

24 March 2020 : COVID-19 News

US deaths almost double since Sunday; the virus has been detected in 190 of the 195 countries in the world; challenging the "biggest" recovery plan claim



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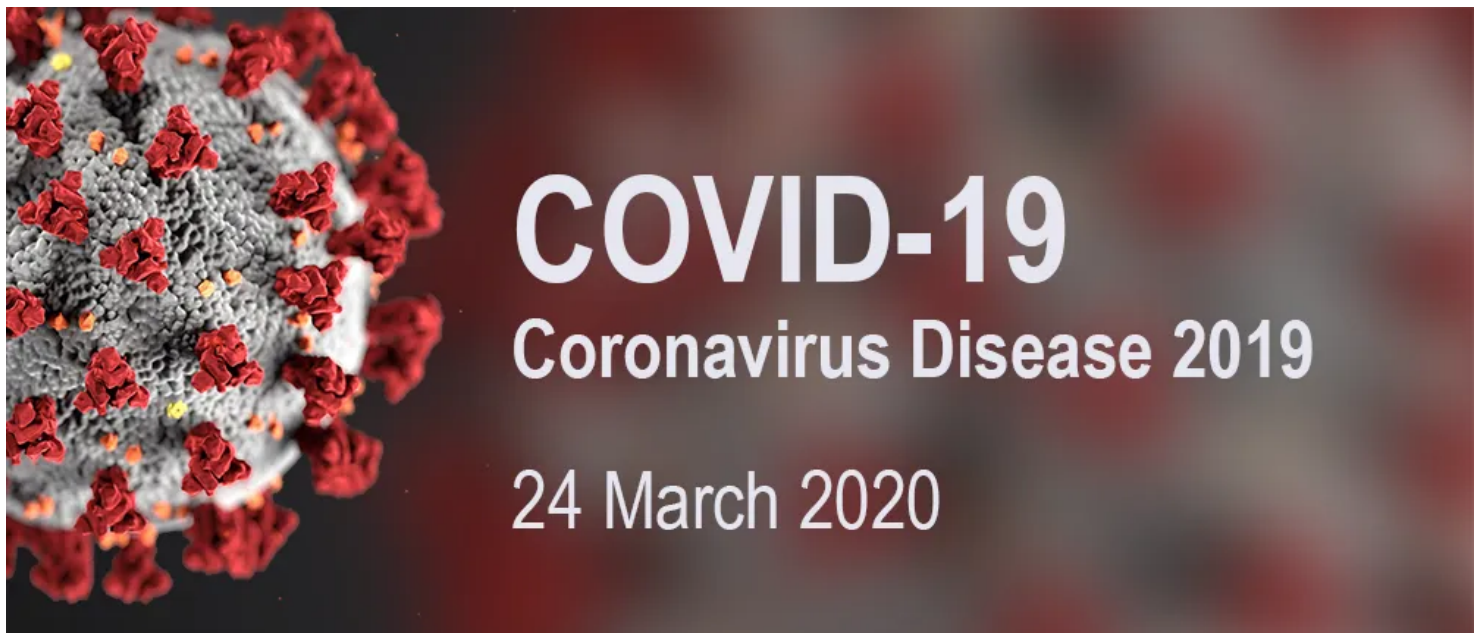
MAR 25, 2020



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It's day 64 since the first case of coronavirus disease was announced in the United States. [Johns Hopkins reports](#) 55,222 (46,332) cases and 797 (610) deaths, an increase of 48 and 91 percent, respectively, [since Sunday](#).

State departments of health report 53,182 identified cases and 724 deaths.

The pandemic in New York, specifically metro New York City, is causing reverberations outside its borders. The [Trump administration has asked](#) anyone who has recently left the NYC area to self-quarantine for 14 days. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis plans to sign an order [requiring self-isolation for anyone who flew to Florida from the New York](#) area in the past three weeks. Driving down is apparently OK.

The US remains behind China (81,591) and Italy (69,176) in total identified cases. In Italy, coronavirus deaths have topped 6,800. However, the relevant numbers are these:

Italy: 112.75 deaths/million and 1,144 cases/million
Spain: 63.97 deaths/million and 900 cases/million
Iran: 23.11 deaths/million and 297 cases/million
The Netherlands: 16.17 deaths/million and 326 cases/million
Switzerland: 14.10 deaths/million and 1,141 cases/million
USA: 2.41 deaths/million and 167 cases/million
China: 2.33 deaths/million and 58 cases/million

For comparison, on Sunday the USA data were 1.26 deaths per million and 98.61 cases/million. We are in the early stages of this disease; limiting contact with others will slow the transmission. Eventually, most of us will become infected and the longer we can stretch that timeline the more likely our health system will not collapse.

Recommended reading

- [Critical inhaler medication shortage looms as coronavirus cases soar](#). *ABC News*, 24 March 2020. [[Drug shortage notice](#).]
- [How Switzerland ended up with the second-highest coronavirus infection rate in the world](#). *Global News*, 22 March 2020 (updated 24 March).
- [I probably have a ‘mild to moderate’ case of covid-19. I don’t think I could survive worse](#). *Washington Post*, 24 March 2020.
- [We’re not allowing visitors in the I.C.U. My patients will suffer in solitary confinement](#). *NY Times*, 24 March 2020.

