

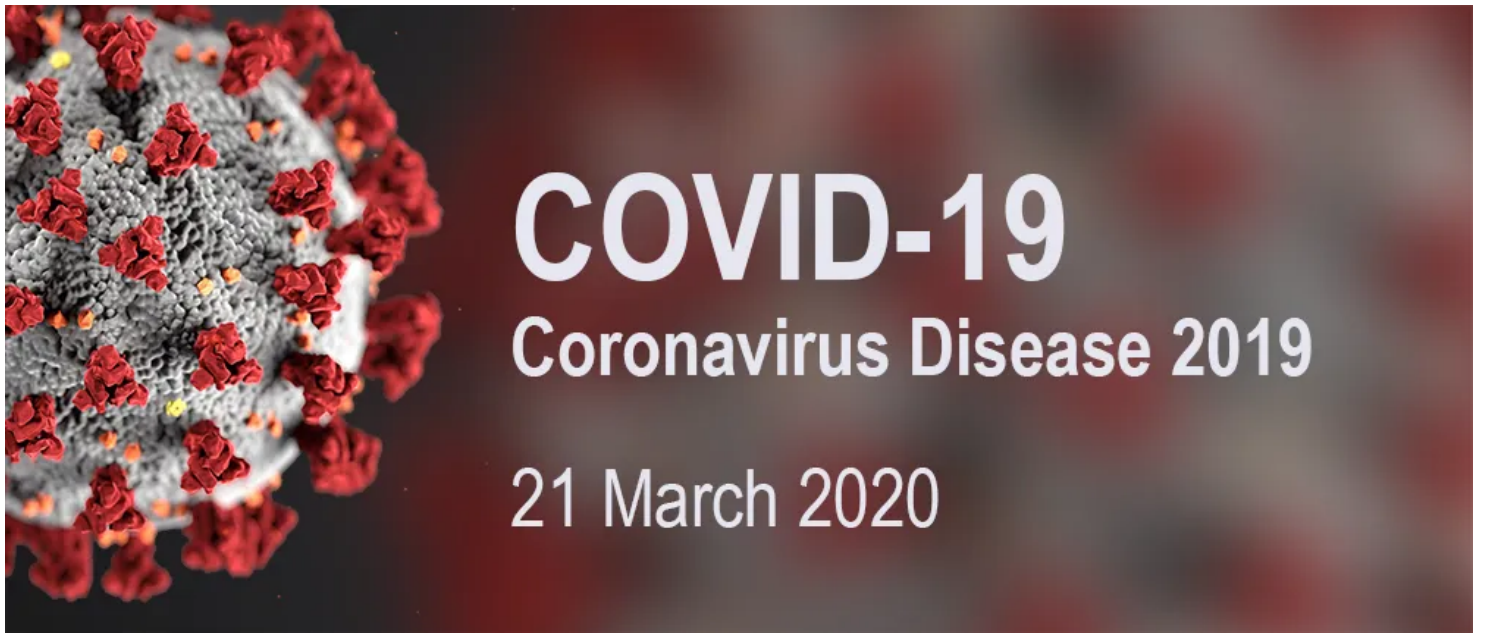
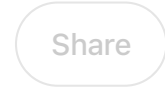
# 21 March 2020 : COVID-19 News

US jumps to third place in total identified cases worldwide with 26,747; Italy closes all non-essential businesses; more states direct citizens to stay at home



⚡ KATHY E GILL

MAR 22, 2020



It's day 61 since the first case of coronavirus disease was announced in the United States. [Johns Hopkins reports](#) 340 deaths, an increase of 31 percent from yesterday. Identified cases from state departments of health are 24,043, an increase of 37 percent from yesterday. Testing is continuing to ramp up.

**The US (26,747) has jumped to third in the world in identified cases, behind China (81,348) and Italy (53,578) in the Johns Hopkins dashboard. On 18 March, we were eighth. However, those numbers do not reflect the relationship between cases and total population of the country (potential cases).**

**Context: Italy's case load is 878.3/million; the US is 86.3/million; and China is 58.7/million.**





# Coronavirus CO

Total Confirmed

**307,280**

Confirmed Cases by  
Country/Region/Sovereignty

**81,348** China

**53,578** Italy

**26,747** US

**25,496** Spain

**22,364** Germany

**20,610** Iran

**14,485** France

8,897 Korea, South

6,652 Switzerland

On Saturday, Italy closed all non-essential businesses.

