Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, warned Americans of an escalation of cases in the upcoming week.

While sharing aid, California is also bracing for its anticipated peak in mid-May.

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Newsom held the briefing inside Sleep Train Arena, the former home of the Sacramento Kings. The arena is one of the 4,613 surge sites the state has procured for additional hospital beds. Sleep Train Arena will house 400 beds and could be ready as soon as April 20. Newsom said the state ultimately is seeking to have 20,000 surge sites.

The venue, once called Arco Arena and known in basketball circles as one of the rowdiest arenas in the NBA, had been empty after the Kings moved into a new downtown stadium.

“We at the Sacramento Kings have always believed it’s bigger than basketball, and if we can use our platform to impact the world in a positive way and make a difference, then that’s what we need to do,” Kings owner Vivek Ranadive said. “This is actually where LeBron [James] played his first game and now it’s going to be taking care of Californians.”

By **Candace Buckner**

3:18 p.m.

British leader Boris Johnson moved to intensive care

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, sick with covid-19, was moved into an intensive care unit Monday evening after his condition worsened, government officials announced.

Johnson “remains conscious at this time,” a 10 Downing Street spokeswoman said. “He has been moved to the ICU as a precaution should he require ventilation to aid his recovery.”

Exhibiting a persistent cough and fever, Johnson was admitted to St. Thomas’ Hospital in London on Sunday night. He was undergoing tests and “under observation” for most of the day Monday. Until he was moved to the ICU, Johnson was said by his staff to be working from his bed.

Read more [here](#).

By **William Booth and Karla Adam**

3:14 p.m.

Sen. Mitt Romney reunites with his wife after two-week self-quarantine

Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) has reunited with his wife, Ann, after two weeks of self-quarantine.

Romney is 73, and his wife is 70 and has multiple sclerosis. The senator chartered a jet to meet his wife in Florida rather than have her travel to Utah, the senator's office confirmed.

Romney announced two weeks ago that he would follow the attending physician's advice to self-quarantine because he sat next to Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) for "extended periods in recent days."

Paul tested positive for the coronavirus late last month; Romney later tested negative.

The Salt Lake Tribune first reported the news of Romney's reunion with his wife in Florida.

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By **Felicia Sonmez**

3:05 p.m.

Army temporarily suspends basic training for new recruits

In an effort to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus, the U.S. Army announced Monday that it has temporarily suspended sending recruits to basic combat training. The two-week stop goes into effect immediately.

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“We’ve already begun protecting those currently in our ranks with social distanced-enabled training, reduced movement of our soldiers and trainees, and increased screening of those moving across our commands,” Gen. Paul E. Funk II, commander of U.S. Army training and doctrine command, wrote in a statement.

“The decision to pause the shipment of trainees to BCT for two weeks will allow leaders to focus on setting conditions so movement can be conducted in a safer manner in the future,” Funk said.

Recruits already in basic training and advanced individual training will continue exercises, the Army said, under screening and monitoring guidelines established last month.

Basic training is conducted at Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Jackson, S.C., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Fort Sill, Okla. Fort Jackson has reported 25 confirmed cases; the others have had fewer than five.

By **Steven Goff**

2:30 p.m.

With Netanyahu under quarantine, Israeli government negotiations require shouting from his patio

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and rival political leader Benny Gantz held talks about how to form a new government over recent days, they’ve been forced by the coronavirus to keep their distance and shout their negotiating terms at each other.

Gantz, who agreed to a plan to annex parts of the West Bank next summer on Monday as talks for a unity government continued, has been forced to stand outside Netanyahu’s house and shout as the Israeli prime minister is under quarantine, according to reports in local media.

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Haaretz reported that a lengthy meeting between Gantz and Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's Residence in Jerusalem involved Gantz standing at an outdoor patio and yelling his negotiating points to Netanyahu.

The Israeli prime minister stayed inside the residence in his study, according to the reports. Describing earlier negotiations last week, Israel's Channel 13 news reported that the conversation "featured raised voices," but of necessity and not anger.

Netanyahu has been under quarantine since last week after Health Minister Yaakov Litzman was confirmed as having the novel coronavirus, though the prime minister himself has tested negative.

Litzman and his wife, who also caught the virus, are members of ultra-Orthodox Jewish community where the virus has spread widely.

Israel has over 8,600 confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus and at least 56 deaths.

By **Adam Taylor**

1:27 p.m.

Canada's top doctor shifts advice on mask wearing

TORONTO — Citing "new evidence" of asymptomatic and presymptomatic transmission, Canada's top doctor on Monday said wearing "nonmedical" masks outside the home is "an additional measure" that can help stem the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The announcement comes as governments from the Czech Republic to the United States shift their guidance on masks, many of them now recommending or requiring the general population to wear facial coverings when leaving the house.

Many countries had previously heeded the advice of the World Health Organization, which states healthy people need to wear a mask only if they are actively ill or caring for a person suspected to have the virus.

Visited on 04/16/2020

“A nonmedical mask can reduce the chance of your respiratory droplets coming into contact with others or landing on surfaces,” said Theresa Tam, Canada’s chief public health officer.

She said wearing a nonmedical mask would not necessarily provide protection from infection with the virus but could help limit transmission in settings where practicing social distancing is complicated, such as while grocery shopping or on public transit.

Tam said medical masks should be left for health-care workers, particularly given concerns over dwindling supplies.

Canadian officials characterized the announcement as “advice,” not an “official recommendation.” But it marked a shift in statements on the issue.

“Putting a mask on an asymptomatic person is not beneficial, obviously, if you’re not infected,” Tam said one week ago. She has also said wearing a mask is “counterproductive” and could provide “a false sense of security.”

Tam said the advice is based on “new evidence” in the past 10 days about the virus spread in hospital settings, long-term care facilities and aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship. She said it’s still not clear how much of the spread is being fueled by those who never experience symptoms or those who are infectious days before they feel ill.

“You have to take the evolution of the evidence as rapidly as possible,” she said.

By **Amanda Coletta**

1:25 p.m.

Schumer picks former Warren aide for coronavirus oversight commission

Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said Monday that he is tapping Bharat Ramamurti, a former top aide to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), as one of five officials to be chosen by congressional leaders to scrutinize a \$500 billion pot of money distributed by the Trump administration to distressed industries.

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Ramamurti was senior counsel for banking and economic policy in Warren's Senate office, as well as a top economic adviser during her presidential campaign.

"He understands how finance works. He understands the nuts and bolts of how people put documents together, and he has a great nose for figuring out when there's wrongdoing," Schumer said on a conference call with reporters Monday.

Schumer is the first of the four congressional leaders to announce his or her pick for the five-person oversight advisory commission. Each of the four — Schumer, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) — will choose a person for the group, which will be chaired by a fifth official jointly chosen by Pelosi and McConnell.

By **Seung Min Kim**

1:12 p.m.

Temporary burials may be needed to handle crush of coronavirus deaths in NYC, mayor says

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said Monday that, due to the hundreds of people dying daily from the novel coronavirus, officials may resort to "temporary burials" to deal with the strain placed on mortuary services and funeral homes.

The mayor was reluctant to go into much detail about the city's plan for such burials, saying only that they were prepared to deal with the grim prospect of burying covid-19 victims where they could later be tracked and removed for burial elsewhere once the crisis has passed.

"We may well be dealing with temporary burials," de Blasio said at a news conference. Historically, the city has used Hart Island as a potter's field site for burials of those whose families or estates were unable to pay for their internment, but the mayor was tight-lipped about whether that location would be used for those who died of the coronavirus.

Visited on 04/16/2020

“There will be delays because of the sheer intensity of this crisis,” the mayor said. “We’re going to try to treat every family with dignity ... The focus right now is to try to get through this crisis.”

