

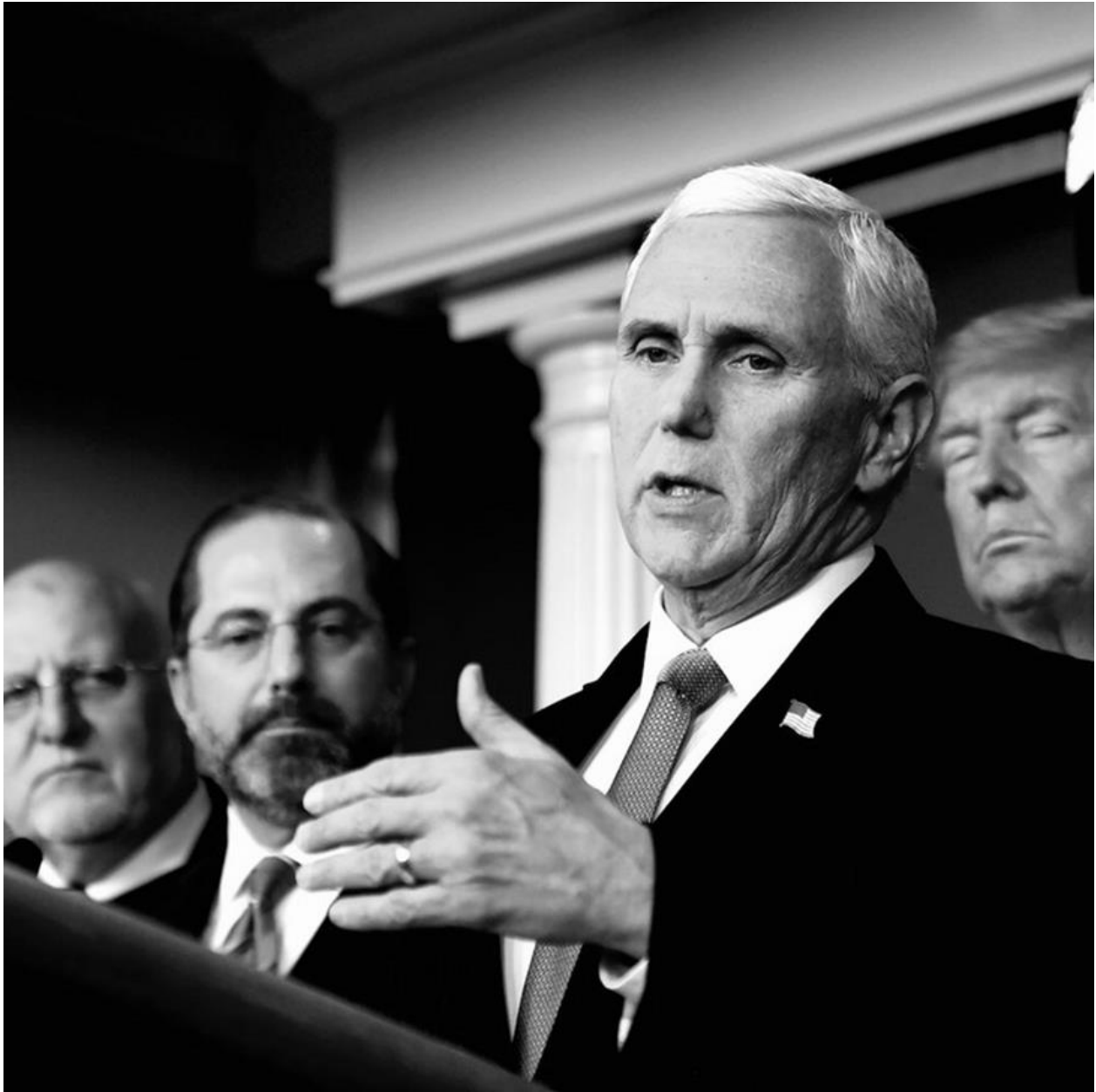
## FEATURE

# Coronavirus in U.S.

## Everything to Know About the Coronavirus in the United States

By [Claire Lampen](#), [Hannah Gold](#), and [Amanda Arnold](#)

<https://www.thecut.com/2020/04/which-states-have-coronavirus-and-how-do-you-minimize-risk.html>



*Mike Pence, commander of the U.S. coronavirus task force for some reason. Photo: ERIC BARADAT/AFP via Getty Images*

In February, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned that the United

States should [brace for a domestic coronavirus outbreak](#).

Throughout the month of March, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. has risen dramatically, and the U.S. now has the highest confirmed case count in the world.