... as we tighten our protocols to protect our patients from the threat of Covid-19, she’s alone. Here in my hospital, as in so many others throughout the country, we’ve banished most visitors. It’s a tough decision that leaves our patients to suffer through their illnesses in a medical version of solitary confinement. And I’m worried for them. Because those of us on the front lines simply don’t have a plan for this.

Recommended viewing

This week TED is holding a series of conversations [TED Connects: Community and Hope](#)

This week, TED is holding a series of conversations, *TED Connects: Community and Hope*.

Recordings are on the TED website or Facebook.

- Monday: [Susan David](#), *How to be your best self in a time of crisis*
- Tuesday: [Bill Gates](#), *The healthcare systems we must urgently fix*
- Wednesday: Gary Lieu, *What we can learn from China's response to the coronavirus*
- Thursday: Seth Berkley, *The quest for the coronavirus vaccine*
- Friday: Priya Parker, *How to create meaningful connections while apart*

Highlights from the Gates session:

The U.S. is past this opportunity to control (COVID-19) without shutdown. We did not act fast enough to have an ability to avoid the shutdown...

It's very tough to say to people, 'Hey keep going to restaurants, go buy new houses, ignore that pile of bodies over in the corner, we want you to keep spending because there's some politician that thinks GDP growth is what counts.' [emphasis added]

Around the country

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands have identified COVID-19 cases. The 724 known deaths are from 39 states plus the District of Columbia as well as from Guam and Puerto Rico.

New York leads the United States in total deaths (210) with Washington following with 123. However, the relevant numbers are these:

Washington: 16.2 deaths/million and 324 cases/million

Vermont: 11.2 deaths/million and 152.2 cases/million

New York: 10.8 deaths/million and 1,319 cases/million

Both cases and deaths per million are important indicators. Number of cases extrapolates to number of hospital beds needed.

- The [mayor of Atlanta](#) has issued a 14-day stay-at-home order.

- The **governor of Vermont** has issued a “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order.
- **Every state has told businesses** that remote work is either “recommended” or “mandated.”
- Washington: **50,000 N95 masks** delivered to University of Washington researcher’s home thanks to Elon Musk, Tesla

More COVID-19 news from Tuesday.

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Eat and Repeat. Today, let’s repost and encourage people to order takeout or delivery to help support their (or your) favorite restaurants. Snap a photo or video of your meal or what your customers are ordering and tag us along with the hashtag **#greatamericantakeout**

5:04 PM · Mar 24, 2020

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Politics, economics and COVID-19

Leaders of the House, Senate and White House have agreed upon a **\$2 trillion “economic stimulus” package**.

The spending deal aims to support the economy by sending \$1,200 checks to many Americans, creating a \$367 billion loan program for small businesses and setting up a \$500 billion fund for industries, cities and states. A swift vote in Congress appears likely on Wednesday.

Many have argued that Americans don’t need an incentive to spend money (that’s what a stimulus package is intended to do - jump start a stalled economy). But is it the “biggest” ever?

At the time, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was called the country's largest "recovery plan." **Its price tag: \$1.1 trillion.**

Using 2009-adjusted dollars, **the Recovery Act cost \$2,738 per capita** and New Deal programs cost \$5,231 per capita.

Should this program cost an even \$2 trillion, in 2009 dollars, **that's \$4,955 per capita.** Which means that in context, the New Deal remains the largest recovery plan. However, this is only one bill. Combined state and federal efforts will probably dwarf the New Deal. Let's hope the unemployment rate doesn't.

Global news

The number of affected countries **jumped from 29 at the end of February to 190 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.**

- **In Japan**, although public gatherings have been discouraged, "**crowds of people strolled under the cherry blossoms** and spread out picnic blankets in Tokyo's Yoyogi Park last weekend, all but ignoring the posted signs warning of the dangers of COVID-19 spreading."
- The coronavirus has reached **Ecuador's Galapagos Islands.**
- The **summer Olympic Games** have been postponed to 2021.
- **Switzerland** has the **second highest infection rate** in the world (following Italy) and has banned all gatherings of more than five people.
- WHO has launched the **World Health Organization's Health Alert** on WhatsApp.

More COVID-19 news from Tuesday.

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.**

24 March, global

- Globally: 372,757 confirmed (39,827) with 16,231 deaths (1,722)
- Regions of the Americas: 49,444 confirmed (12,428) with 565 deaths (100)

WHO Situation report, 64

- Global confirmed: 422,989
- Total deaths: 18,916
- Total recovered: 108,578

Johns Hopkins interactive dashboard (11 pm Pacific)

24 March, domestic

Nationally* there are a total of 44,183 cases and 544 deaths [according to the CDC](#), and 55,222 (46,332) cases and 797 (610) deaths [according to Johns Hopkins](#) (11.00 pm, Pacific) All 50 states plus DC are reporting 53,126 (44,710) identified cases.

***Data include Puerto Rico, Guam, and the 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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