In “I’m not an epidemiologist but...” dissects the social media “influencers” driving conversation around SARS-CoV-2 and coronavirus disease.

Head over to Twitter and search “not an epidemiologist but” if you want to see how prevalent and freewheeling the speculation about COVID-19 has become. As the pandemic has affected lives around the world, it seems like nearly everyone on social media wants to be a public health expert.

Vincent Racaniello, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Columbia University, told BuzzFeed the information available in social media channels is “mostly garbage.”

He said there’s absolutely an incentive on social platforms to constantly be providing updates, but the insatiable need for experts is also due to a lack of leadership from the federal government. “We’re getting very little federal guidance,” he said. “There’s no pandemic plan.”

Think before sharing: are you lighting a fire or illuminating an insight or correcting bad info?

Local and state officials continue to roll out shelter in place orders.

- Athens-Clarke County, GA, is under a shelter-in-place order until April 7.
- Blaine County, ID, is under a shelter-in-place order.
- San Miguel County, CO, is under a shelter-in-place order until April 3.
- CT, Gov. Ned Lamont has issued an executive order effective Monday.
- NJ Gov. Phil Murphy ordered residents to stay at home effective midnight Saturday.
- OR residents, at least in the Portland area, can expect a directive after the weekend.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler called it a “stay at home unless it’s absolutely necessary to go out” order.

- [WA still has no shelter-in-place order](#) although there are other restrictions in place. Gov. Jay Inslee is unhappy at reports that some businesses are thumbing their noses at the current orders.

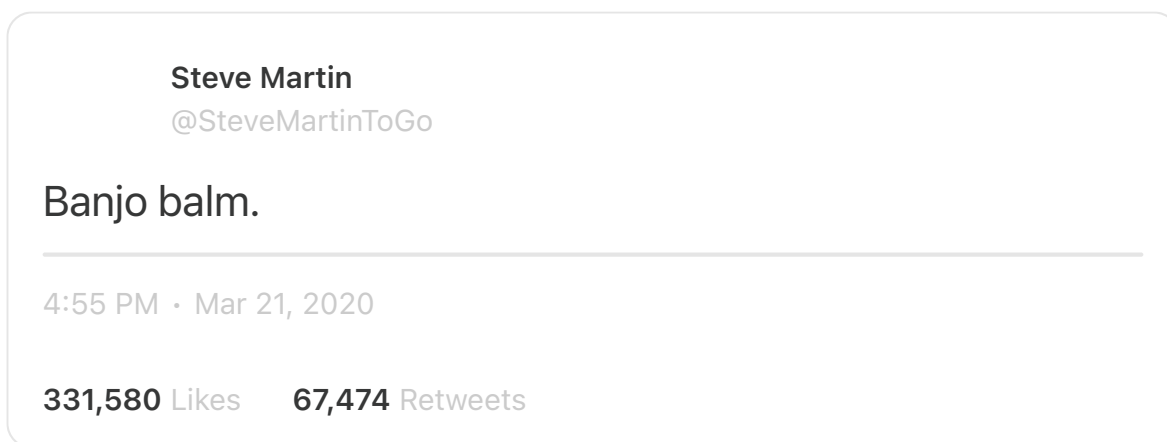
There’s a tool for that: [this epidemic calculator is on GitHub](#) and a hospital system has [developed a self-triage tool](#).

## Recommended reading

This is a combo reading/watching recommendation: in 2015 Bill Gates gave a TED talk, [We’re not ready for the next epidemic](#). This GatesNotes essay contains the video as well as additional information, including links to an [op-ed for the NYT](#) and [an essay in the New England Journal of Medicine](#).

## Recommended watching

78 seconds of banjo balm from Steve Martin



## Around the country

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands have identified COVID-19 cases. The 340 known deaths are from 32 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, with most from Washington.

The CDC now has a portal page for COVID-19 information: [coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). Note that the

symptoms page has not been updated to include gastro-intestinal distress, which has been [reported in research papers](#).

[New Orleans has one confirmed case for every 1,000 residents](#). New Orleans had held Mardi Gras celebrations, which bring in more than a million people, just two weeks before identifying its first case. This ProPublica essay is an interview with a local respiratory therapist.

I have patients in their early 40s and, yeah, I was kind of shocked.

