

23 March 2020 : COVID-19 News

Per capita case and death data put NY, NJ and WA in the worst-hit states and Italy, Switzerland, Spain and Iran in the worst-hit countries



⚡ KATHY E GILL

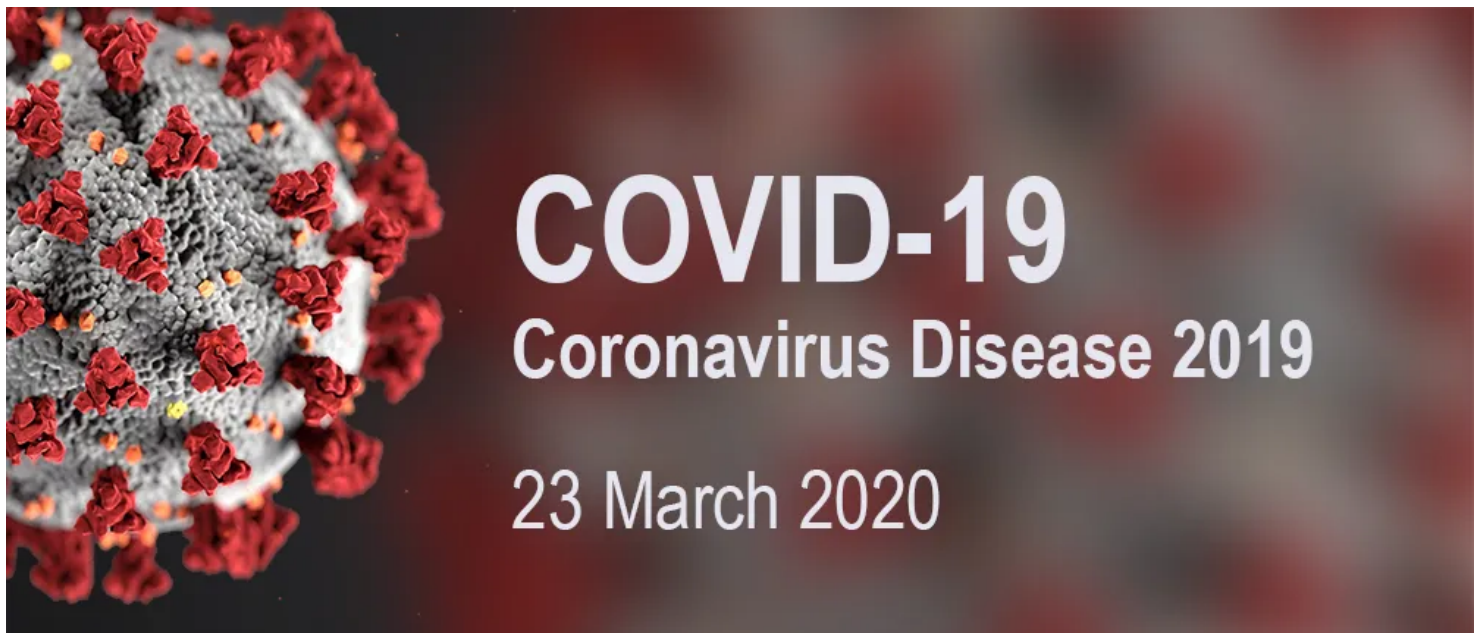
MAR 24, 2020



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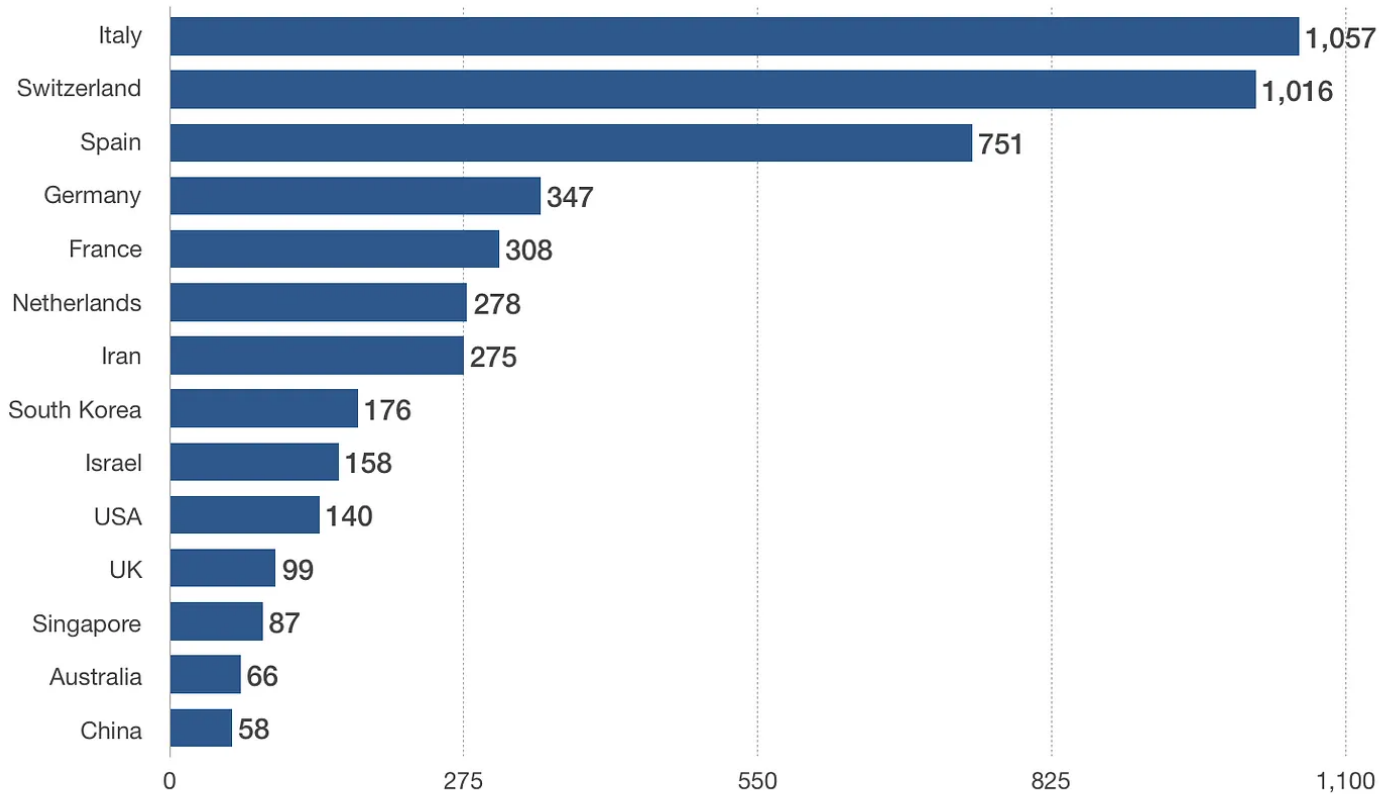
It's day 63 since the first case of coronavirus disease was announced in the United States. [Johns Hopkins reports](#) 610 deaths and 46,450 cases; state departments of health report 539 deaths and 44,710 cases.

In Europe, Italy and Spain dominate the headlines. With a health system under pressure, Italy's death toll hit 6,077 on Monday.

News reports focus on absolute numbers, which puts China (81,397) in first place, followed by Italy (59,138) and the U.S. (32,640).

