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



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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# U.S. coronavirus deaths top 20,000, highest in world exceeding Italy:



FILE PHOTO: Drone pictures show bodies being buried on New York’s Hart Island where the department of corrections is dealing with more burials overall, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in New York City, U.S., April 9, 2020. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson/File Photo

(Reuters) - U.S. deaths due to the coronavirus surpassed 20,000 on Saturday, the highest reported number in the world, according to a Reuters tally, although there are signs the pandemic might be nearing a peak.

Italy has the second most reported deaths at 19,468 and Spain is in third place with 16,353. The United States has five times the population of Italy and nearly seven times the population of Spain.

The United States has seen its highest death tolls to date in the epidemic with roughly 2,000 deaths a day reported for the last four days in a row. (Graphic: tmsnrt.rs/2w7hX9T)

Public health experts have warned that the U.S. death toll could spike to 200,000 over the summer if unprecedented stay-at-home orders that have closed businesses and kept most Americans indoors are lifted after 30 days.

The stay-at-home orders imposed in recent weeks across 42 of the 50 states have taken a huge toll on American commerce, with some economists forecasting job losses of up to 20 million by month’s end, raising questions about how long business closures and travel restrictions can be sustained.

Globally, there have been more than 1.6 million confirmed cases, with the death toll surpassing 106,000.

## Congressional Republicans reject Democratic call for broader coronavirus relief

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The two top Republicans in the U.S. Congress vowed on Saturday to oppose Democrats’ demands to boost a proposed \$250 billion bill to aid small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic by adding money for hospitals and state and local governments.

File Photo: U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) walks to the Senate Chamber floor on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S. , April 9, 2020. REUTERS/Tom Brenner

The statement from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House of Representatives Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy came a day after top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer said he and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin planned to hold bipartisan talks on the bill next week.

“American workers are in crisis,” McConnell and McCarthy said. “This will not be Congress’s last word on COVID-19, but this crucial program needs funding now. American workers cannot be used as political hostages.”

Congress and the White House are scrambling to stem the economic fallout of the new coronavirus, which

causes the COVID-19 respiratory disease that has killed more than 19,600 Americans, closed schools, business and most public activities and thrown more than 15 million people out of work.

Senate Republicans on Thursday failed to ram through a \$250 billion increase in loans for small businesses suffering due to the outbreak. Democrats support the \$250 billion in new funding but want to set aside some of the lending for community and minority-owned banks.

The \$250 billion in small-business loans, which could turn into government-paid grants if certain terms are met, would be in addition to \$349 billion already allocated by Congress in a \$2.3 trillion relief measure passed last month.

In addition to the small business funding, Schumer and House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi are pressing for another funding stream of more than \$250 billion that would aid hospitals, state and local governments, along with expanded food aid for the poor.

Some Congressional Republicans are against the second batch of funding, calling it premature.



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# Empty churches, food drive mark start of Easter weekend in coronavirus-hit U.S.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Political leaders and health experts urged Americans celebrating Good Friday and the Easter weekend under threat of the coronavirus to avoid church gatherings and observe the holidays at home as the U.S. death toll from COVID-19 surpassed 18,600.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government’s top infectious disease expert, and other health officials pointed to declining rates of coronavirus hospitalizations and admissions to intensive care units - particularly in hard-hit New York state - as signs that social distancing measures are paying off.

“Now is no time to back off,” Fauci told CNN on Friday. “The virus will decide” when the country can begin to reopen from state-at-home orders imposed in recent weeks across 42 states, he added.

Those measures have taken a staggering toll on American commerce, with some economists forecasting job losses of up to 20 million by month’s end, raising questions about how long business closures and travel restrictions can be sustained.

RELATED COVERAGE

Trump orders U.S. government to help Italy in coronavirus fight  
The Trump administration renewed talk of quickly reopening the economy after an influential university research model this week lowered its U.S. mortality forecasts to 60,000 deaths by Aug. 4, from at least 100,000, assuming that social-distancing measures remain in place.

The New York Times cited separate forecasts from the U.S. departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services projecting the death toll could reach 200,000 if stay-at-home orders are lifted after 30 days.

The United States by far accounts for most of the world’s confirmed cases of COVID-19, the highly contagious lung ailment caused by the novel coronavirus, with at least 500,000 known infections and more than 18,600 deaths. Only Italy has recorded more fatalities.



