

**CORONAVIRUS** | UPDATED 1:21 P.M.

## Coronavirus in New York: Latest Updates

*By Chas Danner, Matt Stieb, and Benjamin Hart | and Adam K. Raymond*



Refrigeration trucks outside Bellevue Hospital act as a makeshift morgue. Photo: Noam Galai/Getty Images

As of Thursday morning, there have been at least 92,381 confirmed cases of the coronavirus discovered in the state, including more than 51,809 in New York City. At

least 2,373 people with COVID-19 have died in the state, which has the largest number — around 38 percent — of confirmed cases in the U.S.

Nationwide, more than 226,000 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed across all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and three U.S. territories. At least 5,316 people have died from the virus in the country, where 28 states have confirmed more than 1,000 cases. COVID-19 has killed more than 50,200 worldwide.

As more widespread testing is done, the full scope and scale of the New York (and national) outbreak becomes clearer, including how much the virus continues to spread. Below is what we know about the reported cases and consequences in New York thus far.

**As of Thursday morning, health officials have confirmed at least:**

- 92,381 total cases [in New York State](#)
- 2,373 deaths from the coronavirus in the state
- 51,809 cases in New York City, including 1,374 deaths
- 13,383 people with COVID-19 are hospitalized, including 3,396 in intensive care — 7,434 coronavirus patients have been discharged
- 22,255 cases in New Jersey, with 355 deaths
- 3,557 cases in Connecticut, with 85 deaths

The above counts are of laboratory-tested and confirmed cases of COVID-19 and should not be mistaken for the actual number of people who have or have had the coronavirus in the region. Similarly, updates to the totals are not necessarily new infections — they are *newly discovered* infections.

---

***Thursday, April 2***

## Cuomo says state may run out of ventilators in six days

In his Thursday press conference, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said New York is six days away from exhausting its supply of ventilators given the current need. At present, 350 new people a day require a ventilator and the state has enough for another six days, he said. Cuomo added that “extraordinary measures” are being taken to add to that supply. Among those measures are splitting the use of ventilators between multiple patients and converting BiPAP machines, typically used for sleep apnea, into ventilators.



**Andrew Cuomo** @NYGovCuomo · 3h

Last night we released 600 ventilators to NYC, Long Island and Westchester.

We have 6 days of ventilators left in our stockpile at the current

burn rate.

We are taking extraordinary measures to move ventilators to meet the need.



**Andrew Cuomo**

@NYGovCuomo

1. We are using anesthesia machines as ventilators.
2. We are "splitting" ventilator tubes so two patients can share a ventilator.
3. We are converting BiPAP machines into ventilators.
4. We are scouring the globe to acquire more ventilators.

2,436 6:01 PM - Apr 2, 2020

787 people are talking about this

## Former NYPD top cop returns as coronavirus supply czar

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Wednesday that former police commissioner James O'Neill is stepping into a newly created role as COVID-19 senior adviser. His job will be to oversee the supply and distribution of medical equipment to hospitals throughout the city. It's a big job as the city faces a shortage of key supplies. De Blasio said Wednesday that the city still needs 3.3 million N95 masks, 2.1 million surgical masks, 100,000 isolation gowns, and 400 ventilators by Sunday.

## The NYC zip codes hit hardest by coronavirus

A new map from the city's Department of Health shows the distribution of positive COVID-19 tests across the five boroughs. Outer borough areas and those with high poverty rates have more cases than the more affluent areas.

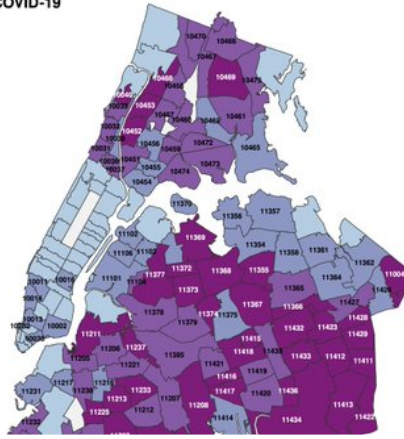


**Jimmy Oddo**

@HeyNowJO

Here is an updated portal from the NYC DOH, which includes Covid case broken down by zip code.[www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid...](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid...)





