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Warren ends White House bid, leaving Biden, Sanders to fight for Democratic nod

# Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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Inside C2

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## Italy coronavirus deaths near 200 after biggest daily jump



Mannequins wearing protective masks stand in a shop display window after a government decree to close schools, cinemas and theatres, and recommending that people do not shake hands or hug each other and that they maintain a distance of at least one metre, in Rome, Italy, March 6, 2020. REUTERS/Remo Casilli

ROME (Reuters) - The death toll from an outbreak of coronavirus in Italy has risen by 49 to 197, the Civil Protection Agency said on Friday, the largest daily increase in fatalities since the contagion was uncovered two weeks ago.

Mannequins wearing protective masks stand in a shop display window after a government decree to close schools, cinemas and theatres, and recommending that people do not shake hands or hug each other and that they maintain a distance of at least one metre, in Rome, Italy, March 6, 2020. REUTERS/Remo Casilli

Italy is currently reporting more deaths from the virus than any other country in the world and the government this week ordered the closure of schools, universities, cinemas and theaters around the country to try to stem the infections.

The cumulative number of cases in the country, which has been the hardest hit in Europe by the epidemic, totaled 4,636 compared with 3,858 on Thursday. The Vatican, an independent state that sits in the heart of Rome, also registered its first case on Friday.

The national health institute said the average age of those who had died so far was 81, with the vast majority suffering underlying health problems. Just 28% were women.

The fatality rate from the illness in Italy, which has one of the oldest populations in the world, is running at 4.25%,

higher than in most other countries.

In a worrying sign for hard-pressed hospitals, the number of patients in intensive care rose more than 30% on Friday to 462. On a more positive note, some 523 people have fully recovered, authorities said, an increase of 26% on the previous tally.

Analysts say the crisis will push Italy's fragile economy into its fourth recession in 12 years. Credit ratings agency Moody's on Friday cut its growth forecast for the country to -0.5% in 2020, from a previous +0.5% estimate.

Underscoring the economic concerns, the Milan stock exchange fell 3.5% on Friday and is now down 17.4% since news of the first case was announced on Feb. 21.

The tourism sector, which accounts for 13% of national output, has suffered the hardest immediate hit, with visitors shunning the country out of fear of infection.

The Czech Republic said on Friday that anyone returning from trips to Italy would have to go into quarantine for two weeks or face fines, while neighboring Slovakia said it was banning all flights to and from Italy.

Rome has previously denounced such moves to isolate the country. There is also widespread annoyance with France, Germany and other EU allies who have imposed curbs on the export of protective medical gear to avoid shortages at home.

"So much for the European Union," said Matteo Salvini, head of the opposition, far-right League party.

"When Italy needs help, doors are closed and wallets shut. Once the health emergency is over, it will be necessary to rethink and rebuild everything, starting from Brussels."

FILE PHOTO: A woman wearing a protective face mask walks in the streets after the government decree to close cinemas, schools and urge people to work from home and not stand closer than one metre to each other, in Turin, Italy March 5, 2020. REUTERS/Massimo Pinca

Italy's sporting world is also facing unprecedented turmoil.

The Alpine skiing World Cup finals in Italy's Cortina d'Ampezzo were canceled on Friday, while a Formula E race scheduled for Rome on April 4 will not now take place, the all-electric series announced on Friday.

The Milan-Sanremo one-day cycle race set for later this month has also been canceled as well as two other cycling events in Italy.

Top flight Serie A soccer matches are due to be played this weekend, but behind closed doors.



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U.S. excludes Chinese face masks, medical gear from tariffs as coronavirus

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Trade Representative's office in recent days granted exclusions from import tariffs for dozens of medical products imported from China, including face masks, hand sanitizing wipes and examination gloves, filings with the agency showed on Friday.