As of Wednesday morning, [at least 188,247 people](#) across every state, Washington, D.C., and four territories have tested positive for the disease.

Globally, more than [868,100 cases](#) of COVID-19 have been reported in 171 countries, with at least 43,010 deaths so far.

In March, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic, and [President Trump declared a national state of emergency](#).

As of Wednesday morning, more than [3,900 American patients](#) with the virus have died.

Here's everything we know about [the spread of the virus in the U.S. so far](#).

How many new coronavirus cases have been confirmed in the U.S.?

As of April 1, there were at least [188,247 confirmed cases](#) of COVID-19 in the U.S., and at least [3,921 patients](#) with the virus had died. However, officials have warned that due to delays in testing in many areas, the total number of infected individuals is likely much higher.

Over the last week, the rate of diagnosis has accelerated dramatically as a number of states have expanded their testing capacity; New York State, which has been testing aggressively, has been announcing thousands of new cases every day. Yet the *New York Times* [reports](#) that there's still huge variation in the rates of testing among states.

New York has had by far the largest outbreak in the country, with at least [76,030 confirmed cases](#) and 1,552 deaths as of Wednesday.

New Jersey is also among the states that have been hardest hit by the virus, along with California and Michigan. Washington State had

some of the country's earliest confirmed cases, with 37 deaths from the virus [linked](#) to an outbreak of COVID-19 at a long-term care facility, the Life Care Center, in Kirkland, Washington.

Louisiana experienced a [sudden spike](#) in confirmed COVID-19 cases last week, which experts suspect could be linked to Mardi Gras celebrations, which concluded on February 25.

What measures are being taken to limit the spread of coronavirus?

As the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has continued to rise, a growing number of states have announced drastic measures to slow the spread of the virus.

As of April 1, [officials in 33 states](#) have [urged residents to stay at home](#), including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, as well as Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

These "stay-at-home" orders require residents to stay in their homes except for essential activities, which include buying food, seeking medical treatment, and exercising outdoors, provided they stay six feet away from anyone not part of their household.

Medical professionals, caregivers, public-safety officials, sanitation workers, and other essential workers, such as those who work in grocery stores and pharmacies, are exempt.

A number of cities have also announced stay-at-home orders, and Pennsylvania and Nevada have [ordered all nonessential businesses](#) in their states to close.

According to the *New York Times*, as of Wednesday, more than three-quarters of the U.S.

population has been urged or ordered to stay at home.

The widespread lockdowns have had serious economic consequences, and record numbers of Americans have filed for unemployment claims.

Though President Trump had previously [questioned](#) whether the economic toll of stay-at-home orders was worth it, on Sunday he [announced](#) that Americans must continue to avoid nonessential travel, going to work, eating at bars and restaurants, and gathering in groups of more than ten for at least another month, and possibly until June.

Dr. Deborah Birx, who is coordinating the nation's coronavirus response, [said Tuesday](#) that strict adherence to social-distancing guidelines, like statewide stay-at-home orders, is the most effective way to slow the spread of the virus. However, even with such restrictions, the estimated death toll in the U.S. is between 100,000 and 240,000.

Speaking Tuesday, President Trump told Americans to brace themselves for a “very, very painful two weeks.”

As of Friday, [schools in 46 states](#) were closed entirely. In New York City, the largest school district in the country, public schools will remain closed until at least April 20, though Mayor Bill de Blasio said there was a strong chance they would not reopen before the end of the school year. The mayor said that some schools will reopen as “enrichment centers” to provide services to vulnerable children, including homeless students and those with special needs, and that the city would open centers to [provide child care](#) for the children of health-care and emergency workers.

Governor Andrew Cuomo has warned that the New York outbreak may still be weeks away from its peak, and that the state's hospital system may soon be overwhelmed by the number of coronavirus cases.

[This week](#) in New York, a 68-bed field hospital was erected in Central Park, a naval hospital ship docked in Manhattan, and a 1,000-bed emergency hospital opened at the Javits Convention Center. Additionally, more than 500 paramedics, 2,000 nurses, and 250 ambulances from across the country are headed to New York to assist with the city's health-care response.

Both Cuomo and de Blasio have criticized the federal government for not taking sufficient action to provide needed medical equipment and supplies, including face masks and ventilators. Although President Trump [said on Thursday](#) that he thought the need for ventilators may have been exaggerated, on Friday, he [invoked](#) the Defense Production Act to order General Motors to ramp up their manufacture.

What is the federal government doing to fight coronavirus?