San Diego Food Bank volunteers carry boxes of left-over food after an emergency drive-through food and toilet paper distribution hosted at Southwestern College near the U.S.-Mexico border, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Chula Vista, California, U.S., April 10, 2020. Picture taken through glass. REUTERS/Bing

Prisons and jails, along with nursing homes and other institutions with large populations confined in close quarters, have proven especially vulnerable to outbreaks, with hundreds of infections and several deaths reported among inmates in Illinois, New York and Louisiana.

On Friday, officials said 68 residents and two staff members at a San Francisco homeless shelter had tested positive, marking one of the largest known clusters of coronavirus

infections yet in such a facility anywhere in the country.

The outbreak there seemed at odds with promising data presented by California Governor Gavin Newsom showing that social distancing has worked so far to flatten the arc of infections in his state.

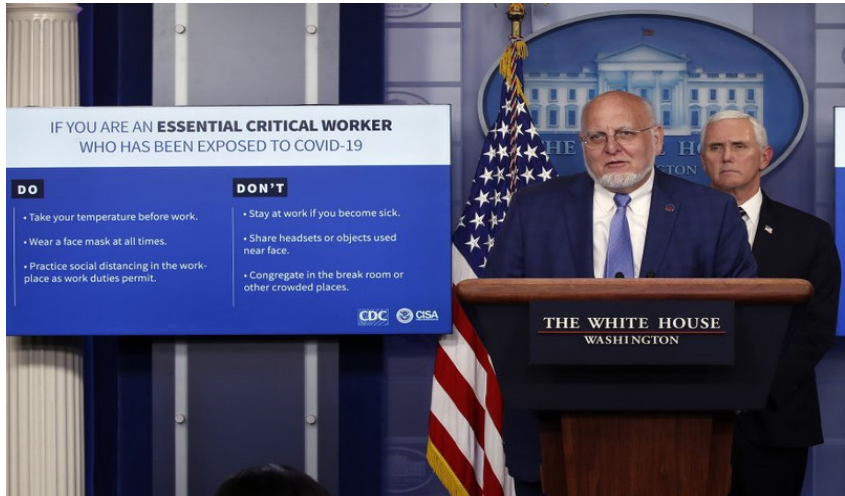
New York state, the U.S. epicenter of the pandemic with some 7,800 deaths to date, likewise has seen glimmers of hope this week.

After three days of record daily deaths, New York state’s COVID-19 toll from April 9 stood at 777, down from 799 deaths a day earlier, Governor Andrew Cuomo reported on Friday. But New York’s ICU admissions declined “for the first time since we started this journey,” he said.

In Michigan, more than 200 people died from COVID-19 in the last day. “We are not out of the woods yet,” Governor Gretchen Whitmer said.

# BUSINESS

## Feds Loosen Virus Rules To Let Essential Workers Return



Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, speaks as charts are displayed during a briefing about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in Washington, as Vice President Mike Pence listens. (AP Photo/Alex

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a first, small step toward reopening the country, the Trump administration issued new guidelines Wednesday to make it easier for essential workers who have been exposed to COVID-19 to get back to work if they do not have symptoms of the coronavirus.

Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, announced at the White House that essential employees, such as health care and food supply workers, who have been within 6 feet of a confirmed or suspected case of the virus can return to work under certain circumstances if they are not experiencing symptoms.

The new guidelines are being issued as the nation mourns more than 14,000 deaths from the virus and grapples with a devastated economy and medical crises from coast to coast. Health experts continue to caution Americans to practice social distancing and to avoid returning to their normal activities. At the same time, though, they are planning for a

time when the most serious threat from COVID-19 will be in the country’s rear-view mirror.

President Donald Trump said that while he knows workers are “going stir crazy” at home, he can’t predict when the threat from the virus will wane.

“The numbers are changing and they’re changing rapidly and soon we’ll be over that curve. We’ll be over the top and we’ll be headed in the right direction. I feel strongly about that,” Trump said about the coronavirus, which he called “this evil beast.”



President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in

Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

“I can’t tell you in terms of the date,” Trump said, adding cases could go down and then once again “start going up if we’re not careful.”

At some point, he said at his daily briefing, social distancing guidelines will disappear and people will be able to sit together at sports events. “At some point we expect to be back, like it was before,” he said.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, said if the existing guidelines asking people to practice social distancing through the end of April are successful in halting the spread of the virus, more relaxed recommendations could be in order.