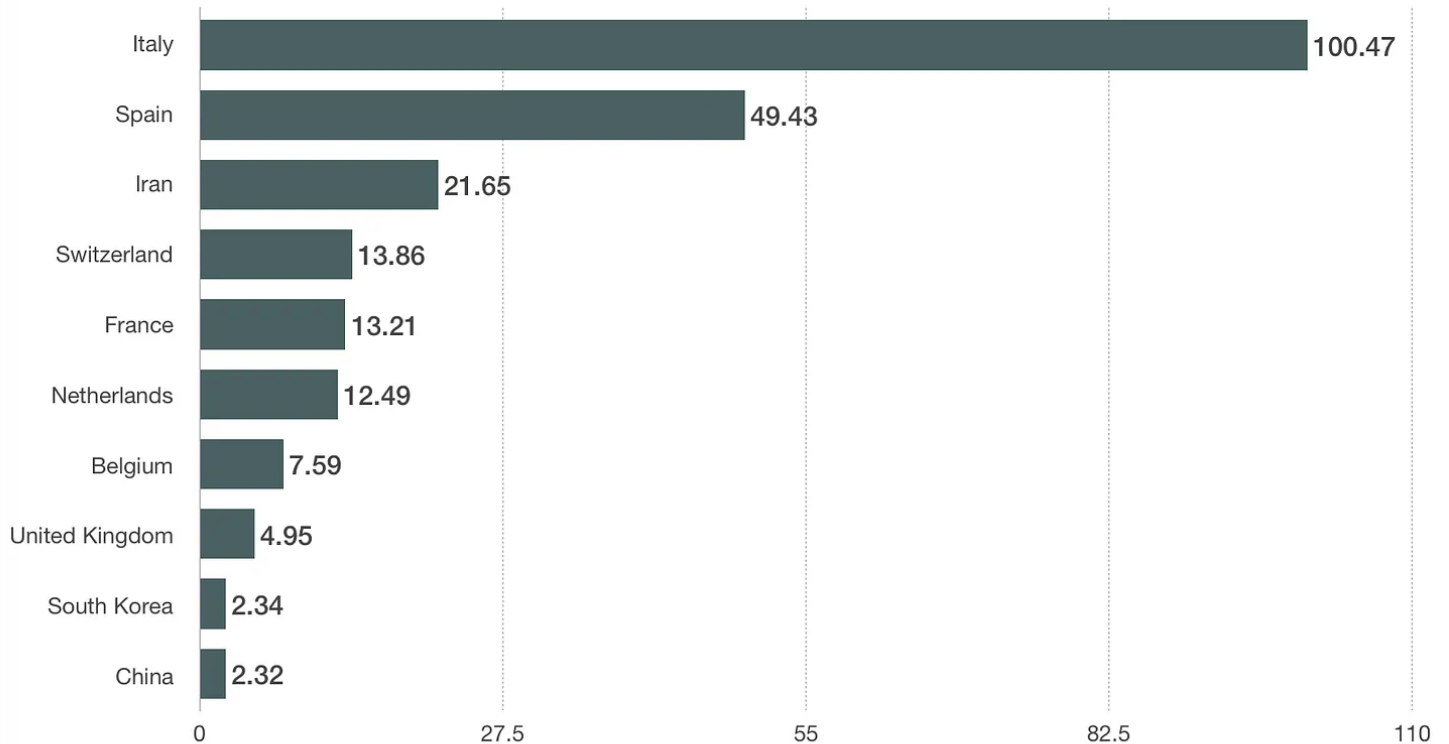
But transform that data into per capita comparisons, and you'll have a dramatically different picture. The same holds true for deaths per capita, and the list of countries is not the same.

COVID-19 Cases Per Million, 23 March 2020



John Hopkins Dashboard, 8:30 pm Pacific, @kegill

COVID-19 Deaths Per Million, 23 March 2020



John Hopkins Dashboard, 8:30 pm Pacific, @kegill

What's clear from these global data is that **Switzerland is suffering**, as is Iran, somewhat silently at least in terms of US media.

What happens if we take the same approach with US data?

- New York mirrors Italy in cases, 1,073.1/million, with 8.1 deaths/million
- New Jersey is a distant second, but it did lag on testing: 320.2 cases/million with a death rate of 3.0/million
- Washington is third with 291.7 cases/million but has the highest death rate at 14.4/million

The US averages are 6.51 cases/million and 0.48 deaths/million.

See the charts below in the case count.

Add one more less common symptom to the list: [an inability to smell or taste](#) may a signal that you have the disease.

Recommended reading

- [I'm 26. Coronavirus Sent Me to the Hospital](#). Millennials: If you can't stay at home for others, do it for yourselves. *New York Times*, 23 March 2020.

I'm 26. I don't have any prior autoimmune or respiratory conditions. I work out six times a week, and abstain from cigarettes. I thought my role in the current health crisis would be as an ally to the elderly and compromised. Then, I was hospitalized for Covid-19.

- [Keeping the Coronavirus from Infecting Health-Care Workers](#). What Singapore's and Hong Kong's success is teaching us about the pandemic. *New Yorker*, 21 March 2020.

