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Southern News Group

U.S. manufacturing contracts; private payrolls post first drop since 2017



Inside C2

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China mourns thousands who died in country's coronavirus epidemic



People holding flowers observe a moment of silence at a memorial event in Beijing as China holds a national mourning for those who died of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), on the Qingming tomb-sweeping festival, April 4, 2020. cnsphoto via REUTERS

BEIJING/WUHAN, China (Reuters) - China on Saturday mourned the thousands of "martyrs" who have died in the coronavirus outbreak, flying the national flag at half mast across the country and suspending all forms of entertainment.

The day of mourning coincided with the start of annual Qingming tomb-sweeping festival, when millions of Chinese families pay respects to their ancestors.

At 10 a.m. (0200 GMT) Beijing time, the country observed a three-minute silence to mourn those who died, including frontline medical workers and doctors.

China says all coronavirus clinical research must be registered China's Guangxi region tightens border controls amid rise in imported coronavirus cases

In Zhongnanhai, the seat of political power in Beijing, President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders paid silent tribute in front of the national flag, with white flowers pinned to their chest as a mark of mourning, state media reported.

More than 3,300 people in mainland China have died in the epidemic, which first surfaced in the central province of Hubei late last year, according to statistics published by the National Health Commission.

In Wuhan, the capital of Hubei and the epicenter of the outbreak, all traffic lights in urban areas turned red at 10 a.m. and traffic came to a halt for three minutes.

Some 2,567 people have died in Wuhan, a city of 11 million people located in the middle reaches of the Yangtze river. The Wuhan deaths account for more than 75% of the country's coronavirus fatalities.

Among those who died was Li Wenliang, a young doctor who tried to raise the alarm about the disease. Li was honored by the Hubei government this week, after initially being reprimanded by police in Wuhan for "spreading rumors".

On Saturday, Hubei province's top official Ying Yong visited the families of Li, as well as the relatives of Liu Zhiming — the dean of the city's Wuchang Hospital, and Wu Yong, a community policeman who also both died after catching the virus, local television reported.

Offering his condolences, Ying told the families "the spirit of the martyrs must be carried on."

The Chinese national flag flies at half-mast at the headquarters of the People's Bank of China, the central bank (PBOC), as China holds a national mourning for those who died of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), on the Qingming tomb-sweeping festival in Beijing, China April 4, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Garcia Rawlins

Gui Yihong, 27, who was among thousands of Wuhan locals who volunteered to deliver food supplies to hospitals during the city's months-long lockdown, recalled the fear, frustration and pain at Wuhan Central Hospital, where Li worked. "If you weren't at the frontlines you wouldn't be able to experience this," said Gui, as he laid flowers next to Wuhan's 1954 flood memorial by the Yangtze.

"I had to (come) and bear witness. For the last 80 days we had fought between life and death, and finally gained victory. It was not easy at all to come by."

While the worst is behind Wuhan, the virus has spread across the world since January, killing more than 55,000 people, infecting more than a million and paralyzing the global economy. Wuhan banned all tomb-sweeping activities in its cemeteries until at least April 30, curtailing one of the most important dates in the traditional Chinese lunar new year calendar, usually sees millions of families travel to tend to their ancestral graves, offer flowers and burn incense. They have also told residents, most stuck at home due to lockdown restrictions, to use online streaming services to watch live as cemetery staff carry out those tasks. ASYMPTOMATIC CASES

Online, celebrities including "X-Men: Days of Future Past" star Fan Bingbing swapped their usual social media profile pictures for somber photos in gray or black, garnering millions of "likes" from fans.

Chinese gaming and social media giant Tencent suspended all online games on Saturday.

As of Friday, the total number of confirmed cases across the country stood at 81,639, including 19 new infections, the National Health Commission said.

Eighteen of the new cases involved travelers arriving from abroad. The remaining one new infection was a local case in Wuhan, a patient who was previously asymptomatic.