Most states are not reporting cases based on age, and those who are do not use the scale scale. Eleven states with 5,272 identified cases show that 31 percent of their patients are younger than 40 years old.

In Washington, [Gov. Inslee asked for the U.S.S. Mercy](#) to be dispatched to here to support non-COVID-19 patients. [Sen. Patty Murray supports](#) Inslee's call for a major emergency declaration.

Virginia Mason Hospital has appealed to Gov. Inslee and local [officials in Yakima County to issue a stay-at-home order](#).

Hospital administrators said Saturday indications are the COVID-19 outbreak will overwhelm [the city's remaining hospital](#) unless people put themselves in lockdown, only leaving their home for absolute necessities... If nothing is done, hospital officials said projections estimate the hospital would be overwhelmed by April 8.

## PSA

American Red Cross

@RedCross

Patients are counting on lifesaving blood throughout this pandemic. If you're healthy, schedule an appointment to give in the days ahead: [rdcrss.org/3aazwog](https://rdcrss.org/3aazwog) [#coronavirus](#)

3:09 PM · Mar 20, 2020

331 Likes 332 Retweets

## Politics, economics and COVID-19

The Dow Jones Industrial Average has dropped 24.54% so far in March. This currently stands [as the second-worst decline in history](#); first place goes to the 30.7% monthly drop in September of 1931.

As medical supplies tighten, caregivers have turned to Twitter and Facebook to appeal for personal protective equipment (PPE).

President Trump: “the throwing away of the masks, being in private business, the throwing away of the masks right away ... why aren’t we sanitizing the masks ... why aren’t we we have very good ugh liquids for doing this sanitizing the masks and that’s something that they are doing more and more sanitizing the masks”

Tom “We need PPE” Folan

@tomfolanmd

Blaming healthcare workers for using masks to protect themselves from a highly communicable disease while treating ill patients when you had 12 weeks to prepare to get those workers the protection they need is called gaslighting.

[#CoronavirusPandemic](#)

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12:46 AM · Mar 22, 2020

495 Likes 168 Retweets

## Global news

The number of affected countries **jumped from 29 at the end of February to 179 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**.

**Ashleigh Stewart**

@Ash\_Stewart\_

**#COVID19** global latest:

- 1 billion people in lockdown
- India starts 14-hour curfew
- Australia about to get v draconian
- First 2 virus cases in Gaza
- China reports 46 new cases
- South Korea reports 48, Philippines 73
- Spain's death toll over 1300
- Kuwait imposed curfew

3:28 AM · Mar 22, 2020

**6,897** Likes   **2,503** Retweets

A women's football team that had flown to Honduras to perform charity work was caught in that country's response to COVID-19. **On Friday, the team flew to Charleston, SC, on a C-130**, according to the US Southern Command.

A reminder that South Korea kicked off its public health plan at the first sign of coronavirus, unlike the US. South China Morning Press describes this as a phone booth but it makes me think of a transparent confessional!

**SCMP News**

@SCMPNews

South Korea has set up 'phone booths' that can test people for the **#coronavirus** in just 7 minutes. The country

nas earned praise for its mass testing amid the [#COVID19](#) pandemic.

8:40 PM · Mar 19, 2020

28,196 Likes   14,586 Retweets

## Case count

Tests are becoming much more widely available. There is a lag between being contagious and showing symptoms. [The virus was not created in a lab.](#)

### 21 March, global

- Globally: 266,073 confirmed (32,000 new) with 11,184 deaths (1,344 new)
- Regions of the Americas: 18,877 confirmed (5,606 new) with 235 deaths (57 new)

### [WHO Situation report, 61](#)

- Global confirmed: 307,280
- Total deaths: 13,049
- Total recovered: 92,376

### [Johns Hopkins interactive dashboard](#)

### 21 March, domestic

Nationally\* there are a total of 15,219 cases and 201 deaths [according to the CDC](#), (updated Friday 20 March) and 26,747 cases and 340 deaths [according to Johns Hopkins](#) (11.50 pm, Pacific) All 50 states plus DC are reporting **24,043** identified cases. [View infographic and data online.](#)

\*CDC and Johns Hopkins 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.*

## Resources

- [Annotated coronavirus resources & readings](#)
- [Annotated list of official sources](#)
- [CDC, COVID-19 portal](#)
- [Johns Hopkins, COVID-19 interactive dashboard](#)  
[Download data from GitHub](#)
- [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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## Comments