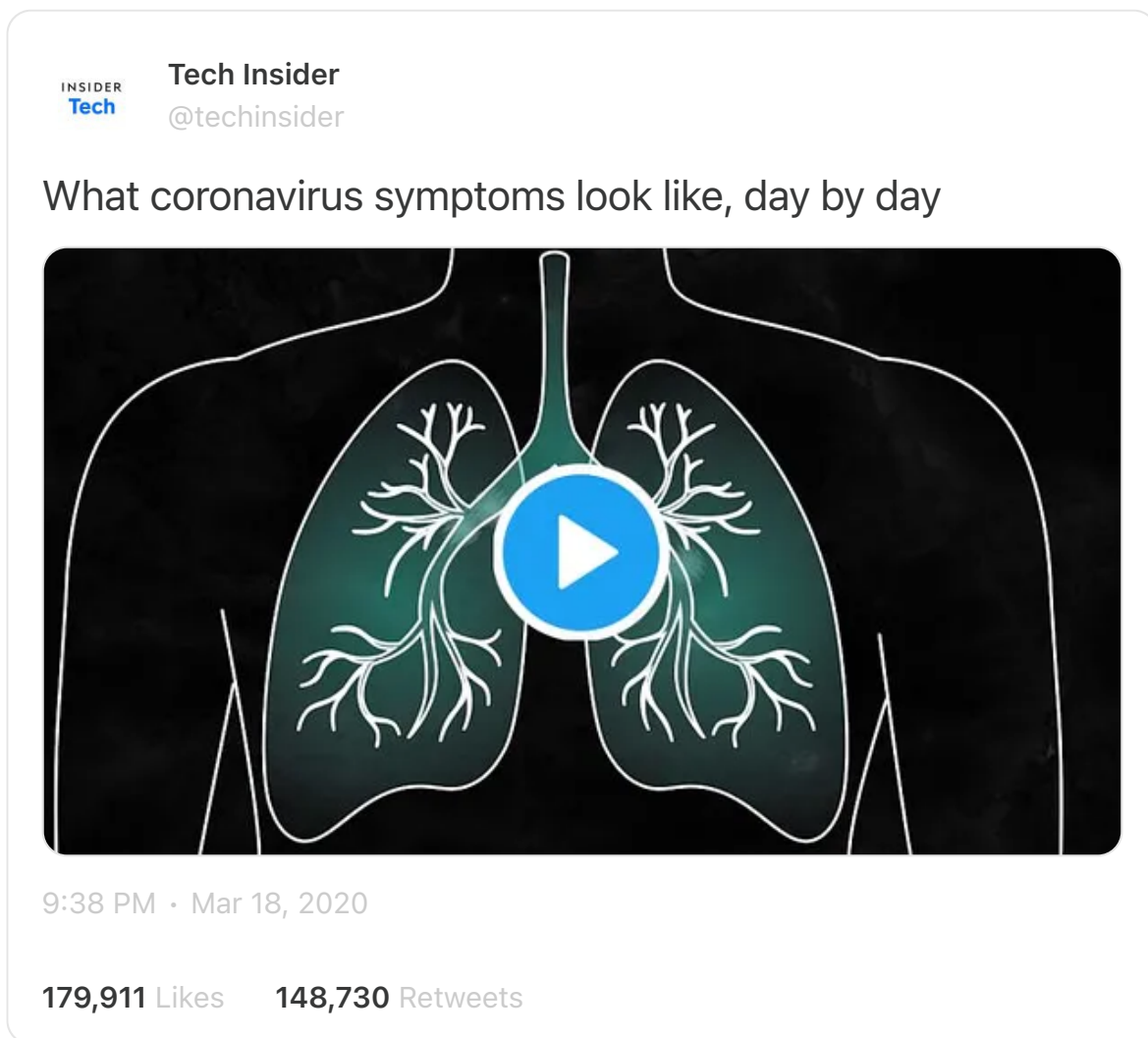
Those of us who must go out into the world and have contact with people don't have to panic if we find out that someone with the coronavirus has been in the same room or stood closer than we wanted for a moment. Transmission seems to occur primarily through sustained exposure in the absence of basic protection or through the lack of hand hygiene after contact with secretions.

