



March 18, 2020

Coronavirus Morning Update

OVERVIEW

- The number of confirmed coronavirus infections crossed 200,000, more than doubling in two weeks. Deaths globally also more than doubled over the past two weeks to over 8,000. The U.S. has 6,496 confirmed cases and 114 deaths.
- [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

- The Trump administration is seeking \$1 trillion in new economic relief as lawmakers work on the “Phase 3” of coronavirus relief efforts, which includes payments to small businesses, loan guarantees for industries like airlines and hotels, and a stimulus package for workers. Senate Majority Whip John Thune (R-SD) said Tuesday there is a “high level of interest” among Republicans for a Trump administration proposal to send as many as two \$1,000 checks directly to individual Americans to help respond to the economic slowdown.
- Overnight, the White House sent lawmakers a \$46 billion emergency funding request to expand medical care for military service members and veterans, fund vaccine and drug development, build 13 quarantine centers at the southern border for migrants, make federal buildings safer, and reimburse Amtrak for \$500 million in losses. The request also reverses budget cuts to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) that was proposed for FY2021 and would create a \$3 billion fund for unanticipated needs.
- The Department of Defense (DoD) [said](#) it will provide 5 million N95 respirator masks and other personal protective equipment from its strategic reserves to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Defense Secretary Mark Esper also said the Pentagon would open up as many as 16 labs to test civilians for the virus and potentially call up more members of the National Guard and Reserve. The announcement came after President Donald Trump told reporters that the administration was considering invoking the Defense Production Act to increase the supply of protective equipment.
- In a White House meeting with President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, hotel industry groups [requested](#) \$100 billion to retain workers and \$50 billion to service debt and warned that half the hotels could close this year.

CONGRESS

- The Senate will consider H.R. 6201, the House-passed coronavirus emergency package negotiated between Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said the Senate will work at “warp speed” to craft “Phase 3” of the economic stimulus package, reassuring that senators “will not leave” Washington until it's done.

Business and Trade

- According to a [survey](#) by the American Chamber of Commerce, many American manufacturers in China are facing component shortages for the next three months. Around a third of respondents to the survey said they are already out of, or expect to run out of, components, supplies and materials. The main factors were transportation and logistics disruptions, as well as a shortage of labor. The Chamber polled 237 companies, 57% of which were American firms while 20% were Chinese.
- The U.S. Travel Association (USTA) [projected](#) that total spending on travel in the U.S., including transportation, lodging, retail, attractions and restaurants, would drop by \$355 billion for the year and those losses would increase the overall U.S. unemployment rate to 6.3% from 3.5%.