

19 March 2020 : COVID-19 News

Day 59: 205 deaths in 25 states; Italy's death toll passes China; all Californians told to stay at home; 34-year-old California man dies from coronavirus disease

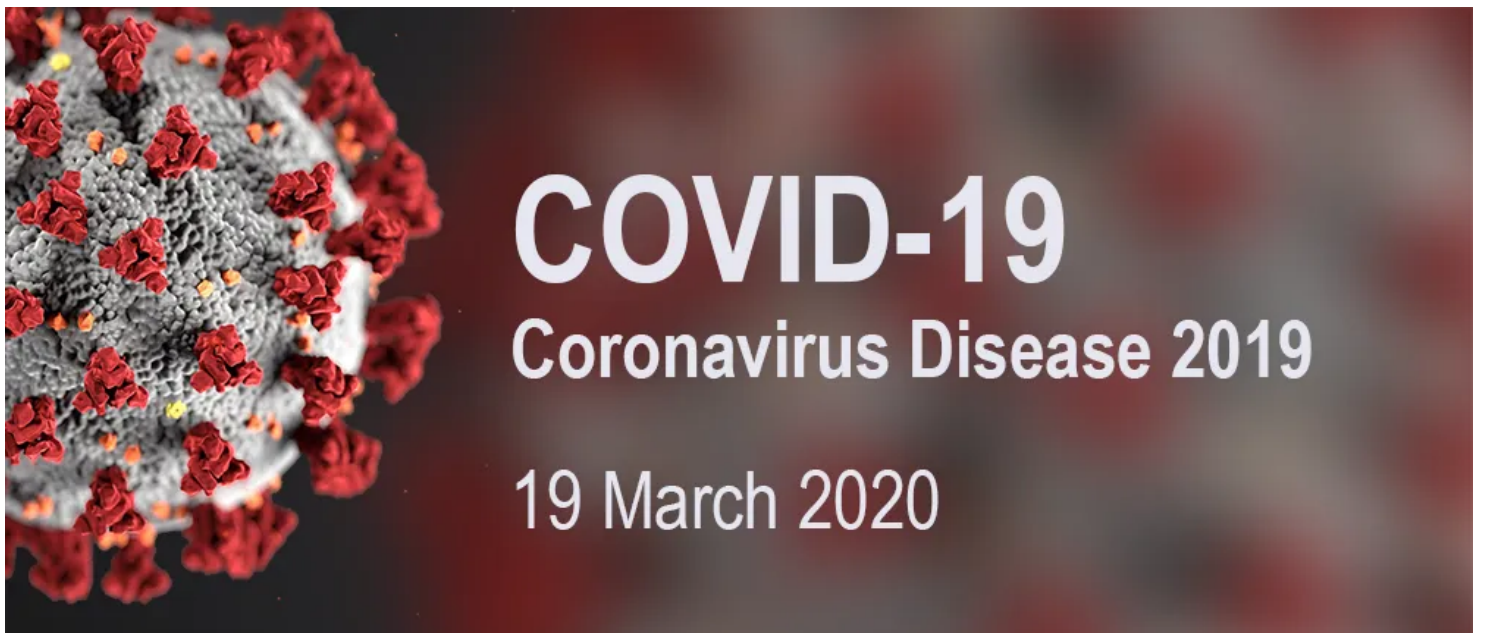


⚡ KATHY E GILL

MAR 20, 2020



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It's day 59 since the first case of coronavirus disease was announced in the United States. Johns Hopkins reports 205 deaths since the first death was announced 20 days ago (three weeks after the news about how the virus was affecting Wuhan reached a global audience.) Identified cases today are between 10,000 and 14,000 (depending on the source).

China, with a population of 1.4 billion, has experienced 3,253 deaths with 81,199 cases.

Italy, with a population of 60 million, has had 3,405 deaths with 41,035 cases.

Read those numbers again.

Less than half the population, about half the number of cases, but more deaths.

What's the difference? One might be that [China's experience with SARS led it to act more](#)

quickly, although China has been criticized for initially minimizing the disease. Another might have been China's lockdown, estimated to have been half or most of the country's population.

Italy also locked down the country, an "unprecedented" move, on 10 March 2020, after the number of cases almost doubled in 48 hours. On March 5, deaths totaled 105, that's about where the United States was on 17 March. And our death toll has almost doubled in 48 hours.