- [The coronavirus isn't alive. That's why it's so hard to kill](#). The science behind what

makes this coronavirus so sneaky, deadly and difficult to defeat. Washington Post, 23 March 2020.

Andrew Pekosz, a virologist at Johns Hopkins University, compared viruses to particularly destructive burglars: They break into your home, eat your food and use your furniture and have 10,000 babies. “And then they leave the place trashed,” he said.

Recommended viewing



Around the country

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands have identified COVID-19 cases. The 539 known deaths are from 34 states plus the District of Columbia as well as Guam and Puerto Rico.

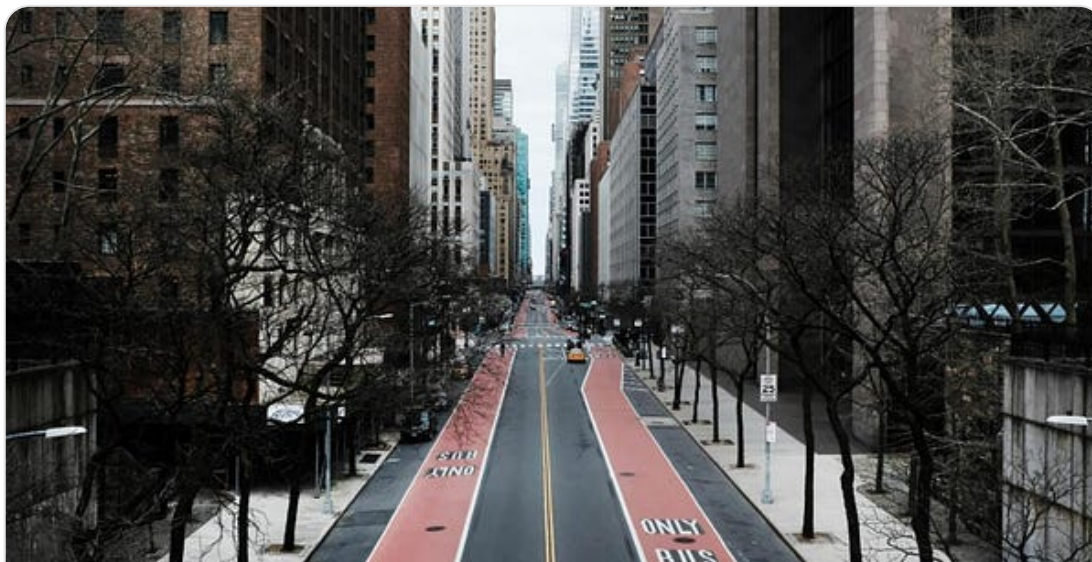
Governors in Oregon, Michigan, Virginia and Washington locked down their states on Monday. Some mayors in Western Washington are considering more stringent orders.



CNN
@CNN

These are the states that have implemented stay-at-home orders:

California
Connecticut
Delaware
Hawaii
Illinois
Indiana
Louisiana
Massachusetts
Michigan
New Jersey
New York
Ohio
Oregon
Washington
West Virginia



cnn.it

These states have implemented stay-at-home orders. Here's what that means for you

As the US grapples with the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus that has the health care system at a tipping point, a growing number of states are ...

2:24 AM · Mar 24, 2020

5,573 Likes 2,110 Retweets

Today the [CDC released analysis of the SARS-CoV-2](#) outbreaks on the Diamond Princess and the Grand Princess. On the Diamond Princess 712 of 3,711 people (19.2%) were infected by COVID-19. Half (46.5%) of those who tested positive were asymptomatic. On the Grand Princess, 78 cases were link to two separate voyages.

SARS-CoV-2 RNA was identified on a variety of surfaces in cabins of both symptomatic and asymptomatic infected passengers ***up to 17 days after cabins were vacated on the Diamond Princess*** but before disinfection procedures had been conducted

As of March 17, at least 25 cruise ships have confirmed COVID-19 cases either during or after the cruise.