In February, President Donald Trump [put Vice-President Mike Pence](#) — a man with [a frankly dismal track record](#) in public health — in charge of the coronavirus response, [assuring the public](#) that the White House is “very, very ready for this.”

In March, President Trump [declared](#) a national emergency over the coronavirus pandemic, effectively freeing up to \$50 billion in federal funds to help states and territories fight the spread of the virus, which he said would include expanding access to testing.

Still, there have been many issues with the availability of the coronavirus test. Some people say they've been [denied tests](#), and even though Pence [announced](#) on March 3 that anyone in the country can be tested for coronavirus, subject to doctor's orders, the rate of testing still varies widely from state to state.

The *Times* [reported](#) last week that the U.S. was performing 65,000 tests a day — a huge rise from even a week earlier. However, public-health experts say about 150,000 tests a day are

needed to identify infected patients and slow the spread of the virus.

On Friday, however, the FDA [approved](#) a five-minute coronavirus test that should ship this week, [allegedly](#) delivering 50,000 tests daily by April 1.

On March 19, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo [announced](#) that the U.S. would close its borders with Canada and Mexico, barring entry to all nonessential travelers. The announcement was the latest in an increasing list of travel restrictions. President Trump has also barred entry of all foreign nationals who have been in high-risk countries, including China, Iran, and much of Europe, within the last 14 days.

As of March 13, American citizens and permanent residents who are returning to the U.S. from those areas are required to fly through one of 13 airports, though Pompeo has said that U.S. citizens traveling abroad “should arrange to return immediately,” unless they plan to remain out of the country for an extended time.

The State Department has also [issued a Level 4 “do not travel” advisory](#), the most serious advisory at its disposal, asking United States citizens to avoid any global travel. It has also [advised](#) Americans, especially those who are older or have existing medical conditions, to avoid cruises at this time.

On Saturday, the CDC [issued](#) a travel advisory for residents of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, asking them to “refrain from non-essential domestic travel” for 14 days.

On Friday, President Trump signed a [\\$2 trillion stimulus plan](#), the largest in modern American history. The plan will send direct payments of around \$1,200 to millions of

Americans who earn less than \$99,000, along with an additional \$500 per child. The plan will also substantially expand unemployment benefits, including extending eligibility to freelance and gig workers, and provide aid to businesses and companies in distress.

Last week, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin extended the tax-filing deadline to July 15.

President Trump has also signed a relief package to establish paid emergency leave for [some American workers](#), expand food assistance, medical aid, and unemployment benefits, and offer free coronavirus testing.

The U.S. House and Senate recently [reached a deal](#) to provide \$8.3 billion in emergency funding to stop the spread of the coronavirus. According to [the Washington Post](#), the money will go toward the development of a vaccine, public-health funding, medical supplies, and research of coronavirus in other countries.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization has said it will take [around 18 months](#) to develop a vaccine for COVID-19.

**What should I do to minimize my coronavirus risk?**

In most cases, COVID-19 is not fatal, but [it appears to pose the greatest risk](#) to elderly people and those with preexisting conditions that compromise their immune systems. The New York *Times* [reports](#) that among those who have died in the U.S., almost all have been in their 70s, 80s, and 90s.

However, a [new report](#) by the CDC found that American adults of all ages have been seriously sickened by the virus, noting that 38 percent of American patients who have been hospitalized with the virus were between the ages

the CDC found that  
American adults of all  
ages have been  
seriously sickened by  
the virus

of 20 and 54. (Doctors and medical workers may also be at greater risk, due to their higher-than-average odds of exposure.)

Because the CDC [anticipates a sharp uptick](#) in domestic transmission, it is urging people to prepare for the worst: Stock up on supplies — medicine, non-perishable foods, toilet paper, etc. — and [fastidiously wash your hands](#).

If you have symptoms associated with coronavirus — coughing, fever, respiratory issues — call your doctor before showing up at their office: The virus is highly contagious and you want to limit the possibility of spreading it.

If you are sick, [the CDC recommends](#) that you stay home and self-isolate, confining yourself to one room as much as possible and

wearing a face mask when you have to interact with others. Wash your hands frequently — soap and water and at least 20 seconds of scrubbing — and avoid touching shared household items, cleaning “high-touch” surfaces (like [your phone](#)) regularly.

Your health-care provider and even local health department will help you determine how long it’s appropriate for you to keep up these precautions.

Regardless of whether or not you have symptoms, though, keep your hands clean, and seriously, [stop touching your face](#) and [just stay home](#).

*This post has been updated.*