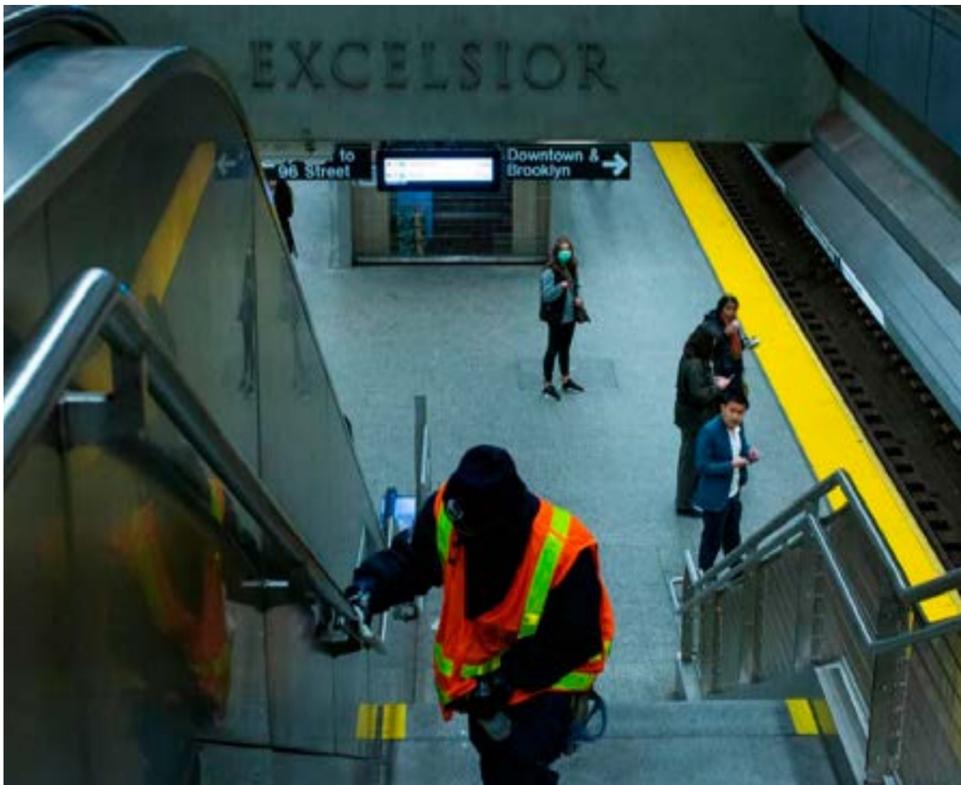
Many of the exclusion requests for medical products appear to have been expedited amid the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak, with approvals granted just over one month past a Jan. 31 application deadline.

Requests to exclude other products from President Donald Trump's Section 301 tariffs on Chinese goods have taken months. Apple Inc's requests for exclusions on products from AirPods headphones to the HomePod smart speaker filed on Oct. 31 are still pending.

Medline International Inc has already received exclusions on 30 products ranging from surgical gowns to face masks and medicine cups, most of which the company applied for at the end of January. A number of the exclusions were granted on Thursday, USTR documents showed.

The products were included in a fourth round of tariffs on Chinese goods imposed by Trump on Sept. 1, 2019, amid heated U.S.-China trade negotiations.

The tariff rate on the medical products was initially set at 15%, but was lowered to 7.5% on Feb. 15 as part of the Phase 1 U.S.-China trade agreement. The deal leaves in place tariffs on about \$370 billion worth of imports from China, including 25% duties on goods valued at around \$250 billion.



U.S. pumps \$8.3 billion into coronavirus battle as more states report cas-

The president signed the legislation, approved by the Senate on Thursday, at the end of a week in which the virus began to disrupt daily life for many Americans.

In Seattle, the epicenter of the nation's outbreak, there were school closings and orders to work from home. In Miami and Baltimore, areas less affected by the outbreak, music festivals and sporting events were

anceled or curtailed as a precaution.

The funds will partly go toward expanding testing capacity, which health officials say is a key slowing the spread of the respiratory illness in the United States. Americans divided on party lines over risk from coronavirus: Reuters/Ipsos poll Coronavirus cases in New York state increases to 33, governor says See more stories The U.S. death toll reached 14 by Friday

with more than 230 cases. Worldwide, about 100,000 people have been infected and more than 3,400 have died, most of them in China.

"We're doing very well," the president said after signing the bill. "But it's an unforeseen problem ... came out of nowhere but we're taking care of it."

Trump's spokeswoman said he would travel to the U.S. Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta on Friday.

The planned trip had been called off because a CDC staff member was suspected to have the virus, but the person tested negative, White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said.

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# Editor's Choice



Cruise liner MSC Meraviglia is berthed at a dock in Punta Langosta after two Caribbean ports denied the ship entry due to fears, later disproven, that a crew member was infected with the coronavirus, in Cozumel



A California National Guard helicopter from the Moffett Federal Airfield based, 129th Rescue Wing deliver coronavirus test kits to the Grand Princess cruise ship off the coast of San Francisco, California, U.S. in this still image from a handout video taken March 5, 2020. Video taken March 5, 2020. California National Guard/Handout



Men stand in front of Brazil's B3 Stock Exchange in Sao Paulo, Brazil March 6, 2020. REUTERS/Rahel Patrasso



Tourists walk by Cruise liner MSC Meraviglia, berthed at a dock in Punta Langosta, in Cozumel



A pharmacy worker sells N95 face masks in advance of the potential coronavirus outbreak in the Manhattan borough of New York City