Mark D. Levine, chairman of the New York City Council’s health committee, tweeted Monday about how such burials would work.

“Trenches will be dug for 10 caskets in a line. It will be done in a dignified, orderly — and temporary — manner,” he wrote. “But it will be tough for NYers to take.”

The councilman later clarified that he was only discussing a contingency plan, and said “if the death rate drops enough it will not be necessary.”

When Gov. Andrew Cuomo was asked about this possibility in his daily news briefing Monday, he acted as though he had no idea this was a problem the city was facing and said he would not support temporary burials in parks.

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By **Devlin Barrett and Ben Guarino**

12:51 p.m.

Tesla unveils ventilator prototype made with car parts

Tesla unveiled its ventilator prototype Monday, forging ahead with its own untested design from repurposed electric car parts.

In a YouTube video published Monday, Tesla engineers said that relying on components with which they already are familiar and have in large supply will speed up the development and manufacturing process at a time when the coronavirus has created a profound need. The ventilators provide critically ill covid-19 patients with extra oxygen and help them breathe, sometimes for weeks at a time.

Visited on 04/16/2020

Tesla, which embarked on the effort at the request of New York Mayor Bill de Blasio (D), has not said when a ventilator might be ready for patients. Other large manufacturers, including Ford and General Motors, are partnering with medical device companies and following existing ventilator blueprints, and even they may need months to produce the devices. That timeline would miss the outbreak's expected peak in the United States, where deaths already have surpassed 10,000.

Read more [here](#).

By **Jacob Bogage**

12:51 p.m.

New York reports 599 new deaths, an 'effectively flat' toll for second day in a row, Cuomo says

New York, the nation's coronavirus epicenter, might be experiencing a "flattening of the curve," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo (D) said at his daily news briefing Monday.

The state reported 599 new deaths, on par with Sunday's death count of 594. Both numbers are slightly lower than the death count reported on Saturday, 630 — the highest one-day toll in New York since the pandemic hit the state.

A total of 4,758 New Yorkers have died of covid-19, the disease caused by the virus.

"The death toll has been "effectively flat for two days," Cuomo said. "While none of this is good news, the possible flattening of the curve is better than the increases we have seen."

The total numbers of intubations, hospitalizations and ICU admissions are also down, the governor said, all "good signs."

But Cuomo was only cautiously optimistic, saying that officials still don't know what these numbers mean for the city's long-term management of the disease. Other cities and countries around the world reported similar patterns, only to experience new sharp increases.

Visited on 04/16/2020

It remains unclear whether the city's apex will come at a sharp peak, a gradual curve or a long plateau.

"If we are plateauing, we are plateauing at a very high level," Cuomo said. "And there is tremendous stress on the health-care system."

The governor warned New Yorkers that there is danger in underestimating the disease and letting their guards down. As the weather warms, Cuomo said, there has been a laxity in social distancing "that is just wholly unacceptable."

He announced an increase in the maximum fine for defying his stay-at-home order to \$1,000, from \$500. Cuomo also said he will extend closures of schools and nonessential businesses to April 29.

"If I can't convince you to show discipline for yourself, show discipline for other people," he said. "This virus is a deadly enemy."

By **Katie Mettler**

12:19 p.m.

Republican senator says Trump's coronavirus briefings can go 'off the rails a little bit'

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) said Monday that President Trump's daily news briefings about the coronavirus outbreak sometime go "off the rails a little bit" and that he would be better served by letting health experts guide the conversation.

Capito's comments, following a pro forma session of the Senate, came in response to a reporter asking what the fellow Republican thought of how Trump is presenting himself at the briefings by the White House's coronavirus task force, which also includes health experts such as Anthony S. Fauci and Deborah Birx.

Visited on 04/16/2020

“I think he probably would be better served, and maybe others would, when it’s not used as the press conference for everything else,” Capito said. “I think he should leave — let the health professionals guide where we’re gonna go, Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx. And so sometimes I think it goes off the rails a little bit, but you know, that’s the way the president conducts business.”

The briefings, which Trump typically kicks off before yielding to task-force members, often stretch well over an hour. Trump tends to welcome questions on other subjects and includes commentary on the 2020 presidential elections and other political issues.

“My Press Conferences are vital,” Trump tweeted earlier Monday. “They are reaching millions of people that are not being told the truth, & haven’t been for years (Witch-Hunts, Fake News)!”

By **John Wagner**

11:57 a.m.

Italy announces 3,599 new coronavirus cases, its lowest figure in almost three weeks, as death toll rises

Italy announced 3,599 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Monday, the lowest daily increase since March 17, bringing the total number of cases in the hard-hit country to 132,547.

Italy’s Civil Protection agency also announced 636 deaths in its daily briefing, increasing the total death toll in the country to 16,523, the highest in the world.

The death toll was higher than Sunday’s figure of 525, which had been the lowest since March 19. However, it remained considerably lower than the recent high of 919 new deaths, which was recorded March 27.

Visited on 04/16/2020

The number of patients in intensive care also dropped for the third day in a row, falling by 79 to 3,898.

Italy has been under lockdown for five weeks in a bid to slow the spread of the coronavirus as it threatened to overload the country's health-care system.

Speaking at the briefing, Luca Richeldi, a doctor at Gemelli hospital in Rome and a member of the government's scientific advisory committee, said the new numbers "reaffirmed the reassuring trend that we have seen for a few days" and suggested that the containment measures were working.

By **Adam Taylor**

11:22 a.m.

Trump puts focus on media, political opponents in morning tweets

As the U.S. death toll from the novel coronavirus continued to spiral upward, President Trump largely focused his Twitter feed Monday morning on deriding the news media and chiding political opponents.

In one tweet, Trump noted that advertising has fallen off during the pandemic in newspapers such as the New York Times and The Washington Post, a trend driven by the reluctance of companies to make such investments as their revenue declines sharply.

"I can't say whether this is because they are Fake News sources of information, to a level that few can understand, or the Virus is just plain beating them up," Trump tweeted. "Fake News is bad for America!"

In another tweet, Trump asserted that his public appearances at daily coronavirus task force briefings are "vital" for people "not being told the truth" by the mainstream media.

Visited on 04/16/2020

Trump also seized on an interview Sunday in which former vice president Joe Biden raised the possibility that the Democratic National Convention might have to be “virtual” to avoid putting thousands of people at risk if the virus is still spreading.

Trump said such a convention would be “one where [Biden] doesn’t have to show up.”

“Gee, I wonder why?” Trump wrote.

Biden responded on Twitter, saying he remains hopeful that the convention can go on as planned in Milwaukee in August.

“[B]ut that is going to depend on you stepping up and doing what needs to be done to handle this pandemic,” Biden said.

Trump also shared with his 76 million followers a tweet by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) suggesting that congressional Democrats are interested in reviewing the Trump administration’s response to the pandemic because they are “jealous and out of power.”

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By **John Wagner**

10:40 a.m.

In Middle East, some countries are releasing inmates to prevent coronavirus from spreading in prisons

CAIRO — In the Middle East and North Africa, where hundreds of thousands languish in overcrowded prisons, a growing number of governments have begun releasing some prisoners, as confirmed coronavirus cases grow in their nations.

Visited on 04/16/2020

On Sunday, Morocco's King Mohammed VI pardoned more than 5,600 prisoners, selected on the basis of their age, health condition, time served in prison and good conduct, according to the Justice Ministry. The king ordered that other measures also be taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus inside the prisons. As of Sunday, the North African country had 919 confirmed cases, including 59 deaths.

Last week, Algeria's government pardoned more than 5,000 inmates. Libya, too, recently released prisoners, about 450, as have Jordan and Bahrain. Iran temporarily released 54,000 prisoners last month.