Sunday, April 05, 2020



### LOCAL NEWS

# New York in 'race against time' as Trump stresses face masks are voluntary

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Two of the principal U.S. coronavirus hot spots - New York and Louisiana - reported their biggest jumps in COVID-19 deaths yet on Friday, as the White House sent mixed messages on whether Americans should cover their face if they venture outdoors.

Surging deaths in New York City and New Orleans showed that a wave of lethal coronavirus infections expected to overwhelm hospitals, even in relatively affluent, urban areas with extensive healthcare systems, has begun to crash down on the United States.

Governors, mayors and physicians have voiced alarm for weeks over crippling scarcities of personal protective gear for first-responders and front-line healthcare workers, as well as ventilators and other medical supplies.

With the federal government's national strategic stockpile of such equipment nearly depleted, states have been forced essentially to compete against each other on the open market for vital resources.

Cities across the country have also scrambled to expand hospital capacity and recruit healthcare professionals out of retirement to meet looming shortages of sick beds and personnel.

New York City, the pandemic's U.S. epicenter, has mere days to prepare for the worst of the outbreak, said Mayor Bill de Blasio, whose city has suffered more than a quarter of the 7,000-plus coronavirus deaths to date nationwide.

New York is in an "extraordinary race against time," de Blasio told a news briefing on Friday, renewing his call for the federal government to mobilize the U.S. military.

"We're dealing with an enemy that is killing thousands of Americans, and a lot of people are dying who don't need to die," he said. "You can't say, every state for themselves, every city for themselves. That is not America."

Americans, almost all of them under orders to stay home



A Healthcare worker arrives at Mount Sinai Hospital, during the outbreak coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in New York City, U.S., April 3, 2020. REU-TERS/Brendan McDermid

except for essential outings such as grocery shopping or seeing a doctor, have heard conflicting guidance in recent days about the need for wearing face masks in public

At the White House on Friday, President Donald Trump seemed to muddy the waters further when he announced that federal health authorities are now recommending individuals wear cloth face coverings to stem transmission of the virus. But he stressed the advisory was purely voluntary, and that he would not be heeding the recommendation

himself.

"With the masks, it's going to be a really voluntary thing. You can do it, you don't have to do it. I'm choosing not to do it," he said. Doctors and nurses, many lacking adequate supplies of medical-grade face masks and other protective gear, were already confronting an onslaught from COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the highly contagious coronavirus.

One physician at a New York City

hospital recounted arriving at work on Friday to learn that three of his COVID-19 patients had died that morning. A few hours later, he had intubated two others.

"I've never seen anything like this. I've never even heard of something like this in the developed world," he told Reuters on condition of anonymity, because he was not authorized to speak with the media.

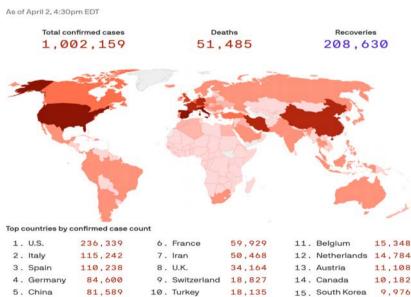
Stay home!

### BUSINESS

Work safe!

#### Worldwide Novel Coronavirus Infections Have Surpassed The One Million Mark

Confirmed cases of COVID-19



Data: The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins, the CDC and China's Health Ministry. Note: China numbers are for the mainland only and U.S. numbers include repatriated citizens and confirmed plus presumptive cases from the CDC

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

Novel coronavirus infections have now surpassed the one million mark after "near exponential growth" that's reached "almost every country," World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said last Thursday.

The big picture: Policy responses to the global coronavirus crisis have been "every-country-for-itself" and — in the case of the U.S. and China — tinged with geopolitics. But, the scientific work underway to understand the virus and develop a vaccine has been globalized on an unprecedented scale.

The latest: The global death toll exceeded 50,000 on Thursday, per Johns Hopkins data. "The number of deaths has more than doubled in the past week," Tedros said during a WHO briefing. Italy has the highest reported count of 14,000 deaths.