22 people are talking about this

Last month, Governor Andrew Cuomo placed a 90-day moratorium on evictions, but renters will still owe back pay to their landlords when those 90 days end. While Cuomo has suggested that issue is settled, other lawmakers are working to give permanent relief to renters and landlords. Queens state senator Michael Gianaris has proposed legislation to forgive rent payments for anyone who's lost money due to the coronavirus

outbreak. It would provide mortgage-payment forgiveness for landlords and push the burden onto the banks.

## A new field hospital, and a controversial one

An indoor training space at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens will be converted into a 350-bed medical facility. The facility will be for patients who do not have COVID-19, at least for now. Louis Armstrong Stadium, the 14,000-seat venue at the tennis center, is also being converted into a meal-packing center. Each day, 125,000 meals will be packed in the space, a spokesperson for the center told the *WSJ*.

Meanwhile, in Manhattan, the field hospital set up in Central Park to help with overflow patients from Mount Sinai is creating controversy. The group behind the 68-bed center is Samaritan's Purse, run by Evangelical Trump pal Franklin Graham. According to NBC New York, "The group asks health care workers and volunteers to adhere to a statement of faith, which opposes same-sex marriage." Local officials, including City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, are raising concerns about the group. Johnson called it "extremely troubling that he and his organization are involved in our relief efforts in any way."

On Tuesday, Mayor de Blasio told reporters that he was assured the organization will act in a way that is "truly consistent with the values and the laws of New York City." Still, he said, his office is sending monitors to the facility.

---

***Tuesday, March 31***

## FEMA is sending ambulances to NYC

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is sending 250 ambulances and 500 EMTs to New York City to help with the surging number of 911 calls made across the city. The system, which typically averages 4,000 calls a day, saw the record for daily 911 calls broken three times last week.

"Our EMTs and Paramedics are facing an unprecedented number of medical calls each day. There has never been a busier time in the history of EMS in New York City," Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said Tuesday. "We are very grateful for this assistance from FEMA that will make an immediate impact to the 911 system and greatly assist our men and women on the frontlines of this pandemic."

## A glimmer of hope

According to CNN's tracking of new COVID-19 infections in New York City, the daily increase in cases is falling.



**Shimon Prokupecz**  
@ShimonPro

Some good news: Rate of increase of new coronavirus cases appears to be slowing in New York.

An analysis of CNN's count shows that average rate of day-over-day increase for the last seven days was 17% - compared to 58% for the previous seven-day period.

727 2:53 PM - Mar 31, 2020

[277 people are talking about this](#)

## Amazon fires Staten Island worker who led walkout

A New York man who led Monday's walkout of a Staten Island Amazon warehouse was fired later in the day. Christian Smalls helped organize the walkout after a co-worker tested positive for COVID-19. He accused management of refusing to close the facility for two weeks following the employee's positive test. Smalls was fired shortly after the protest Monday, Amazon said, because he was supposed to be home on quarantine but came to the warehouse and "further [put] the teams at risk."

New York Attorney General Letitia James tweeted that his firing is a disgrace and that she is "considering all legal options and calling on the NLRB to investigate."

---

***Monday, March 30***

## The Empire State Building lends its light to the cause

Though it's unclear how helpful the searing beam was to reduce stress in a city well aware of the crisis and wired with tension.



**Rita J. King**  
@RitaJKing

The [@EmpireStateBldg](#) reminding us that the city is in the middle of an emergency.



211K 2:25 AM - Mar 31, 2020

[59.3K people are talking about this](#)

## Many New Yorkers can't afford to self-quarantine

Though subway ridership is now lower than it was when the opening weekend of the system in 1904, a New York Times analysis found that drops in traffic are not equal among the boroughs:

“Ridership declines in each of the four boroughs served by the subway varies significantly and largely along socioeconomic lines. Over the last two weeks, the steepest ridership declines have occurred in Manhattan, where the median household income is \$80,000 — the highest of any of the city’s five boroughs.