However, we have a population more than five times that of Italy, and the land mass of Italy is about the same as Georgia and Florida combined. That's 532 people/square mile (Italy) versus 92.9 (US). China is 375. Might population density be a key?

A data analysis by USA Today notes that

... public health data shows that nations that are so far faring well at suppressing the outbreak's spread have done so through this combination: easy access to testing, rigorous contact tracing, clear and consistent science-based messaging, and a commitment to studiously abide by quarantines while clamping down on socializing no matter how tempting it may be to stray.

The US has flunked number one; number two is now moot because of the failure of number one. As for messaging ... here's a quote from President Trump today:



⚡ Kathy E Gill | FlattenTheCurve!

@kegill

"Nobody's ever seen anything like this before."

Spanish flu, 101+ years ago (H1N1) 20-50M died
1957 (H2N2) ~2M died
1968 (H3N2) ~1M died
2009 (swine flu) ~18K died

"They had to ramp up, they had an obsolete system."
Unclear who "they" is unless Trump is again blaming

GOVERNORS

Governors around the country are closing schools; shutting down entertainment venues; and limiting the size of public gatherings. The country isn't locked down, but California is. [On Thursday, the governor told 40 million people to stay home except for essential travel](#); this is the most restrictive measure in the country.

The statewide mandate forced all [non-essential businesses to close](#). Residents have also been told to avoid all non-essential social contact, with groups of more than 10 people prohibited.

LA County announced a "[safer at home](#)" policy for its 10 million citizens.

All businesses that require workers to be present must stop operations by 11:59 p.m. Friday, [Los Angeles Mayor Eric] Garcetti said during a news conference. Businesses that provide "[essential services](#)" are exempt.

Recommended reading

- [A New York neurosurgeon has coronavirus. This is what he wants people to know](#), USA Today, 19 March 2020
- [Coronavirus will radically alter the U.S. Here's what may lie ahead based on math models](#), hospital projections and past pandemics, Washington Post, 19 March 2020 (no paywall)
- [How Korea trounced U.S. in race to test people for coronavirus](#), Reuters, 18 March 2020
- [The U.S. needs a 9/11 Commission-style probe of coronavirus response](#), Seattle Times, 13 March 2020

Recommended viewing

[ABC News correspondent speaks out after testing positive for COVID-19](#)



Around the country

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the US Virgin Islands have identified COVID-19 cases. The 205 known deaths are from 25 states, with most from Washington.

A 34-year-old man with a childhood history of asthma and bronchitis [has died of coronavirus disease](#) in California. He died less than a week after having been admitted to the hospital. He flew to Orlando for work on 02 March and visited DisneyWorld and Universal Studios while there. He developed a cough on 07 March and flew home on 09 March.

U.S. Surgeon General

@Surgeon_General

Hospital & healthcare systems, PLEASE CONSIDER STOPPING ELECTIVE PROCEDURES until we can [#FlattenTheCurve!](#) 🙏

Each elective surgery you do:

- 1) Brings possible [#Coronavirus](#) to your facilities
- 2) Pulls from PPE stores

3) Taxes personnel who may be needed for #COVID-19 responsyc

AmericanCollSurgeons @AmCollSurgeons

Hospitals, health systems and surgeons should prepare now to manage elective surgical procedures during COVID-19 outbreak, with a plan to minimize, postpone, or cancel at this time. Read our guidance: <https://t.co/rWRoDYI598> #COVID19

12:07 PM · Mar 14, 2020

2,905 Likes 1,594 Retweets

In Washington, Governor Inslee has [restricted non-urgent medical and dental](#) procedures. Other places where [elective surgeries](#) are off the calendar (not an exhaustive list): [Colorado](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), [New York City](#), [Minnesota](#), [Oklahoma](#) and [Wisconsin](#).

[New York City will run out of medical supplies](#) in 2-3 weeks if not replenished. The governor has ordered 3-out-of-4 of a company's non-essential workers to stay home.

In Indiana, [Deaconess Health System is asking the community to sew masks](#) for medical staff. And there are [CDC protocols](#) for this work-around when other supplies are exhausted.

The [shortages](#) are widespread. [Phoebe Putney in Albany, GA is also sewing masks](#).

From [Buffalo, NY](#) to [Henderson, KY](#) ... from [Providence in Renton, WA](#) to [Valley View in Glenwood Springs, CO](#) ... citizens and hospitals are organizing sewing teams.

Construction masks are also helpful.