But critics note that in most, if not all, these countries, political prisoners remain behind bars, often on flimsy or trumped-up charges. These include members of opposition parties, pro-democracy activists, human rights advocates and others jailed for their outspokenness or influence.

In Syria, more than 100,000 prisoners remain behind bars, as is the case in Egypt, which has released only a handful of inmates. Last week, the United Nations human rights office urged Egypt's government to release those convicted of nonviolent offenses, those in pretrial detention, children and those "arbitrarily detained due to their political or human rights work."

By **Sudarsan Raghavan**

10:36 a.m.

Trump sends nomination of White House lawyer to Senate for new position overseeing business rescue fund

President Trump announced Monday that he has sent the nomination of White House lawyer Brian D. Miller to the Senate for the new position of special inspector general for pandemic recovery, a post created by Congress to oversee a \$500 billion rescue fund for distressed businesses.

Visited on 04/16/2020

After Trump signaled his intentions late Friday to nominate Miller, some Democrats questioned his independence, given that he was involved in defending the president during the impeachment proceedings in his role as senior associate counsel in the Office of White House Counsel.

But others pointed to Miller's past experience rooting out waste and wrongdoing. Before working for the White House, he served for nine years as inspector general for the General Services Administration. While in that role, Miller investigated a scandal over a 2010 GSA conference in Las Vegas, where agency officials partied in a hot tub and spent thousands on sushi and a mind reader.

Miller's nomination must be approved by the Senate, and he is likely to receive a friendly reception from Republicans who control the chamber. A simple majority vote will ensure his confirmation, meaning that Democratic objections will be unable to block his confirmation.

By **John Wagner**

10:18 a.m.

Dubai residents must apply for permit online to leave home as infections soar

DUBAI — Residents of the wealthy Persian Gulf emirate of Dubai must apply for a police permit online if they want to leave their homes, according to rules issued overnight to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Measures over the weekend have dramatically curtailed life in this former international travel hub and global tourist destination, and all residents are confined to their homes for 24 hours a day as the number of cases around the country soars.

On Monday night, authorities announced 277 new cases, bringing the national total to 2,076. More than two thirds of those cases were announced in the past six days. There have been 11 deaths to date.

Visited on 04/16/2020

The sudden jump in new cases appears to be related to increased testing: The government has announced extensive testing in densely populated districts. Last week, one of the oldest parts of the city, al-Ras, was sealed off and residents confined to their homes so more disinfection and testing could be carried out.



Previously, people in Dubai were allowed to leave their homes during daylight hours for groceries and medical needs. But on Saturday night, the curfew was extended to cover the entire day, and people now require permits to leave their homes or face severe fines.

Before the measures were announced, people could be seen biking, jogging and walking through the otherwise empty streets of the city.

Authorities have said everyone’s movements would be monitored with the city’s extensive network of cameras and that fines would be issued for those without permits.

By Paul Schemm

10:02 a.m.

India moves to convert train cars into isolation wards for 80,000 people

Visited on 04/16/2020

NEW DELHI — India is converting passenger train cars into isolation facilities with the capacity to hold 80,000 people as coronavirus infections increase in the world's second-most populous country.

Each train car is being refitted to hold 16 patients along with a nursing station and holders for oxygen cylinders. The country has already repurposed 2,500 railway cars at 133 locations, halfway to its total goal. Railway officials say they will complete their task in about a week.



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Railways to supplement the efforts of Government in tackling COVID-19 in a big way

Coaches being modified as Isolation coaches to be available for contingency; 5000 coaches being planned initially.

[1/2pib.nic.in/PressReleaself...#IndiaFightsCorona](https://pib.nic.in/PressReleaself...#IndiaFightsCorona)

SAKSHINIKHARJAN
Indian Railways getting ready to provide medical support to National efforts in fighting COVID 19 in a big way
Coaches being modified as Isolation coaches to be available for contingency; 5000 coaches being planned initially
More than 6000 hospital beds of Railways to be made available as prescribed medical specifications

Railways to supplement the efforts of Government in tackling COVID-19

New Delhi, 30th March, 2020

In: In order to prevent the spread of COVID 19, Indian Railways is making an all out effort to supplement the health care efforts of Government of India. The spectrum of steps include modification of passenger coaches as isolation coaches, equipping the existing Railway Hospitals to meet the COVID needs, earmarking of hospital beds to meet the contingencies, recruitment of additional doctors & paramedics etc.

All these facilities will be made available as mandated by the Government of India to those in need. The preparations are being done across all the zones under the supervision of GMs and Medical professionals of Indian Railways.

Indian Railways is planning to initially modify 5000 passenger coaches to meet the requirement of any possible exigency of keeping some corona patients in isolation as and when required by Government. These coaches would be equipped with basic facilities needed for isolation as per medical guidelines. In case need be, more coaches can be modified. Coaches are also going to be equipped with mosquito netting, charging points for mobiles & laptops, space for paramedics etc. These coaches would be prepared zone wise.

Railways has 125 hospitals in India and of that more than 70 are being planned to be kept ready to be for any contingency as and when required. Efforts are being made to designate dedicated COVID wards or floors in these hospitals. Approximately 6000 hospital beds are being made ready to meet the possible needs of patients.

Indian Railways has already given a go ahead to Zonal heads to explore the possibility of hiring doctors and paramedics from the market and also to re-employ retired railway doctors as a temporary measure to meet the increased requirement of medical supervision and assist the authorities in charge of COVID 19 control



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India is in the middle of a 21-day nationwide lockdown that includes a halt to all passenger trains, considered the backbone of the country's transportation network. The only other time that train service ceased across India was during a labor strike in 1974. Such trains normally carry 23 million passengers a day.

The cars being converted are of an older vintage which are due to be replaced, said Rajesh Dutt Bajpai, an executive director at the Ministry of Railways. They will be available for use wherever they may be needed, he said.

Visited on 04/16/2020

India has reported more than 4,000 coronavirus cases and 111 deaths. The total number of cases has roughly tripled in the past week, heightening worries that the country is headed for a spike in infections that could overwhelm its health system.

By **Joanna Slater and Taniya Dutta**

9:29 a.m.

Stock markets soar even as the U.S. braces for a rough week

U.S. and global stock markets soared Monday as investors took in overseas progress against the coronavirus, even as Americans have been warned that the coming week may be the “hardest and saddest” of the outbreak as infections near peak levels.

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped more than 900 points, or 4 percent, at the opening bell Monday. The Standard & Poor’s 500 and Nasdaq composite also moved steeply higher. The surge marked a turnaround from Friday, when Wall Street stumbled out of another volatile session. It was the third week out of four that the three major U.S. indexes ended in the red.

Read more [here](#)

By **Taylor Telford**

9:09 a.m.

Schumer offers three suggestions of a ‘czar’ to oversee production, distribution of medical supplies

Visited on 04/16/2020

Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said he pressed his case Sunday night with White House chief of staff Mark Meadows that President Trump should appoint a military leader to oversee manufacturing and distribution of medical supplies under the Defense Production Act — and offered three suggestions.

“Lives are at stake,” Schumer said in a Monday tweet in which he shared the three names he forwarded to Meadows, until recently a Republican congressman from North Carolina.

Schumer has urged Trump — both publicly and privately — to take additional steps to more aggressively implement the Defense Production Act, which allows the president to direct private companies to manufacture needed medical supplies.

Schumer’s repeated exhortations on the subject have irked the Republican president, who insists he already has someone playing that role and sent the top Senate Democrat a letter last week pinning blame on him for not better preparing New York for the coronavirus outbreak and calling him a “bad senator.”

Schumer’s phone call with Meadows, first reported by Politico, was the first time Schumer suggested specific names, the senator’s office indicated Monday.