• **About 60%** of deaths reported world-

wide have come from Italy, Spain, France and U.K. In the U.K., 500 people were reported dead within 24 hours as of Wednesday, per Johns Hopkins data.

• Ali Larijani, Iran's parliament speaker, tested positive and is receiving medical treatment in quarantine, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Thursday.

• 74% of Jordanians approve of their government's measures, which started with a round-the-clock curfew that now lasts from 6 p.m. until 10 a.m. — and driving is banned during the day.



• Taiwan plans to donate 10 million surgical face masks to the U.S., European

Union and other allies, President Tsai Ing-wen said Wednesday. The country pledged to send 100,000 masks to the U.S. per week

• Sanctions on Venezuela, Iran, Syria and Cuba should be lifted "to prevent hunger crises" amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Hilal Elver, the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, said Tuesday.

• A landmark U.N. climate change summit, originally scheduled for November in Glasgow, Scotland, is being delayed until next year.

**Economic impact:** The virus has caused a "global shock" and significant economic pain "seems unavoidable in all countries," the World Bank said in an update for East Asia and the Pacific on Monday

- The World Bank projected growth in China, where the outbreak began, would slow 2.3% in the baseline scenario, or as low as 0.1% in the lower-case scenario.
- Nearly 10 million people in the U.S. have filed for unemployment in the past few weeks.

U.S. Coronavirus Updates
Unemployment Filings Break
Record, Death Toll Nears 6,000

Rebecca Falconer, Orion Rummler, Marisa Fernandez

Confirmed U.S. cases of COVID-19



Data: The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins; (Map: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios)

Over the past two weeks, 10 million Americans have filed for unemployment, with millions to come. The jobless hits right now are like a natural disaster striking every state at the same time.

The Stimulus Package: Payments to Americans from the \$2.2 trillion stimulus package will be distributed in mid-April, but those without IRS direct deposit accounts may not receive checks until August, according to a House Ways and Means Committee memo first reported by CNN and confirmed by Axios.

**By the numbers:** The coronavirus has now killed more than 5,900 people in the U.S. Over 243,000 people are now infected, while just over 9,000 have recovered.

**What's happening:** Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly relieved the captain of the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt after he sent a letter to officials pleading for help when members of his crew contracted the coronavirus.

- The FDA allowed blood donations from gay men after a 3-month waiting period, citing an "urgent need."
- Wisconsin's April 7 presidential primary will not be postponed, a federal judge ruled on Thursday. 13 states have delayed voting or made changes to promote social distancing to combat the spread of COVID-19.
- nies are eligible for aid from new lending programs the Federal Reserve is setting up, but not direct loans.

   House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced a new commit-

• Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that oil compa-

- tee to oversee the Trump administration's response to the coronavirus outbreak, led by Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.).
- Roughly 3.5 million Americans likely lost their health insurance in the past two weeks, according to an analysis of state and federal data from the Economic Policy Institute.
- The Democratic National Committee announced its July convention will be postponed until August because of the coronavirus.



**The big picture:** COVID-19 is expected to peak in the U.S. in two weeks, but many states like Virginia and Maryland will see their individual peaks well after that. Nearly 40 state governors and the District to Columbia have ordered residents to stay home to limit COVID-19 community spread.

- Washington and California, which originally appeared to be epicenters of the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S., have slowed the surges of new cases though it can't be ruled out that California is just behind on testing.
- Florida's slow response to the coronavirus may have set the stage for a disastrous outcome in one of the country's most vulnerable states.

**Between the lines:** U.S. testing capacity has increased as more commercial labs pledge to up production. More available tests mean more coronavirus cases will be reported.

• However, rural-state governors across the country paint a more troubling picture on access to tests, contradicting Trump that the U.S. is on track.

**What to watch:** In a major pivot in tone, Trump said Tuesday it's "going to be a very painful two weeks," with projections indicating the virus could kill 100,000–240,000 Americans — even with social distancing guidelines in place.