Subway ridership in Manhattan fell around 75 percent, while ridership in the Bronx, which has the highest poverty rate of any of the boroughs and the lowest median income at \$38,000, dropped by around 55 percent, according to an analysis of data from Friday morning commutes through March 20.



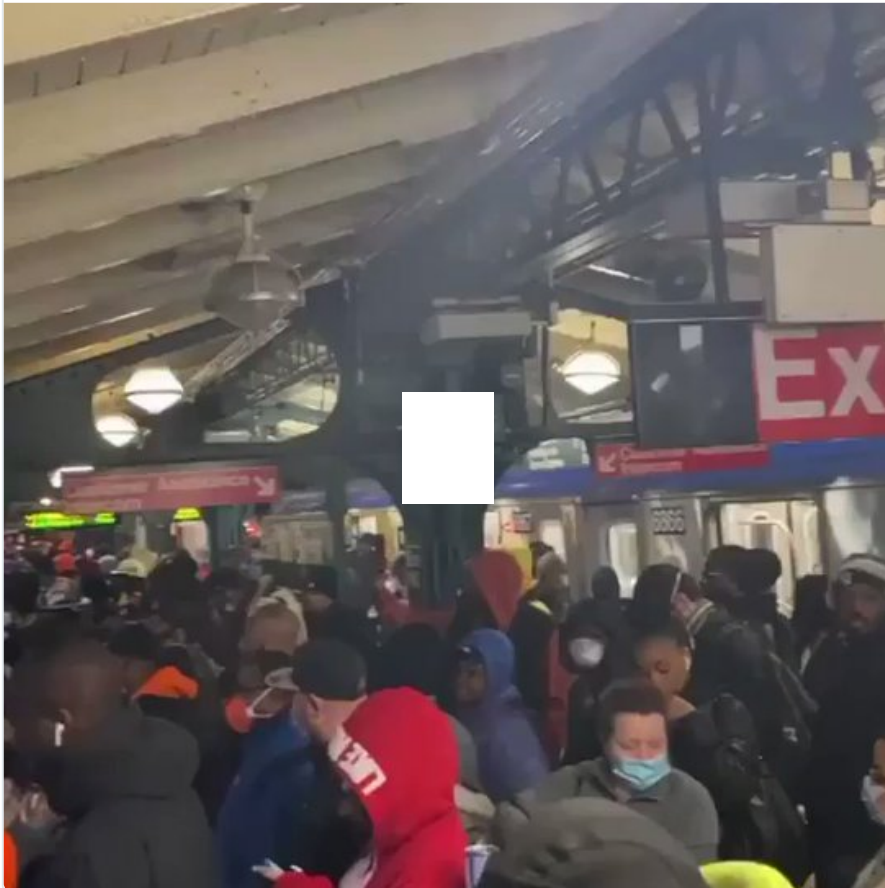
**Mona Eltahawy**  
[@monaeltahawy](#)

This is E 180th St. station in the Bronx. This is what it's like to NOT have the privilege of working from home. Social distancing is a privilege that many don't have. #COVID19  
[#NYC twitter.com/whatisny/statu...](#)

**WhatIsNewYork** @whatisny

This is from this morning. I know certain jobs like first responders/ medical staff/ grocery store employees/ etc. have to get to work but NYC, what are we doing with packed platforms???

#whatisnewyork



23K 6:47 PM - Mar 27, 2020

[9,003 people are talking about this](#)

On Monday, the MTA also announced the deaths of five more workers, bringing the agency's death toll to seven.

## The first minor in NYC with a case of the coronavirus has died

The city reported the death of its first patient under the age of 18 on Monday. Like the vast majority of patients who have passed away, the city reported that the minor had an underlying condition. Of the 790 deaths in the city, 777 patients had underlying



conditions, which, according to the city's definition, include diabetes, lung disease, cancer, immunodeficiency, heart disease, hypertension, kidney disease, and asthma.

## Cuomo gets high marks for his handling of coronavirus

New Yorkers overwhelmingly approve of the job Governor Andrew Cuomo has done during the coronavirus outbreak, according to a new poll from Siena College. The poll found that 87 percent of voters give Cuomo high marks for his handling of the outbreak. Nearly all Democrats — 95 percent — approve of the job Cuomo is doing, along with 87 percent of independents and 70 percent of Republicans.