Niran Al-Agba MD

@silverdalepedis

I found two boxes on my doorstep this morning. Thank you whoever you are. This independent doctor is forever grateful. [#GetMePPE](#) [#ppeisnotoptional](#)

7:49 PM · Mar 17, 2020

1,242 Likes 169 Retweets

Politics, economics and COVID-19

Perhaps this will be easier in Tweets:

Kyle Cheney

@kyledcheney

Wow, [@timkmak](#) obtained a recording of Sen. BURR three weeks ago in which he tells attendees of a private luncheon of dire coronavirus consequences long before the WH was acknowledging them publicly.

<https://t.co/mbWrEkhNll>

1:51 PM · Mar 19, 2020

12,947 Likes 7,209 Retweets

[Senate Republicans propose to bail out business](#) and also offer up to \$2,400 per couple with restrictions based on 2018 tax returns. I explained yesterday [why \\$50 billion for airlines rewarding risky management decisions](#) (pocket-lining might be a more accurate description) and thus a bad deal for taxpayers.

States should be removing barriers to absentee voting and looking at ways to expand vote by mail (like Colorado, Oregon and Washington). Instead, we have disgraceful moves to make it harder to vote, like this in Kentucky.

Ari Berman

@AriBerman

Outrageous news from Mitch McConnell's home state:
instead of passing emergency vote by mail law Kentucky

instead of passing emergency vote by their law, Kentucky GOP legislature just rushed through new voter ID law at time when DMVs are closed & voters can't get ID needed to vote

amp.courier-journal.com

Voter photo ID bill passes Kentucky legislature, heads to Gov. Beshear's desk

The bill requiring voters to present photo identification in order to vote now heads to Gov. Beshear's desk for his signature or veto.

1:57 AM · Mar 20, 2020

1,007 Likes 1,102 Retweets

Global news

The number of affected countries [jumped from 29 at the end of February to 167 today](#) . Although early reports tied the outbreak to a seafood (“wet”) market in Wuhan, China, [analyses of genomic data suggest that the virus may have developed elsewhere](#).

[WHO reports that the world has passed 200,000](#) cases of COVID-19. It took three months to reach first 100,000 cases. It took 12 days to reach the next 100,000. That's exponential growth.

Spanish officials [have confirmed 767 deaths](#). The country declared a [15-day national emergency](#), starting on 15 March.

The Australian prime minister says that most [cases of COVID-19 have come from Americans](#).

In South Korea, [cases approach 9,000](#).

Case count

Tests are becoming more widely available as state, university and commercial labs implement testing. There is a lag between the initial period of contagion and a person showing symptoms

showing symptoms.

19 March, global

- Globally: 209,839 confirmed (16,556 new) with 8778 deaths (828 new)
- Regions of the Americas: 9,144 confirmed (4,166 new) with 119 deaths (50 new)

[WHO Situation report, 59](#)

- Global confirmed: 244,517
- Total deaths: 10,030
- Total recovered: 86,025

[Johns Hopkins interactive dashboard](#)

19 March, domestic

Nationally* there are a total of 10,442 cases and 501 deaths [according to the CDC](#), and 14,250 cases and 205 deaths [according to Johns Hopkins](#) (10 pm, Pacific) **All 50 states plus DC** are reporting **11,980** identified cases. [View infographic and data online.](#)

***CDC data include Puerto Rico, Guam, and US Virgin Islands**

What you can do

1. Stay home when sick.
2. Stay home as much as possible, period.
3. Avoid crowded places.

What do to when you or a loved one feels sick

Digestive problems may be a symptom:

ACG

@AmCollegeGastro

Study from The American Journal of [#Gastroenterology](#)
Reveals Diarrhea is Prominent Symptom of [#COVID19](#)
Wuhan data show that up to half of patients present w/ a

digestive symptom as chief complaint Read AJG:
bit.ly/2Qrpx6t ACG Statement bit.ly/2xHALwS #AmJGastro

4:46 PM · Mar 18, 2020

180 Likes 194 Retweets

Resources

- [Aggregated list of official sources](#)
- [CDC, COVID-19 overview, US](#)
- [Coronavirus resources & readings](#)
- [Johns Hopkins, COVID-19 interactive dashboard](#)
- [Johns Hopkins, COVID-19 overview](#)
- [Our World in Data](#)
- [Twitter list of experts, news and organizations](#)
- [WHO, COVID-19 global overview and COVID-19 rolling updates](#)

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