They are: Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, the former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs under both presidents Barack Obama and Trump; Navy Adm. Sandy Winnefeld, another former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs and former head of the U.S. Northern Command, which deals with domestic disasters; and Vice Adm. Mark Harnitchek, a former director of the Defense Logistics Agency.

A White House spokesman declined to comment on the phone call.

“During this COVID-19 crisis, Chief of Staff Meadows has several phone calls and discussions with many members of Congress including Senator Schumer, but we don’t comment on the specifics of private conversations,” spokesman Hogan Gidley said in a statement.

By **John Wagner**

8:55 a.m.

Former U.S., European officials call for easing sanctions on Iran

Two dozen former diplomats and national security leaders from the United States and Europe have called on the Trump administration to ease sanctions against Iran as part of the battle against the novel coronavirus.

In a statement issued Monday, the signatories said that providing some sanctions relief to Iran could help stem the spread of the disease and potentially save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Iran is one of the world's coronavirus epicenters, with almost 60,000 confirmed cases and at least 3,600 deaths, though some researchers believe the death toll is far higher.

“Just because Iran has managed the crisis badly, that does not make its humanitarian needs and our security ones any the less,” the statement said.

“Targeted sanctions relief would be both morally right and serve the health and security interests of the United States, Europe, and the rest of the world.”

Those who signed the statement include former secretary of state Madeleine Albright; a former senior State Department official, Wendy Sherman; the former foreign policy chief for the European Union, Federica Mogherini; and Thomas Shannon, who was the acting secretary of state before the Senate confirmed Rex Tillerson.

Read more [here](#).

By **Carol Morello**

8:18 a.m.

HHS watchdog reports U.S. hospitals face widespread shortages of tests, PPE and staff

Visited on 04/16/2020

Hospitals across the United States are facing shortages of testing supplies, personal protective equipment, ventilators and staff as they work to fight the novel coronavirus, according to an internal federal government watchdog report released Monday, further confirming what health-care workers have been telling journalists for weeks.

The report came out of a National Pulse Survey conducted by the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Hospital administrators at 323 hospitals across 46 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were called at random between March 23 and 27 and asked to address their challenges, strategies and needs.

Hospitals reported “severe shortages” of testing supplies, which hindered their ability to keep up with patient demand and put strains on their bed availability, staffing and protective equipment, according to the report. Those challenges were exacerbated by nursing home and rehabilitation facilities that were requiring negative coronavirus tests before accepting residents discharged from hospitals. Hospitals reported “frequently waiting 7 days or longer for test results,” the report said.

Fast-changing and inconsistent guidance from federal, state and local authorities also confused hospital staff on such matters as testing criteria, the use of PPE and how to get supplies from the national stockpile, the administrators said.

Hospitals also reported concerns that public misinformation has increased hospital workloads, the report said.

During an appearance on the “Today” show Monday morning, Adm. Brett Giroir — dubbed the White House coronavirus task force’s “testing czar” — said there is “no question testing is tight.” But he also repeated the same assertion that the administration has been making for weeks: “Everyone who needs a test can get a test this week.”

Giroir, the HHS assistant secretary for health, said that “tests have ramped up dramatically in the last week” and that soon the nation will be in the “tens of millions” range.

To date, 1.6 million tests have been performed, Giroir said.

Read the full report here, and The Washington Post’s story here.

By **Katie Mettler**

7:55 a.m.

Trump economic adviser confirms heated dispute with Fauci over hydroxychloroquine

White House economic adviser Peter Navarro confirmed Monday that he and Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's leading infectious-disease expert, engaged in a heated dispute in the White House Situation Room about how enthusiastically the administration should tout the prospects of using an anti-malaria drug to treat the coronavirus.

Appearing on CNN, Navarro was asked to respond to [an Axios report](#) that he arrived on Saturday with studies promoting the potential of hydroxychloroquine, a drug that President Trump has said could be a "game-changer" but that Fauci has repeatedly cautioned is unproven to combat covid-19.

"There was that discussion on Saturday," Navarro said. "If we didn't have disagreement and debate in the Trump administration, this administration would not be as strong as it is."

After being shown a clip in which Fauci said the data on treating coronavirus with hydroxychloroquine is "at best suggestive," Navarro suggested seeking advice from doctors besides Fauci.

"I'll let him speak for himself, but I would have two words for you: second opinion," said Navarro, whose work for Trump has largely focused on trade.

Pressed on why he is more qualified to weigh in on treating the novel coronavirus than Fauci, Navarro said he was competent to read the literature.

"Doctors disagree about things all the time. My qualifications in terms of looking at the science is that I'm a social scientist. I have a PhD, and I understand how to read statistical studies," he said. "You could be a plumber and read that and come to the same conclusion."

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By **John Wagner**

7:40 a.m.

Tooth fairy and Easter Bunny are ‘essential workers,’ New Zealand’s Jacinda Ardern confirms

During a time of global crisis, climbing death tolls and widespread uncertainty, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has been hailed globally for her compassionate handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

And she continued to win hearts Monday when she clarified who exactly has made a list of “essential workers.”

“You’ll be pleased to know that we do consider both the tooth fairy and the Easter Bunny to be essential workers,” she said, smiling. “But as you can imagine, at this time they’re going to be potentially quite busy at home with their family as well and their own bunnies.”

Read more [here](#).

By **Jennifer Hassan**

7:37 a.m.

Americans should limit grocery shopping, HHS official says

All Americans should limit their trips to the grocery store as much as possible, Assistant Secretary for Health Brett Giroir told “Today” show co-anchor Savannah Guthrie on Monday.

Visited on 04/16/2020

Giroir said he agrees with Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus response coordinator, who said that Americans should limit their visits to grocery stores and pharmacies unless needed to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The warning doesn't mean going without necessities, but it does mean that all citizens should minimize their exposure to the outside world and wear a mask if they need to venture out, he said.

“Do it [grocery shopping] as infrequently as possible,” he said. “Anything that you can do to protect yourself to avoid yourself from getting this virus, and being in the hospital for a month or potentially facing death, I think it's advised to do that.”

He said the caution extends to everyone, even those who don't live in hot spots.

“Everyone across the country can get this,” he said. “Even though we say this is going to be the peak, if we let our foot off the gas and start doing things that are ill-advised, we can have another peak in a few weeks.”

By **Lateshia Beachum**

7:00 a.m.

Trump blocks Fauci from answering question about drug Trump is touting

President Trump spent a portion of Sunday's press briefing yet again promoting an unproven treatment for the novel coronavirus, repeatedly asking, “What do we have to lose?” So toward the end, a CNN reporter turned to Anthony S. Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, for his opinion on the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine with a sharper question: “What is the medical evidence?”

Standing at the microphone, Fauci opened his mouth — but before he could speak, the answer came out of Trump's instead.

Visited on 04/16/2020

The unexpected interruption was an extraordinary moment even in this season of brash behavior exhibited by the president during his daily briefings. While Trump has been at odds with Fauci in the past, repeatedly clouding his administration's public health messaging, the president has never shut down his top medical expert so abruptly and publicly before, intervening to keep him from answering.

Read more [here](#).

By **Allyson Chiu and Meagan Flynn**

6:50 a.m.

European markets rally as caseloads in coronavirus hot spots slow

BERLIN — European stocks rallied Monday, with the STOXX 600 index up by about 3 percent in the morning, as Spain, Italy and other continental European countries said the rate of new infections continues to slow.

Spain's Health Ministry on Monday announced 4,273 new cases of the coronavirus, an increase of only 3.3 percent, down from 4.8 percent a day earlier.

Italy's daily growth rate in new coronavirus cases dropped to around 3.5 percent on Sunday as well.