The same poll found that 61 percent of voters approve of the job New York City mayor Bill de Blasio is doing during the crisis. President Trump, on the other hand, has majority disapproval in New York, with 56 percent of voters saying he is not doing a good job during the coronavirus outbreak.

## USNS *Comfort* arrives in New York City

The USNS *Comfort*, a Navy hospital ship that left Norfolk Saturday, arrived in New York City Monday morning. The 1,000-bed hospital ship will dock at Pier 90 on the West Side of Manhattan by late morning. The ship, which is home to 12 operating rooms, a pharmacy, and a blood bank, among other things, is expected to serve as a “referral hospital for patients not infected with COVID-19, allowing civilian hospitals on shore to focus on treating patients infected with the coronavirus,” the *Times* report.



**Kevin Rincon**  
@KevRincon

USNS Comfort has arrived in NYC. It's passing World Trade Center right now on the Hudson River. I can hear cheering from Jersey City.



3,597 people are talking about this

## NYC will fine those defying social distancing rules

Flouting social distancing rules in New York City could result in a \$500 fine, Mayor Bill De Blasio said Sunday. The mayor said people will be given warnings and fines will be reserved for those remain defiant.

“They’re going to give people every chance to listen. And if anyone doesn’t listen, then they deserve a fine at this point. And I don’t want to fine people when so many folks are going through economic distress, but if they haven’t gotten the message by now and they don’t get the message when an enforcement officer’s staring them in the face ... that person then deserves the fine,” he said.

## Coronavirus deals ‘historic’ blow to the mafia

The New York *Post* is reporting that the mafia, like everyone else, is hurting because of the coronavirus outbreak. The problem is three-fold. First, the last of sports to bet on has “wiped out tens of millions of dollars in illegal gambling income,” a law enforcement source tells the paper. Then there are the restaurant closings, which have hurt the extortion business and reduced the amount of garbage that needs hauling. Finally, the pause on non-essential construction work has cut into the profits of organized crime families.



A new makeshift morgue is set outside Lenox Health Medical Pavilion (in the building which  
used to be St. Vincent's Hospital) on March 29, 2020 in New York City. Photo: Kena  
Betancur/AFP via Getty Images

---

***Sunday, March 29***

## A city of sirens



**Laurie Garrett**  
@Laurie\_Garrett

Turn up the volume and listen to the sound of a city in the grips of [#COVID19](#). Every siren wailing is carrying more lives to an already overcrowded hospital. And every siren signifies an EMT crew risking their lives to save others.[#coronavirus](#)

5,786 5:27 AM - Mar 28, 2020

[3,263 people are talking about this](#)

Emergency calls have overwhelmed New York City's 911 system as the coronavirus crisis continues to inundate hospitals and the first responders whose ambulance sirens have become a constant background sound throughout the city, day and night. More

than 7,000 calls were fielded by 911 dispatchers last Thursday, one of three days last week that set call volume records.



**Ej Dickson**  
@ejdickson

When I close my eyes it's impossible to tell if there are ambulance sirens or not because they're omnipresent, all day and all night. That's how fucking scary it is to be in New York City right now.

87 11:56 PM - Mar 28, 2020

[28 people are talking about this](#)

The New York *Times* reported Saturday that according to paramedics and city officials, some would-be patients are already being left at home because the city's health system is not able to treat everyone — including those deemed well-enough to not need emergency care, too vulnerable to risk exposing to coronavirus contagion at emergency rooms, or too ill to attempt to save. The calls are for both those infected with the coronavirus and those with otherwise ordinary health emergencies:

One New York City paramedic described responding to a suicide attempt of a woman who had drank a liter of vodka after her cancer treatments had been delayed, in part because hospitals were clearing their beds for coronavirus patients. Another paramedic said she responded to so many cardiac arrests in one shift that the battery on her defibrillator died.

The severity of coronavirus-related calls has also evolved, and not in a good direction, again per the *Times*:

Three weeks ago, the paramedics said, most coronavirus calls were for respiratory distress or fever. Now the same types of patients, after having been sent home from the hospital, are experiencing organ failure and cardiac arrest. "We're getting them at the point where they're starting to decompensate," said the Brooklyn paramedic, who is employed by the Fire Department. "The way that it wreaks havoc in the body is almost flying in the face of everything that we know."