• Trump is due to meet Friday with top executives of large oil firms to discuss potential ways to help the sector amid strong economic headwinds. (Courtesy axios.com)

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### Editor's Choice



Security personnel wearing face masks stand to pay tribute as China holds national mourning for those who died of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), on the Qingming tomb-sweeping festival, in Beijing, China, April 4, 2020. REUTERS/Thomas Peter



Workers observe a moment of silence at a construction site in Shaoyang



People observe a moment of silence on a street in Wuhan, Hubei province, as China holds a national mourning for those who died of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), on the Qingming tomb-sweeping festival, April 4, 2020. REUTERS/Aly Song TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



People wearing face masks stand to pay tribute as China holds national mourning for those who died of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), on the Qingming tomb-sweeping festival, in Beijing April 4, 2020. REUTERS/Thomas Peter



The showcase of a souvenir-shop displays a protective gear at the famous red-light district "Reeperbahn" during the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Hamburg



The Chinese national flag flies at half-mast at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, as China holds a national mourning for those who died of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), on the Qingming tomb sweeping festival, April 4, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Garcia Rawlins TPX IMAGES OF THE



Medical staff assess for COVID-19 at public Victoria Health Unit, BC



The Chinese national flag flies at half-mast at the headquarters of the People's Bank of China, the central bank (PBOC), as China holds a national mourning for those who died of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), on the Qingming tomb-sweeping festival in Beijing, China April 4, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Garcia Rawlins

July 17

July 24

### COMMUNITY

#### **Americans Without IRS Direct Deposit May Not Receive Stimulus Checks For Months**



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

Coronavirus stimulus payments will begin to be distributed in mid-April, but Americans without direct deposit accounts set up with the IRS may not receive checks until August, according to a House Ways and Means Committee memo first reported by CNN and confirmed by Axios.

Why it matters: The IRS estimates that only about 70 million of the roughly 150 million Americans eligible for the payments have direct deposit information on file, according to CNN.

- With record unemployment levels expected to continue growing, millions of families will have to endure the economic pain for months without direct cash payments from the government.
- The payments are part of a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package signed by Trump last week to limit the economic damage caused by the coronavirus.



Trump at the stimulus bill signing. (Photo: Erin Schaff-Pool/Getty Images)

**Details**: The IRS will begin depositing payments to 60 million Americans in

mid-April, according to the memo. But paper checks won't start being mailed until the week of May 4, and they'll go out at a rate of 5 million checks per week.

#### **Stimulus checks overview:**

The amount signed into law will be \$1200 for each taxpayer (based on 2019 tax filing, or on your 2018 tax filing if you have not filed 2019 taxes yet), and \$500 for each child. **IMPORTANT**: The checks will be direct-deposited IF you have direct deposit set up for your normal tax return refunds. IF you do not have direct deposit set up with the IRS, you need to watch the internet the next 2-3 days and google, "Stimulus checks direct deposit portal." The IRS is setting up a website portal for people to send their direct deposit information for the stimulus checks. IF you do not set this up, you may not get your checks until August. IF you set this up, you should get your checks by the middle of April or two weeks or so. (Editor)

At that rate, it would mean the final paper checks would be distributed 20 weeks later — the week of Aug. 17. The timelines are based on "extensive conversations with the IRS and the Department of Treasury," according to the memo. But they could change as discussions continue between the Trump administration and Congress. The memo adds: "The Committee remains focused on ensuring all eligible Americans receive their payment as quickly as possible."

#### When will you get your stimulus cash, and how?

The first payments are expected go out within three weeks to those for whom the Internal Revenue Service already has direct deposit information on file. Mnuchin said at a White House coronavirus briefing that payments would go out within two weeks to people whose direct deposit details are on file with the government, echoing comments he made after passage of the \$2.2 trillion stimulus bill that payments would not go out until mid-April.



tablished for people to supply their details and that checks would be sent to anyone else, but did not specify a timeline. "I am assuring the American public, they need the money now," he said Previous stimulus payments in 2001 and 2008 have been delivered by both direct deposit and checks in the mail, but mobile payment services like Venmo want to play a role this time. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Sunday that there

He added that a web portal would be es-

#### payment details. How much will I receive from the stimulus bill?

will be a web-based app for those whose

information is not on file to register their

Individuals are due up to \$1,200 and couples will receive up to \$2,400 -- plus \$500 per child. But payments start phasing out for individuals with adjusted gross

incomes of more than \$75,000. The amount will then be reduced by \$5 for every additional \$100 of adjusted gross income, and those making more than \$99,000 will not receive anything. The income thresholds would be doubled for couples.