Amid hopes that lockdowns imposed weeks ago are showing the desired impact, some European governments were already cautiously preparing for a loosening of coronavirus restrictions on Monday. The government of Austria — one of the continent's smaller, hard-hit nations, with more than 200 deaths — said it will seek to reopen some nonessential shops next Tuesday.

Growth in new infections has fallen significantly in the country, even though its government warned that the now three-week-long lockdown could remain in place in its current form if cases surge again in coming days.

Visited on 04/16/2020

Germany and other neighbors have remained far more reluctant to discuss the possible reopening of businesses, and even in nations that are expected to loosen restrictions, it remains unlikely that life will return to its pre-virus state anytime soon.

Austria, for instance, has expanded requirements to wear face masks — requirements that are expected to remain in place.

Denmark has similarly indicated that businesses and events, even if reopened, would need to be run differently than in the past to prevent a second wave of infections.

“We will not return to Denmark as it was before March 6,” Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told Danish broadcaster DR on Sunday, according to [The Local news site](#).

Luisa Beck contributed to this report.

By **Rick Noack**

6:44 a.m.

Japan's Abe to declare state of emergency to cover major cities Tokyo, Osaka as infections rise sharply

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he will declare a state of emergency Tuesday to cover seven prefectures, including Tokyo and the city of Osaka, most severely affected by the coronavirus outbreak, but promised no lockdowns like those implemented elsewhere.

“The period will be for one month as a rough estimate, and this declaration is issued in order to ask for more cooperation from the public to reduce as much as possible people-to-people contact that could lead to infections, and to establish the medical system to deal with the situation,” he said.

Abe said he would also announce an “unprecedented” economic rescue package Tuesday equivalent to around 20 percent of the gross domestic product.

Visited on 04/16/2020

“We must keep protecting employment,” he said. “Even though we will declare a state of emergency, we will not lock cities down as has been done overseas,” Abe said, adding that the government aimed to maintain as much economic activity as possible.

Under the state of emergency, people will be asked to refrain from going outdoors, but no legal penalties will be imposed for noncompliance. Companies may be asked to tell employees to work from home, and schools may be closed, but trains will continue to run and supermarkets will stay open.

Infections have begun to rise sharply in Japan during the past two weeks, with around 360 new cases found on Sunday, bringing the reported number of people who have contracted the virus to 3,865, with 93 deaths, not including cases and fatalities from the Diamond Princess cruise ship.

Abe has been under growing pressure from the medical profession and general public to declare a state of emergency. Tokyo is by far the worst-affected region, and its hospitals are already struggling to cope with more than 950 people hospitalized with the virus already.

The other prefectures covered by the state of emergency will be Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba — all three around Tokyo — as well as Hyogo and Fukuoka.

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By **Simon Denyer**

6:19 a.m.

ACLU sues Puerto Rico over curfew, fearing infringement of civil liberties

The American Civil Liberties Union is seeking an injunction to block part of Puerto Rico’s sweeping curfew, the organization’s first lawsuit to push back on government efforts to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

Visited on 04/16/2020

The civil liberties group is arguing that the March 15 order from the governor, which requires everyone on the island to stay home from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m., is unconstitutional and suspends fundamental rights outside of martial law.

Those who do not follow the territory's curfew may face a \$5,000 fine or a six-month jail term, with exceptions for those who are buying food or medicine, going to the bank, or experiencing an emergency or health-related situation. People are also banned from gathering with anyone outside their "family nucleus."

But the order from Gov. Wanda Vázquez Garced fails to define that term, the ACLU said in a court filing in Puerto Rico's Court of First Instance on Saturday, arguing that the order supports religious activities on Sundays while banning commercial activities allowed during the rest of the week.

Three Puerto Ricans represented by the ACLU say they look after their mothers' health and were seeking clarification from the island's government that they would be exempt from the order. Hundreds of people have been cited under the directive, according to the Associated Press.

In a statement last month, the ACLU said it would continue to monitor the use of emergency powers to ensure orders on the pandemic were justified and being properly employed.

"History teaches that our government is most prone to committing abuses in times of crisis," said Hina Shamsi, director of the ACLU's National Security Project. "We must ensure that broad presidential powers are not misused beyond legitimate needs."

By **Teo Armus**

5:53 a.m.

Wisconsin mayors seek emergency delay of in-person voting in Tuesday's primaries, local elections

Visited on 04/16/2020

The mayors of 11 Wisconsin cities — including Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay — are urging state Health Services Secretary Andrea Palm to use her emergency powers to postpone in-person voting in Tuesday’s presidential primaries and local elections amid the coronavirus outbreak.

“We need you to step up and stop the State of Wisconsin from putting hundreds of thousands of citizens at risk by requiring them to vote at the polls while this ugly pandemic spreads,” the mayors said in a letter. “We believe it would be irresponsible and contrary to public health to conduct in-person voting throughout the state at the very time this disease is spreading rapidly.”

As other states have canceled their nominating contests in the face of the pandemic, Wisconsin has chosen to move forward — even though more than 100 municipalities will not have enough poll workers to open a single voting location, some voters may not receive their mail-in ballots in time, and those who do vote in person will be doing so at a time when public health officials have warned all Americans to stay home.

Amid public uproar over the issue, Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) called for delaying the contest and abruptly convened a special legislative session on Saturday. But at the session, the state legislature refused to take up a proposal to cancel in-person voting in Tuesday’s elections.

In their letter, the mayors cited a ruling in which a federal judge declined to halt the elections but provided a road map for doing so.

“As much as the court would prefer the Legislature and Governor consider the public health ahead of any political considerations, that does not appear in the cards,” wrote U.S. District Judge William M. Conley. “Nor is it appropriate for a federal district court to act as a state’s chief health official by taking that step for them.”

Most of the controversy surrounding the issue of in-person voting Tuesday has been focused on the Democratic presidential primary between former vice president Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). But there is also a Republican presidential primary — although a practically uncontested one — as well as an election for a seat on the state Supreme Court and votes for local officials and referendums.

5:35 a.m.

Despite lockdown, Londoners still sunbathing, having picnics and holding a party

LONDON — While some Britons are carefully adhering to the government’s advice to “stay home” during the coronavirus pandemic, some continued to flout the rules over the weekend, leading to widespread concern and frustration.

“Londoners: despite the sunshine, we must stay at home this weekend,” wrote London Mayor Sadiq Khan. “The rules put in place by the government are not optional.”

But it seems many didn’t get the message.

With the sun making a rare appearance, an estimated 3,000 people flocked to a park in south London to soak up the rays. Photos circulating on social media showed many in proximity, sunbathing and enjoying picnics. Lambeth Council in south London called the actions of those in the park “unacceptable” and announced on Twitter that it would be closing the park based on police advice.

On Saturday, London’s Newham police force took to Twitter to reveal officers had just broken up a group celebrating an 18th birthday party. Police shared an image of balloons and food and drink at the scene.

“This family thought law relating to social distancing shouldn’t apply to 18th birthday parties. 25 guests moved on,” the tweet read.

Many people took to social media over the weekend to express their frustration at those breaking the rules, with hundreds noting that the longer it takes for people to adhere to the government’s clear message, the longer the isolation period is likely to be. Several health workers also took to Facebook and Twitter to post photos from their hospital shifts and remind Britons to stay home.

Visited on 04/16/2020



Sinead O'Neill
@Sinead_ONeill



Three 12hr shifts done, One day off and then back in for four 12hr shifts. I'm tired, my feet are sore and I miss my kids. Remember stay at home and stay safe. We've got you. ❤️ #nhs



♥️ 119K 3:14 AM - Apr 5, 2020



💬 17.5K people are talking about this



“Three 12hr shifts done, One day off and then back in for four 12hr shifts. I’m tired, my feet are sore and I miss my kids. Remember stay at home and stay safe,” tweeted Sinead O’Neill, a National Health Service worker.

