

**March 17, 2020**

## **Coronavirus Morning Update**

### **OVERVIEW**

- Deaths outside China surpassed those inside the country. More than 3,800 people outside China have died, compared with about 3,200 in China. More than 100,000 cases have been confirmed outside China, compared with 81,000 in China.
- President Trump advised against gatherings of more than 10 people and San Francisco ordered residents to stay home. France ordered a nationwide lockdown, joining Italy, Spain and Greece. Europe and Canada moved to restrict entry.
- The White House released [The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America - 15 Days to Slow the Spread](#).
- [List of canceled events and public gatherings in the U.S. \(updated daily\)](#)

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence are [scheduled to meet with tourism industry executives](#) at the White House today to discuss the effects of the coronavirus on their industry. Representatives from major hotel chains, theme parks and travel associations will be in attendance.
- The White House and a group of researchers [called](#) for help in analyzing [a new publicly available database](#) of scientific articles related to the coronavirus and Covid-19. The database includes more than 29,000 articles related to the coronavirus and researchers will use machine-learning to study how to treat the pandemic.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) [issued](#) a national emergency declaration to provide hours-of-service regulatory relief to commercial vehicle drivers transporting emergency relief in response to the coronavirus outbreak. This declaration is the first time FMCSA has issued nation-wide relief and follows President Trump issuing a national emergency declaration in response to the virus.
- Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar said the agency did not experience a cyberattack, instead saying that his department saw "a great deal of enhanced activity" from the agency's computer systems and website.
- In response to testing shortages, the White House is deploying a mini SWAT team to aid hospitals, increase supplies of test kits, and cope with shortages across the country. The team will consist of about 100 staffers and outside advisers split between the health department and the White House.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will allow [private companies to begin marketing coronavirus test kits](#) directly to the public. This will allow state health departments to approve new diagnostic tests and increase testing capacity. The FDA said it will review the accuracy of test data submitted by the manufacturers retroactively.
- On Monday evening, the White House held a COVID-19 call with Tim Pataki (Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Liaison), Dr. Robert Redfield (Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), and Ken Cuccinelli (Acting DHS Deputy Secretary). Pataki reported that the President discussed measures intended to improve public health, responsiveness, and economic growth with G7 leaders. Redfield discussed the ongoing federal effort to diminish the exponential spread of coronavirus and "flatten the curve" of infection.

Cuccinelli described the Department of Homeland Security's response to the coronavirus outbreak and discussed new travel restrictions. Cuccinelli reported that as of March 16<sup>th</sup>, the U.K. and Ireland will be added to the list of travel bans. Lastly, after reiterating that U.S. citizens returning from these countries will be screened through 13 funneling airports and potentially subjected to 14-day quarantines if they are symptomatic, Cuccinelli addressed recent quarantine rumors. While Cuccinelli recognized that some military facilities on medical bases are quarantined, Cuccinelli stated that rumors of the federal government limiting domestic travel are untrue.

## CONGRESS

- Senate Republicans said the Trump administration will present them with proposals on Tuesday for the "Phase 3" bill which is intended to aid small businesses. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and other top Democrats will present their own \$750 billion-plus package today, and what Trump and Senate Republicans will propose may equal or top that. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) said the Senate could move to a new rescue package as early as this week.
- The Senate will take up [H.R. 6201](#), Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin worked out the "technical corrections bill" Monday and were able to get it through the House without objection. President Donald Trump said a House-passed virus relief bill should be altered in the Senate to allow expanded sick leave for workers at large corporations. ***Current summary of the bill attached;***

## Business and Trade

- The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) recently announced relief measures for its U.S. exporters, especially U.S. small business exporters, as well as financial institutions related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Here is a link to EXIM's [press release](#) and a related [fact sheet](#) summarizing these relief measures.
- Tesla Inc. won't have to shut its Fremont car factory as part of an order for nonessential businesses in the San Francisco area to close.