Social Security recipients will auto-



#### matically receive stimulus pay

The Treasury Department, clearing up

confusion, said Wednesday that Social Security recipients will not have to file a tax return in order to receive the economic stimulus payments the government is preparing to send out. It was unclear in earlier guidance whether Social Security recipients who don't normally need to file taxes would have to in order to receive the money. But, those beneficiaries will automatically receive the money, and the IRS will use the information that the Social Security Administration has on file.

Those who normally receive their Social Security benefits directly in their bank accounts will receive the stimulus money in the same way. Others will receive a check in the mail -- though it will likely take longer to receive the payment than those who use direct deposit.

#### **Taxpayer Income Date Check Mailed**

\$0 to \$10,000	April 24
\$10,001 to \$20,000	May 1
\$20,001 to \$30,000	May 8
\$30,001 to \$40,000	May 15
\$40,001 to \$50,000	May 22
\$50,001 to \$60,000	May 29
\$60,001 to \$70,000	June 5
\$70,001 to \$80,000	June 12
\$80,001 to \$90,000	June 19
\$90,001 to \$100,000	June 26
\$100,001 to \$110,000	July 3
\$110,001 to \$120,000	July 10

\$120,001 to \$130,000 \$130,001 to \$140,000 \$140,001 to \$150,000 \$150,001 to \$160,000 \$160,001 to \$170,000 \$170,001 to \$180,000 \$180,001 to \$190,000 \$190,001 to \$200,000 All Others

July 31 August 7 August 14 August 21 August 28 September 4 September 11

If you don't want to wait this long to get a stimulus check, file your 2019 tax return as soon as possible so that the IRS has the information it needs to send your payment electronically. If you otherwise aren't required to file a return, file a "simple return" when the IRS makes them available on its website. (Courtesy axios.com and https://finance.yahoo.com/)



#### **Every 8 minutes,** we respond to a disaster.

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redcross.org

### Daily New/

綜合報導 韓國總統文在寅表 示,對於日益增多的境外輸入病 需要更加強力的措施和徹底 的管制。對於違反隔離措施的情 況,應當堅決采取強硬的法律措

文在寅強調,從4月1日起開 始實施對所有入境韓國的人員進行 為期2周義務隔離的措施,遵守這 壹措施十分重要。

他表示, 壹個小小的窟窿可以 讓堤壩崩潰。全體韓國國民正為了 共同體的安全而努力的此時,不能 因個人而使所有人的努力化為泡影

文在寅指出,與其他國家相 比,韓國的應對措施在國際上得 到了好評。他說,全球新冠疫情 日趨嚴峻,雖然韓國國內疫情逐 漸趨於穩定,但完全控制疫情任 重道遠,並囑咐防疫部門集中力 量嚴防公眾聚集設施出現集體感 染。