By **Jennifer Hassan**

5:28 a.m.

Coronavirus growth rate in Spain, Europe’s worst-hit country, continues to fall

Visited on 04/16/2020

MADRID — Spain's Health Ministry announced 4,273 new cases of the coronavirus on Monday, an increase of only 3.3 percent, continuing the downward trend in growth seen for the past few days.

Spain now has 135,032 confirmed cases of covid-19, the disease caused by the virus, the most in Europe and just second behind the United States. Sunday's growth in new cases was 4.8 percent.

"These figures confirm the downward trend and stabilization," Spanish Health Minister Salvador Illa said.

While 637 people died in the last 24 hours, this was the lowest number of deaths in the past two weeks. Since the crisis began, 13,055 people have died in Spain of covid-19.

The news came as Spain's government readied plans to do massive testing of asymptomatic patients and use public buildings to isolate them.

"We are facing the greatest health emergency in 100 years," Illa said. "The figures tell us the measures have worked. But it's not over. We have to face the second stage, flatten the curve."

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By **Pamela Rolfe**

5:27 a.m.

‘Stupid and crazy’: Local officials protest Gov. Kemp’s decision to reopen beaches in hard-hit Georgia

Visited on 04/16/2020

For the first time in recent memory, tourist-dependent Tybee Island, Ga., was trying its best to keep visitors away. The small barrier island shuttered its beaches on March 20 out of fear that out-of-town visitors could bring the novel coronavirus to a community with an aging population and no hospital, and clog the single two-lane highway to the mainland. Other coastal Georgia communities followed suit, closing hotels and motels and banning short-term rentals.

But those precautions were abruptly scrapped on Thursday, when Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R) enraged local leaders by reopening all the state's beaches.

The announcement appeared to catch local officials off guard, with Allen Booker, a Democratic county commissioner in Glynn County, Ga., calling it "stupid and crazy at the same time."

In a Friday video filmed from her porch, Tybee Island Mayor Shirley Sessions, who holds a nonpartisan position and is only a few months into her first term as mayor, said no one would be available to take down barricades and plywood signs announcing beach closures until after the weekend. She begged visitors to voluntarily stay away, despite the governor's order.

Read more here.

By **Antonia Farzan**

4:58 a.m.

Australian police launch probe into Ruby Princess cruise over coronavirus

Australian police have launched a criminal investigation into a major coronavirus cluster linked to Carnival Corp.'s Ruby Princess cruise ship, as the number of confirmed cases among passengers in New South Wales surpassed 340.

Visited on 04/16/2020

The inquiry comes as Australia is approaching 6,000 confirmed total cases, with a growing number of them being locally transmitted. About one-fourth of the country's 40 coronavirus deaths are linked to the Ruby Princess.

Investigators are seeking more information on whether any laws were breached when the ship's 2,700 passengers were allowed to disembark in Sydney in mid-March without checks.

New South Wales Police Commissioner Mike Fuller said at a news conference Sunday that there appear to be "absolute discrepancies between the information provided by Carnival and what I would see is the benchmark for the laws that the federal government and the state government put in place in terms of protecting Australians from cruise ships when coronavirus had started."

"The only way I can get to the bottom of whether our national biosecurity laws and our state laws were broken is through a criminal investigation," he said.

Carnival Australia, which operates the ship, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But in a statement to the Guardian, a spokesman said that "in addition to willingly participating in the investigation, Carnival Australia will vigorously respond to any allegations of which there must now be full disclosure and the basis for them."

Even though all passengers were "advised to self-isolate for 14 days following disembarkation," according to local health authorities, there were a number of "probable secondary transmission" cases linked to the ship as of last Friday.

More than 1,000 crew members are still onboard the vessel, which will remain docked at Port Kembla near Sydney for at least 10 days, as investigators pursue their inquiry. About 200 crew members are feeling unwell, the Guardian reported, with some requiring medical care.

By **Siobhán O'Grady and Rick Noack**

4:42 a.m.

Visited on 04/16/2020

Libya's first post-revolution prime minister dies of coronavirus

CAIRO — Libya's first post-revolution prime minister, Mahmoud Jibril, died on Sunday due to complications from the coronavirus, his aides said. He was in his mid- to late 60s and had lived in Egypt for the past several years.

A former official in the regime of Moammar Gaddafi, Jibril abandoned the Libyan leader during the 2011 Arab Spring revolution and NATO intervention that would ultimately oust the dictator and lead to his death.

During the revolts, Jibril became the country's rebel prime minister and later its interim leader until elections in 2012 — the first in the North African oil-producing country in more than 40 years.

Jibril's political career ended after the country passed a law preventing former Gaddafi-era officials from holding office. Since then, Jibril mostly resided in Egypt.

He died in a Cairo hospital, where he had been receiving treatment under quarantine after contracting the virus on March 26, according to the Facebook page of his party, the National Forces Alliance. Egypt has reported a total of 1,173 confirmed coronavirus cases and 78 deaths, as of Sunday.

In a tweet, Jonathan Winer, a former U.S. special envoy to Libya, wrote: "RIP former #Libya PM Mahmoud Jibril — I learned a lot from him. Complicated man — passionate about need for stable unified inclusive #Libya. Will be remembered for 21 August 2011 speech urging fighters not to commit looting, revenge killings, abuse of foreign nationals or POWs."

By **Sudarsan Raghavan**

4:15 a.m.

Detroit hospital will test effectiveness of malaria drug touted by Trump

Visited on 04/16/2020

A Detroit hospital will administer a much-hyped experimental drug to front-line health workers, Vice President Pence said Sunday, to test whether it works as an effective treatment for the novel coronavirus.

President Trump has repeatedly touted the use of hydroxychloroquine, but there is no conclusive proof that it works to treat the illness. On Sunday, administration officials reportedly clashed over whether and how they should promote the drug, which is normally used to prevent and treat malaria.

The study, run out of Henry Ford Health System in Michigan, is being billed as “the first, major definitive study” of hydroxychloroquine as a preventive medication for covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, the hospital’s researchers said in a statement Sunday.

Health-care workers and other first responders can opt in to the eight-week trial, where at least 3,000 subjects will receive a specific set of unidentifiable pills: a weekly dose of hydroxychloroquine, a daily dose of the anti-malarial, or a placebo.

Participants will not know which treatment they are receiving and will be checked twice during the study for any symptoms of covid-19 to see if the drug had any side effects.

The Henry Ford system said the supply of hydroxychloroquine being used in the trial was specially obtained for the study and will not impact the supply of medication elsewhere. For about 75 years, the compound has also been used for arthritis and lupus.

But as Trump — and his unpaid personal lawyer, Rudolph W. Giuliani — boosted the drug as a “game changer,” it has become increasingly unavailable for the patients who depend on it.

Some doctors, including at Henry Ford, have prescribed hydroxychloroquine as an off-label treatment for coronavirus patients, particularly after it has shown early promise in treating covid-19.

By **Teo Armus**

3:54 a.m.

Visited on 04/16/2020

Investigation: More Americans likely dying of coronavirus than in official count

The fast-spreading novel coronavirus is almost certainly killing Americans who are not included in the nation's growing death toll, according to public health experts and government officials involved in the tally.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention counts only deaths in which the presence of the coronavirus is confirmed in a laboratory test. "We know that it is an underestimation," agency spokeswoman Kristen Nordlund said.

A widespread lack of access to testing in the early weeks of the U.S. outbreak means people with respiratory illnesses died without being counted, epidemiologists say. Even now, some people who die at home or in overburdened nursing homes are not being tested, according to funeral directors, medical examiners and nursing home representatives.