In Georgia, a [12-year-old girl is in ICU](#) at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

[Drive-through testing](#) has opened north of Seattle. The service is available to people experiencing symptoms, such as coughing, a fever of at least 100.4 degrees, sore throat and shortness of breath AND who are in specific categories that present risks: pregnant, age 60 or older, health care workers, people who work in "critical infrastructure" and anyone with an underlying health condition. [Reservations are required](#).

Shared without comment:



NBC News
@NBCNews

Arizona man dies after ingesting chloroquine in an attempt

to prevent coronavirus. [nbcnews.to/2UJwKjF](https://www.nbcnews.com/health/2019-nCoV-coronavirus-prevention-treatment-ncna1031001) There are no drugs approved to try to prevent or treat the new coronavirus. Self-medicating to prevent the coronavirus can be dangerous and possibly deadly.



[nbcnews.to](https://www.nbcnews.com/health/2019-nCoV-coronavirus-prevention-treatment-ncna1031001)

A man died after ingesting a substance he thought would protect him from coronavirus

The man and his wife thought the ingredient, used to treat sick fish, could prevent the disease.

10:10 PM • Mar 23, 2020

7,528 Likes 6,697 Retweets

Politics, economics and COVID-19

President Trump seemed to express impatience when he declared, “[We can't let the cure be worse than the problem itself.](#)” There was an [echo from Texas](#):

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick told Fox News on Monday that he would rather perish from the new coronavirus than see the economy destroyed for his grandchildren by overreaction to the disease.

Trump was joined in questioning the shelter-in-place orders (which directly slow the economy) by NY Times columnist Tom Friedman, who amplified a controversial op-ed that

ran in StatNews on 17 March. The very next day, [StatNews published this rebuttal](#), which doesn't fit Friedman's narrative.

There are two options for Covid-19 at the moment: long-term social distancing or overwhelmed health care systems.

Science Twitter wasn't happy.



Nassim Nicholas Taleb

@nntaleb

EVIDENCE BASED is often BS:
Something to bear in mind if you hear "evidence based"
(and the cluelessness of John Ioannidis): fat tailed
distributions hide their tail.
To repeat: Fat tailed distributions hide their tail.



[academia.edu](#)

What You See and What You Don't See: The Hidden Moments of a Probability Distribution

Empirical distributions have their in-sample maxima as natural censoring. We look at the "hidden tail", that is, the part of the distribution ...

2:07 PM · Mar 19, 2020

1,207 Likes 335 Retweets

Gregg Gonsalves

@gregggonsalves

An epidemic of armchair epidemiology is happening @nytimes, first @DrDavidKatz, now @tomfriedman decide to opine on the dynamics of epidemics and their control, when neither of them (nor John Ioannidis) work on these topics. 1/

6:15 PM · Mar 22, 2020

4,441 Likes 1,786 Retweets

Alaska Airlines is reducing flights, but not by that much: about 15 percent per day for March.

Global news

The number of affected countries jumped from 29 at the end of February to 186 today. There are 195 countries in the world. 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 has launched a global trial, called SOLIDARITY, to explore four possible coronavirus treatments. About 15% of COVID-19 patients “[suffer] from severe disease” which overwhelms hospitals. To speed up the process for finding treatment, researchers are testing drugs already approved for other diseases. They’re also testing at drugs which have performed well in animal studies with two other coronaviruses, one that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and on that causes Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

In Britain, an 18-year-old male has died of coronavirus disease, reportedly the day after testing positive.

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.](#)

23 March, global

- Globally: 332,930 confirmed (40,788 new) with 14,510 deaths (1,727 new)
- Regions of the Americas: 37,016 confirmed (17,331 new) with 465 deaths (213 new)

[WHO Situation report, 63](#)

- Global confirmed: 381,293
- Total deaths: 16,572
- Total recovered: 101,344

[Johns Hopkins interactive dashboard](#) (8.30 pm Pacific)

23 March, domestic

Nationally* there are a total of 33,404 cases and 400 deaths [according to the CDC](#), and 46,332 (35,211) cases and 610 (417) deaths [according to Johns Hopkins](#) (21.30 pm, Pacific) All 50 states plus DC, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are reporting 44,710 (32,505) identified cases. [View infographic and data online.](#)

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

Data are now presented as cases per million.

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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