韓國中央防疫對策本部31日 通報稱,截至當天0時,韓國較前 壹天0時新增125例新冠肺炎確診 病例,累計確診9786例。

# 對違反隔離規定查堅決采取法律措施



綜合報導 越南衛生部表示,截至當地 時間31日6時,越南新增1例新冠肺炎確診 病例,該國累計確診達204例,其中55例已 治愈出院。

據悉,該新增確診病例為壹名10歲越南 籍男性,居住在胡誌明市第二郡。他於15日 入境後被隔離,曾與第83例確診病例乘坐同 膏航班。

越南總理阮春福31日表示,越南將從4 月1日開始為期15天的社會隔離,以遏制新 冠肺炎疫情在社區傳播。

他在壹份聲明中表示, "從4月1 日午夜起,所有人都必須待在家裏, 只能外出購買食品或在緊急狀況下外 出,而且必須與他人保持至少兩米的

另外,阮春福30日下午同意公布,新冠 肺炎疫情已成為越南全國性疫情。

除了超市、食品店、醫院,服務民生 的生產廠外,越南將關閉所有不必要的商 店。各機構、單位除了值班人員外,今後 兩周安排其他人員加強線上工作。

此外,他還要求確保生活必需品 供應,同時保障其價格平穩。還有要 求註重民生保障工作,尤其是針對低 收入群眾,具體的資助額將由政府討 論並提出。

## 累 冠診 2 爲 國 疫

### 全球抗疫:菲律賓疫情告急 SM集團捐贈1.7億比索物資助力抗疫

區著名商業集團 SM 集團 31 日 接收新冠肺炎患者。 宣布,加大對菲律賓防抗新 億比索物資,向菲律賓50多 家醫院提供急需的個人防護 用品、檢測試劑盒,以及重 癥監護室級的呼吸器機等。

據菲律賓衛生部31日下 午4時報告,當天該國新增 538例新冠肺炎確診病例,確 診數達到2084例;新增死亡 10例,死亡總人數達到88人 護裝備,包括全套防護服(含 的公立醫院有:熱帶醫學病

都馬尼拉,有5家私立醫院宣 病研究所捐贈經菲律賓衛生 和黎剎醫療中心。

綜合報導 菲律賓進入新 布因感染病區病房爆滿、醫 部批準、菲律賓國家衛生研 冠肺炎疫情暴發期,亞太地 護人員缺少防護設備而停止 究院研發的檢測試劑盒;同 機構也收到了SM 捐贈物資,

> 鏡、N95口罩、工作袍和防護 服,以供在抗疫前線公立和 私立醫院的醫護工作者使用 。目前正在等待這批物資的

捐贈壹線醫護人員的個人防 紀念醫院;捐贈物資已到位 級醫院。 重癥監護病房級)、面罩、手 研究所、菲律賓國家腎臟移 團結壹心、共抗疫情。據 隨著疫情迅速發展,菲 套、N95口罩、手術口罩、護 植研究所、聖拉紮羅醫院、 悉,此前SM 捐贈500萬人民 各個醫院防護用品告急,迄 目鏡等;為了增強菲律賓新 東大道醫療中心、JoseReyes 幣用於中國防抗新冠病毒疫 冠病毒檢測能力,SM向馬尼 紀念醫療中心、菲律賓心臟 情,並給予全球81家購物中 新冠肺炎去世。上周,在首 拉Healthtek實驗室、熱帶醫學 中心、菲律賓國家兒童醫院 心租戶租金優惠支持以共克

時捐贈來自韓國、經菲律賓如JoseFabella紀念醫院、中華 菲衛生部副部長維吉爾 食品藥品監督管理局批準 冠肺炎疫情專項捐贈力度, 30日通報,該部已采購價值 的新冠病毒測試劑盒。SM 心、馬尼拉崇仰醫院、馬尼 通過 SM 基金會專項捐贈 1.7 18 億比索的 100 萬套個人防護 還向醫院提供重癥監護室級 裝備,每套含有頭套、護目 的呼吸器機,用於救治重癥

> 截至3月27日,SM 捐贈 患者指定救治醫院有:菲律 賓PGH大學醫院、菲律賓肺 SM集團31日公告稱,所 病中心醫院和JoseN.Rodriguez 羅、馬拉維、三寶顏等地省

壹些著名的非公立醫療 崇仁總醫院、馬卡蒂醫療中 拉醫療城、黎剎醫療城……

醫護人員個人防護物資 捐贈將陸續到達黎剎、邦板 牙、巴丹半島、奎松、邦詩 個人防護裝備已送達的新冠 蘭省、加丹都那斯、宿務、 怡朗、薩馬島、塔克洛班、 蘇裏南高省、卡加延德奧

SM集團希望與所有民眾