Read more [here](#).

By **Emma Brown, Beth Reinhard and Aaron Davis**

3:18 a.m.


Boris Johnson stays overnight in hospital, tweets that he is 'still experiencing coronavirus symptoms'

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson stayed overnight in the hospital as a "precautionary" measure after his coronavirus symptoms persisted for 10 days. He is expected to undergo further tests, his Downing Street office said Monday.

The prime minister, who is 55, tweeted on Monday that he was undergoing "routine tests as I'm still experiencing coronavirus symptoms," and he praised the "brilliant" National Health Service workers who were caring for him.

Visited on 04/16/2020



Boris Johnson #StayHomeSaveLives   @Bor... Apr 6, 2020

Last night, on the advice of my doctor, I went into hospital for some routine tests as I'm still experiencing coronavirus symptoms. I'm in good spirits and keeping in touch with my team, as we work together to fight this virus and keep everyone safe.





Boris Johnson #StayHomeSaveLives  

@BorisJohnson

I'd like to say thank you to all the brilliant NHS staff taking care of me and others in this difficult time. You are the best of Britain.

Stay safe everyone, and please remember to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

 64.6K 7:21 AM - Apr 6, 2020 

 11.4K people are talking about this 

President Trump joined the chorus of those wishing Johnson a speedy recovery, adding that “all Americans are praying for him.”

Speaking at a news conference Sunday, Trump called Johnson a “great gentleman” and sent him well-wishes. “He’s a friend of mine,” Trump said. “I’m hopeful and sure that he’s going to be fine.”

The new leader of the opposition Labour Party, Keir Starmer, also expressed his well-wishes. So did First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon.

On social media, the hashtag [#GetWellBoris](#) trended in Britain, as thousands put their political differences aside to wish him well.

Johnson’s hospitalization has led many Britons to question what happens next in the fight against the deadly pandemic. “WHO’S IN CHARGE?” asked the Daily Mail in a headline Monday morning. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has been designated as Johnson’s stand-in should the prime minister remain indisposed.

The prime minister shared a video message on Friday in which he said he was “feeling better” but still had “minor symptoms” of the infection. He noted that he still had a high temperature. At the time, there was some concern that Johnson did not look too healthy during the broadcast.

Taylor reported from Washington.

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By **Jennifer Hassan and Adam Taylor**

3:04 a.m.

California county orders residents to cover faces in public

Riverside County, Calif., ordered all residents to cover their faces in public Sunday, making it the latest — and largest — jurisdiction to adopt such a measure intended to contain the novel coronavirus.

More counties and cities are adopting similar orders after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention backtracked on its previous guidance and told Americans that they should in fact be wearing face masks in public.

Riverside County, the fourth-largest in California, said residents could cover their faces with bandannas, scarves, neck gaiters or other clothing, but should not purchase N95 or surgical masks to preserve these supplies for health workers.

Health officials said that although they had pleaded with the county's 2.4 million residents to follow measures meant to "flatten the curve," the number of infections only appeared to be rising.

"Not everyone's getting the message," public health officer Cameron Kaiser said in a statement. "It started with staying home, social distance and covering your face. But now we change from saying that you should to saying that you must."

The city of Laredo, Tex., issued a similar directive last week, warning that it would fine any residents who venture out in public with their faces exposed a whopping \$1,000 fine. It was unclear how Riverside would be enforcing its rule.

Visited on 04/16/2020

Riverside's order, which took effect Monday, involved other ramped-up measures, including bans on gatherings of any size involving people who do not live together and a ban on all in-person religious services, including drive-through services.

By **Teo Armus**

2:31 a.m.

Work from home, they said. In Japan, it's not so easy.

TOKYO — When it comes to working from home, Japan simply doesn't get it.

In the midst of a coronavirus epidemic, commuter trains in Tokyo are still pretty packed, and many companies are acting like nothing's really changed.

Work culture demands constant face-to-face interaction, partly to show respect. Employees typically are judged on the hours they put in rather than they output they produce. Managers don't trust their staff to work from home, and many companies are just not set up for telework.

The uniquely rigid work culture has left this country among the least prepared in the developed world to embrace the new remote-working realities of the novel coronavirus age.

The lack of preparation could be a big reason, management consultant Rochelle Kopp says, why Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been reluctant to declare a state of emergency and impose a lockdown, despite a recent surge in infections.

Read more [here](#).

By **Simon Denyer**

2:11 a.m.

Visited on 04/16/2020

Texas to quarantine drivers entering from Louisiana

Texas will screen drivers who enter the state from coronavirus-stricken Louisiana, state officials said Sunday, to enforce a mandatory, two-week quarantine.

Law enforcement officers will operate screening stations near the Texas-Louisiana state line, along interstate roads and highways. All drivers coming from Louisiana will be required to fill out a form with personal information, including a “designated quarantine location.”

The Texas Department of Public Safety said it would conduct unannounced visits to quarantine sites to enforce the 14-day isolation period. Travelers are allowed to leave their homes or hotels only to seek medical attention or leave the state.

Rhode Island drew some outrage when it announced similar targeted restrictions on all drivers with New York license plates. Late last month, the state extended the order to apply to all motorists entering.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed an executive order March 29 mandating a quarantine in his state on travelers coming from California, Washington state and four hard-hit metro areas, adding to a similar order placed on New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

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By **Teo Armus**

1:41 a.m.

Scotland's chief medical officer resigns after violating guidance to stay at home

Visited on 04/16/2020

Scotland's chief medical officer resigned late Sunday after acknowledging that she visited her second home on two occasions during the country's lockdown despite calling for people to limit nonessential movement and stay at home to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Photos of Catherine Calderwood and her family at their second home in Earlsferry, which the BBC reported was more than an hour away from where the family normally resides in Edinburgh, were published in the Scottish Sun. Scottish police later confirmed in a statement posted to Twitter that officers visited Calderwood and issued her a warning.

"The legal instructions on not leaving your home without a reasonable excuse apply to everyone," the statement said. "Individuals must not make personal exemptions bespoke to their own circumstances. It is vital that everyone adheres to these requirements."

Calderwood said Sunday she would step back from the public aspect of her role but not entirely step down, and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon maintained that Calderwood's expertise was crucial to Scotland's response to the crisis, the BBC reported.

But later Sunday evening, Calderwood released a statement saying she would in fact step down entirely from her role. In the statement, she apologized for her "actions and the mistakes I have made."

"The first minister and I have had a further conversation this evening and we have agreed that the justifiable focus on my behavior risks becoming a distraction from the hugely important job that government and the medical profession has to do in getting the country through this coronavirus pandemic," the statement said. "Having worked so hard on the government's response, that is the last thing I want."

By **Siobhán O'Grady**

1:20 a.m.

China reports 39 new cases, with more than 1,000 asymptomatic people also under observation

Visited on 04/16/2020

China reported on Monday that 39 new cases of coronavirus were confirmed the day before. Of the cases, 38 were reported in people who recently returned from abroad. The only one identified as being locally transmitted was an individual who had recently traveled in Hubei province, the original epicenter of the outbreak.

China's National Health Commission also confirmed an additional 78 new asymptomatic cases of the virus on Monday. More than 1,000 asymptomatic people are under observation in mainland China, where the outbreak was first reported late last year, the Associated Press reported. Since then, China has announced nearly 82,000 cases of the virus and 3,331 deaths.

China has restricted entry for almost all foreigners and mandated that people coming into the country from abroad observe strict self-isolation amid growing concerns that travelers were importing the virus back into China. The growing number of asymptomatic cases has also raised concerns that people who are not showing symptoms of the virus could be spreading it to others.

By **Siobhán O'Grady**

1:01 a.m.