A worker sprays disinfectant inside the theatre before the Miss International Queen beauty pageant for transgender women in Pattaya, Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand March 7, 2020. REUTERS/Soe Zeya Tun



Coronavirus crisis management group in the western German district of Heinsberg near Aachen



Mannequins wearing protective masks stand in a shop display window in Rome

**Top U.S. Doctor Says Coronavirus An 'Outbreak' - Possibly A 'Pandemic'**



**Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institute.**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

A doctor on the front lines of battling coronavirus in the U.S. said this week that the rapid spread of the deadly bug has risen to the level of an "outbreak" — and possibly even a "pandemic."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of the White House's coronavirus task force, told NBC Nightly News' Richard Engel Monday that the illness — which has infected 100 people, killing six in the US — is "an evolving situation."

"We're dealing with clearly an emerging infectious disease that is now reached outbreak proportions and likely pandemic proportions," he said. "If you look at, you know, by multiple definitions of what a pandemic is, the fact is this is multiple sustained transmissions of a highly infectious agent in multiple regions of the globe."

Fauci urged the public not to compare the coronavirus to the seasonal flu — because the impact of the new bug can be

far worse.



"When you have a brand new virus, in which no one has had any experience before, that kind of gives the virus an open roadway to spread," he said. He also warned of the infection's alarming mortality rate.

"If you look at the people who have just come to the attention of the health authorities, that's 2 to 2-and-a-half percent," Fauci said. "But even if it goes down to 1 percent, that's still very, very serious."

"So if it went from 2 percent to 1, [it is] still 10 times more lethal than the standard influenza that we get on a seasonal

basis," he added. "We need to be at least thinking about the possibility if we get a major outbreak of this coronavirus in this country," the doctor said. "That would mean perhaps closing schools temporarily, getting people to do more teleworking, canceling events where there is a lot of crowds in confined places, canceling unnecessary travels so that you're not on an airplane for five hours with a bunch of people who might be infected." (Courtesy ny-post.com)

**Related**

**Grocery stores are trying to prevent 'panic buying' as coronavirus causes stockpiling and emptying of shelves**



**Clorox Liquid Bleach products in short supply at a Target store located in Hackensack, N.J. (Photo/CNBC)**

**KEY POINTS**

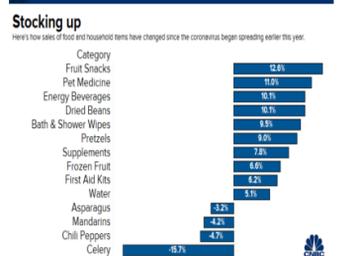
- A food retail trade group has published a guide to help retailers prepare for changes to customers' shopping habits, such as increased use of self-checkout or demand for food handlers to wear masks.
- Experts say grocery stores can help by accelerating shipments and holding back some items as centralized stock.
- Stores could also consider rationing the number of each item that customers can buy.

As an outbreak of the new coronavirus has caused many U.S. customers to fill up shopping carts and thin out store shelves, industry groups and experts say grocers can tamp down on "panic buying" by planning ahead and trying to stay stocked.

Grocery stores, including Costco stores, have seen a spike in sales of household items like hand sanitizer, face masks and cases of bottled water in recent weeks. Sales of shelf-stable grocery items, in-

cluding fruit snacks, dried beans and pretzels, are on the rise, too, according to late-February data from Nielsen. At U.S. stores, sales of fruit snacks were up by nearly 13%, dried beans were up 10% and pretzels were up 9% in the week that ended Feb. 22, according to Nielsen data. Sales of energy drinks, pet medicine, vitamin supplements and first-aid kits also saw sales spike.

Doug Baker, vice president of industry relations at food retailer trade group FMI, said U.S. shoppers have focused on buying items for prevention and preparedness. Now, in some parts of the country, they are shifting to response mode. He said they're buying longer-lasting grocery items, such as canned goods and frozen fruits and vegetables.



He said retailers are doing their best to predict and respond to such shifts.

"We have to try to understand what consumers are thinking before they think of it," Baker said. "In an event like this, you have to quickly adapt to whatever consumer demand is," he said. "And in a moment of crisis, you have some idea of the demand that may peak, but you don't know the magnitude to which they'll peak and the geographies where they'll peak."

On Friday, the industry group published a 16-page guide to help retailers prepare for potential changes to shopping habits. For example, the industry group said shoppers may consolidate grocery trips, with fewer visits and bigger baskets. They may prefer self-checkout and online grocery delivery. And they may have new expectations for neighborhood grocery stores, such as seeing all food handlers wearing masks and gloves and

having antibacterial wipes available for use in stores.