He said the White House task force was trying to dovetail public health concerns with practical steps that need to be in place when the 30-day guidelines end at the end of the month so the nation can “safely and carefully march toward some sort of normality.”

If, by fall, things start to return to normal, Americans will still need to wash their hands frequently, sick schoolchildren should be kept home and people with fevers need to refrain from going to work, Fauci said during an online interview Wednesday with the editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association.



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, looks at a chart as Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, during a briefing about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House, Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

People also should never shake hands

again, Fauci said, only half-jokingly. “I mean it sounds crazy, but that’s the way it’s really got to be,” he said. “Until we get to a point where we know the population is protected” with a vaccine.

Under the new guidelines for essential workers, the CDC recommends that exposed employees take their temperatures before their shifts, wear face masks and practice social distancing at work. They also are advised to stay home if they are ill, not share headsets or other objects used near the face and refrain from congregating in crowded break rooms.

Employers are asked to take exposed workers’ temperatures and assess symptoms before allowing them to return to work, aggressively clean work surfaces, send workers home if they get sick and increase air exchange in workplaces.

Fauci said he hoped the pandemic would prompt the U.S. to look at long-term investments in public health, specifically at the state and local level. Preparedness that was not in place in January needs to be in place if or when COVID-19 or another virus threatens the country.

“We have a habit of whenever we get over a challenge, we say, ‘OK, let’s move on to the current problem,’” he said. “We should never, ever be in a position of getting hit like this and have to scramble to respond again. This is historic.”

Even the new guidelines will not be a foolproof guard against spreading infection.

Recent studies have suggested that somewhere around 10% of new infections might be sparked by contact with individuals who are infected but do not yet exhibit symptoms. Scientists say it’s also possible that some people who develop symptoms and then recover from the virus remain contagious, or that some who are infected and contagious may never develop symptoms.

As of Wednesday, the U.S. had more

than 400,000 confirmed cases of infection.



US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday social distancing and other measures aimed at stopping the spread of the coronavirus were having an impact. At the daily White House briefing, Trump told reporters Americans were heading into the “final stretch” and that there was “light at the end of the tunnel.” (April 8). On the other side of the globe, the journey back to normalcy is further along.

In Wuhan, the Chinese industrial city that first reported cases of the new coronavirus, authorities ended a 76-day lockdown Wednesday. Residents can travel in and out of the city without special authorization, but must use a smartphone app showing they are healthy and have not been in recent contact with anyone confirmed to have the virus.

Trump’s predecessor, Barack Obama, chimed in with a cautionary tweet from the sidelines, writing: “Social distancing bends the curve and relieves some pressure on our heroic medical professionals. But in order to shift off current policies, the key will be a robust system of testing and monitoring — something we have yet to put in place nationwide.”

Conservative voices, for their part, are pushing for an economic and social restart, urging Trump to overrule health officials.

“At some point, the president is going to have to look at Drs. Fauci and Birx and say, we’re opening on May 1,” Fox commentator Laura Ingraham tweeted. “Give me your best guidance on protocols, but we cannot deny our people their basic freedoms any longer.”

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia, and death. (Courtesy apnews.com)



Editor's Choice



Brazil's Minister of Health Luiz Henrique Mandetta visits a temporary field hospital, amid coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Aguas Lindas



People look on during a visit of the Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro to a temporary field hospital, amid coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Aguas Lindas, state of Goias,Brazil



Life in lockdown: Gino Verani, 87, goes for a walk close to his home in San Fiorano, one of the original 'red zone' towns in northern Italy that have been on lockdown since February, in this picture taken by his grandson, schoolteacher Marzio Toniolo, April 8, 2020.



Britain's Home Secretary Priti Patel holds the daily Covid-19 Press Conference with NPCC Chairman Martin Hewitt and NHS Medical Director Professor Stephen Powis in 10 Downing Street, London, Britain April 11, 2020. Pippa Fowles/No 10 Downing Street/Handout



Mourners attend a funeral at The Green-Wood Cemetery during the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the Brooklyn borough of New York City



A man prays during an Easter mass led by Bishop Krikor Kousa at the Armenian Catholic Church as Egypt ramps up efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Cairo



Volunteers are pictured while handing out approximately 300 laptops to students at East Los Angeles College during the global outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Monterey Park, California, U.S., March 26, 2020. REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni



Volunteer in Rock Springs Baptist Church's Media Ministry oversees live streaming production of the main service