Americans hit by economic shocks as confusion, stumbles undermine Trump's stimulus effort

The Trump administration has stumbled in its initial push to implement the \$2 trillion coronavirus aid package, with confusion and fear mounting among small businesses, workers and the newly unemployed since the bill was signed into law late last month.

Small-business owners have reported delays in getting approved for loans without which they will close their doors, while others say they have been denied altogether by their lenders and do not understand why. The law's provision to boost unemployment benefits has become tangled in dated and overwhelmed state bureaucracies, as an unprecedented avalanche of jobless Americans seeks aid.

Visited on 04/16/2020

The administration is under immense pressure to get the money out into the economy fast. In the past two weeks alone, nearly 10 million applied for weekly jobless claims, by far a record. And fears about the government response are mounting.

Read more [here](#).

By **Jeff Stein**

12:42 a.m.

Missouri school district halts food service after two bus driver deaths

A suburban Missouri school district will temporarily suspend its food distribution program, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, after the death of two bus drivers tasked with delivering meals.

One bus driver for the Ferguson-Florissant School District was showing symptoms of covid-19 but died of unrelated causes on Saturday, the newspaper reported. Another tested positive for the novel coronavirus on Saturday and then died on Sunday.

“In light of these new developments, and in the best interest of our students, families, and employees’ safety, we will be suspending food distribution for the week,” read a letter to parents in the district, which was rocked by protests against racial injustice in 2014.

The district’s week-long halt to the program shows how the spread of the pandemic may further hurt the needy families who depend on schools for food. Amid fears that school closures could leave students hungry, many educational systems launched meal distribution programs like the one in Ferguson-Florissant.

But as the workers tasked with preparing or delivering those meals get sick, the outbreak appears to be creating fresh questions for parents weighing the risk of the virus against the need to feed their children.

Visited on 04/16/2020

Both of the Missouri bus drivers had not worked since March 20, a district spokesman told the Post-Dispatch, while the workers preparing meals for students wore gloves and were not required to participate in the program.

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By **Teo Armus**

12:23 a.m.

Journalists threatened and detained as countries on multiple continents restrict coronavirus coverage

LONDON — The coronavirus is testing the resilience of independent media around the world as governments exploit concerns over coverage of the epidemic to clamp down on press freedoms.

From Latin America to Russia, governments have tried to shape coverage so it avoids criticism or information that authorities deem harmful to public order. Questioning of official accounts has drawn fines, police investigations and the expulsion of foreign correspondents.

In some countries, the virus has provided a pretext for governments to pass emergency legislation that is likely to curb freedoms long after the contagion has been contained.

The consequences could amount to life or death, free-press advocates say.

Read more [here](#).

By **Louisa Loveluck, Robyn Dixon and Adam Taylor**

12:06 a.m.

Visited on 04/16/2020

South Korea reports fewer than 50 new infections for first time since February

South Korea reported 47 new coronavirus infections on Monday, marking the first time since late February the country has recorded fewer than 50 new cases of the virus in a single day. The drop marked a significant change even compared just to the day before, when officials confirmed 81 new infections.

The total number of cases in South Korea now stands at 10,284. Officials also confirmed an additional three deaths on Monday, bringing the total to 186.

On Saturday, the South Korean government announced a two-week extension of its social distancing campaign, in part to try to reach fewer than 50 new cases each day. The current policy includes cancellations of events that attract large groups, including sports matches and religious gatherings.

Health Minister Park Neung-hoo told reporters over the weekend that despite a downward trend in new cases, it was still “too early to be at ease,” Reuters reported.

“Our goal is to be able to control infections in a way that our health and medical system, including personnel and sickbeds, can handle them at usual levels,” Park said. “If the number goes down to 50 or lower, stable treatment of the patients including the critically ill will be possible without much pressure on the system.”

By **Siobhán O’Grady**

12:05 a.m.

Sunday’s White House coronavirus briefing — what you need to know

1. Trump goes beyond the experts in assuring this week will be the peak

Visited on 04/16/2020

President Trump took his words of comfort much further than any of the experts have been willing to by indicating that after this week, things will get better: “In the days ahead, America will endure the peak of this terrible pandemic,” Trump said.

Trump’s assurance that the worst comes this week does not take into account places where the virus has not spread as rapidly. In the District, for example, experts are predicting the highest number of cases as late as May. The Washington Post reports that the death toll in the United States is almost certainly higher than the official numbers.

2. The federal government is stockpiling drugs that have not been proven effective

Specifically, one that Trump has been touting for weeks, saying he has a good feeling about it.

“We bought massive amounts of it, 29 million doses of it,” Trump said of hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malaria drug. The Trump administration approved its use for clinical trials in New York, despite there being no scientific consensus at this time that it works and health experts having concerns about heart and vision risks.

3. Trump’s strategy to deflect: Blame governors

Particularly, Democratic governors. He has questioned whether New York needs the 30,000 ventilators sought by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

Read more [here](#).

By **Amber Phillips**

12:05 a.m.

Coronavirus is testing the limits of Russia’s surveillance state

Visited on 04/16/2020

MOSCOW — As soon as the digital code is created on a cellphone, the clock is ticking. It allows three hours to shop at the nearest grocery store or pharmacy or to visit a doctor. One hour is allotted to walk the dog. Taking out the trash should take no more than 30 minutes.

Russia's Nizhny Novgorod region, about 250 miles northeast of Moscow, boosted its coronavirus-control measures Saturday by adding a system of downloadable QR codes — those square bar code mazes of lines and boxes — in the latest attempt to use tracking technology to battle the pandemic.

But Moscow — which normally sets the tone for the rest of the country — backed off from deploying a similar system of time-specific QR codes.

Moscow's about-face on the QR codes is more than a simple change of plans. Russia under President Vladimir Putin appears to be less willing to embrace the kind of sweeping state-run tracking favored by other authoritarian nations amid the coronavirus pandemic, perhaps mindful of provoking public anger and worry that the monitoring could become a permanent fact of life.

Read more [here](#).

By **Isabelle Khurshudyan**

12:04 a.m.

Leaders warn Americans to brace for 'the hardest and saddest week' of their lives

White House officials said Sunday that parts of the country will soon reach a peak in cases of the novel coronavirus, as hospitals in high-infection areas brace for a surge in both patients and deaths.

Although President Trump hailed a one-day decline in deaths in the New York region, predictions from other officials were far more grim.

Visited on 04/16/2020

“This is going to be the hardest and saddest week of most Americans’ lives,” U.S. Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams said. “This is going to be our Pearl Harbor moment, our 9/11 moment, only it’s not going to be localized. It’s going to be happening all over the country.”

His warning comes amid extraordinary scenes inside hospitals and mounting fatalities throughout the country. Deaths related to the virus have pushed past 9,500, as of late on Sunday evening, although federal officials acknowledge the true count is certainly higher due to a shortage of tests.

A 2.1 million-square-foot convention center in Manhattan has been turned into a militarized hospital, and 1,000 military doctors and nurses will deploy to New York City.

Trump has urged states to share any spare ventilators with others, but a national scramble for supplies may still leave the nation’s epicenters far short. New York’s supply will last an additional 48 to 72 hours, local officials have warned, while Louisiana could run out as soon as Thursday.

Trump also continued to push hydroxychloroquine as a way to treat and prevent the virus, even though the FDA has given only limited emergency use authorization for the drug. Rudolph W. Giuliani, his unpaid private attorney, has also been promoting the use of an anti-malarial drug combination in phone calls.

Across the Atlantic, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was admitted to a hospital because of “persistent” coronavirus symptoms, after testing positive 10 days ago. And in a rare broadcast, Queen Elizabeth II called on the British people to show their self-discipline and quiet resolve during the pandemic.

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By **Teo Armus**

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