Grocery delivery companies Instacart and FreshDirect have both reported a surge in business. Instacart said in a statement Monday that it's had more demand than usual for bottled water, hand sanitizer and other household essentials. FreshDirect said Friday that it had delivery delays and increased demand for fresh seafood, fresh chicken, baby food and household cleaning products. (Courtesy CNBC.com)



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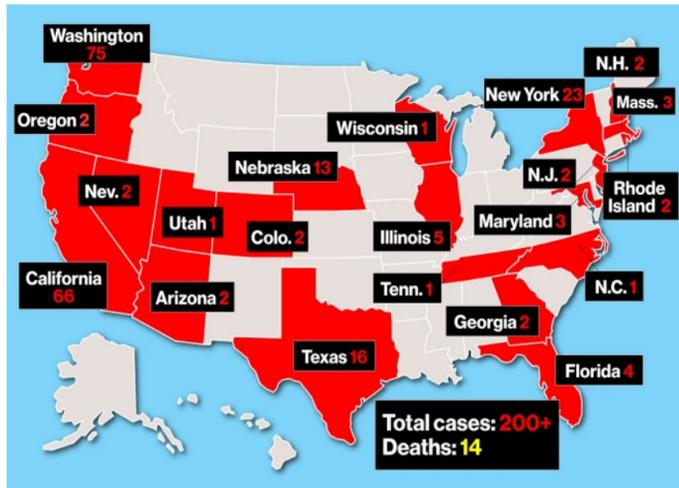
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EXCLUSIVE

Washington Ramps Up Corona Virus Response As U.S. Cases On Increase

Government Attacks Coronavirus Outbreak In U.S. On Several Fronts



Map of coronavirus infections in the US, March 6, 2020.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

President Donald Trump signed an emergency supplemental spending bill on Friday to aid the US's response to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The spending package will make available \$8.3 billion in federal assistance to government health officials and to support research and development of a vaccine. Trump initially sought only \$2 billion to fight the virus, but Congress quadrupling that amount in its version of the bill.

"We've signed the 8.3 billion," Trump told reporters Friday. "I asked for two and a half and I got 8.3 and I'll take it." According to CNBC, more than \$3 billion will go to vaccine research, development, and therapeutics. Around \$2.2 billion will go to preparedness and prevention efforts, and \$1 billion will be used to purchase medical supplies and support Community Health Centers.



President Trump, alongside Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, signs the \$8.3 billion funding bill to combat coronavirus.

After deliberation, the spending measure sailed through Congress receiving a 415-2 vote in the House and a 96-1 vote in the Senate. The only senator to oppose the bill was Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY).

The coronavirus is believed to have originated in Wuhan in China's Hubei prov-

ince. More than 3,200 people have died due to the virus and thousands more have been infected.

On Tuesday, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention official told Congress that the World Health Organization (WHO) could announce that the coronavirus outbreaks across the globe have evolved into a pandemic once there are more cases resulting from person-to-person contact.

The spending measure also includes language that opens remote telehealth services to people on Medicare, or US adults over the age of 65. By allowing Medicare patients to speak with their doctor remotely, there will be less risk of them getting anyone else sick on their way to the doctor's office.



A patient speaks remotely online to his physician.

Trump outlines US response to coronavirus, puts Pence in charge of effort President Trump on Wednesday declared that the coronavirus posed "a very low" risk to the American public — and that he had chosen Vice President Mike Pence to spearhead the government's effort to contain it.

"We have the greatest experts in the world right here," Trump said in a White House press conference alongside experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We're ready to adapt and do whatever we have to as the disease spreads — if it spreads."

As the deadly virus has infected more than 81,000 people globally, killing nearly 3,000, mainly in China, Trump touted actions his administration took early

on — like denying entry to non-citizens who've recently been to China.



President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar arrive as President Trump speaks to the media in the James S. Brady Briefing room with members of the Coronavirus Task Force.

"Because of all we've done, the risk to the American people remains very low," he said, adding that his decisions were "ridiculed" at the beginning. Trump noted that travelers coming in from coronavirus-stricken areas are being screened, and those infected or at risk of infection are being quarantined.

Health officials on Wednesday said three new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the US, bringing the total number of cases to 60 — the vast majority of them being people evacuated from an infected cruise ship in Japan.



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of the White House's coronavirus task force, explains to President Trump that a vaccine could be ready for trials in a few months.

Experts are also working to develop a vaccine, Trump said — and Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health

told reporters it could be ready for trials in a matter of months.

Pence, who will be working with top federal health officials and the coronavirus task force to oversee the response, praised the administrations' efforts to date.

"President Trump's made clear from the very early days of his administration we have no higher priority than the safety, security, health and well-being of the American people," Pence said.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, the head of the coronavirus task force, outlined its goals. (Courtesy https://nypost.com/)



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