There are also ongoing, seemingly universal complaints about a lack of PPE for health care workers — including first responders. As of Friday, 206 members of the FDNY had tested positive for the coronavirus.

On Sunday night, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that 161 New Yorkers had died in the city from the coronavirus over the course of the last 24 hours, and that the city was working to expand the number of health care workers handling the paramedic overload. On Sunday morning, de Blasio said that the city had about a week's worth of medical supplies, and would soon need "at least several hundred more ventilators very quickly." In the evening, de Blasio said that 1,400 ventilators had been distributed to city hospitals — but that an estimated 15,000 would ultimately be needed.

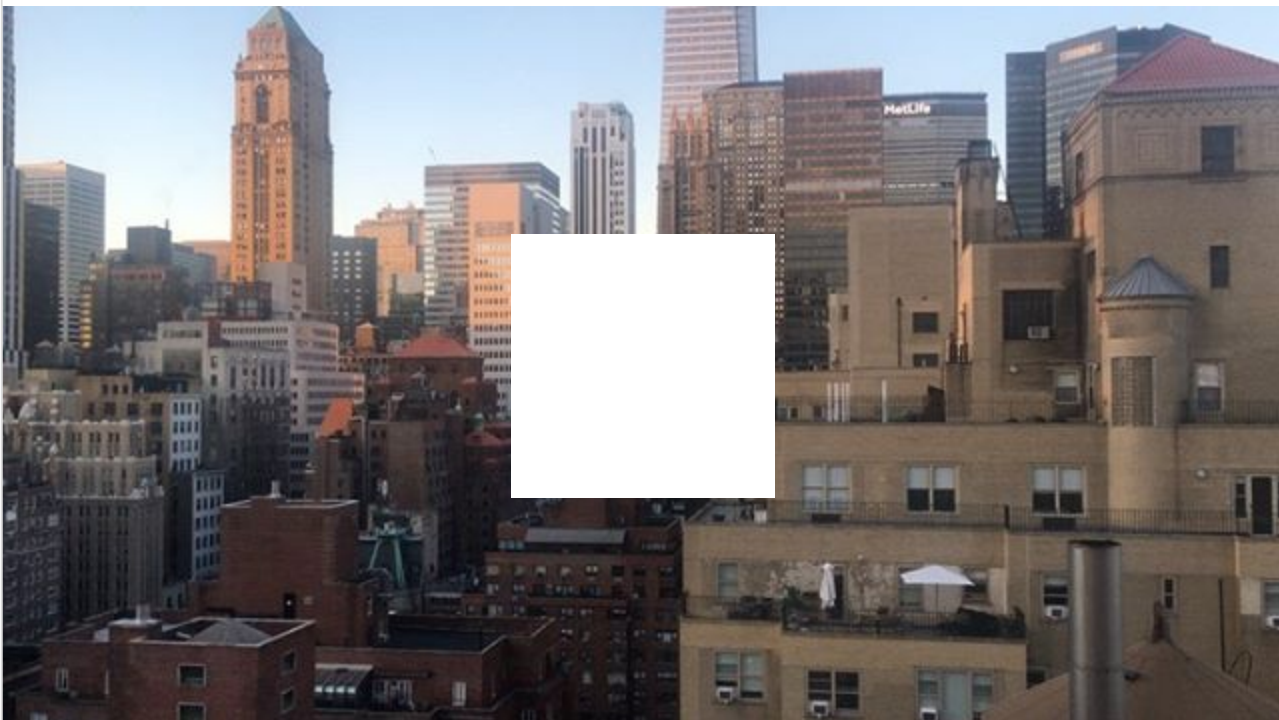
## A pause for applause

On Friday evening at 7 p.m., many New Yorkers participated in a coordinated attempt to applaud the city's health care workers:



**todayshow**  
New York, New York

[Profil ansehen](#)



[Mehr auf Instagram ansehen](#)

Gefällt 41,135 Mal

**todayshow**

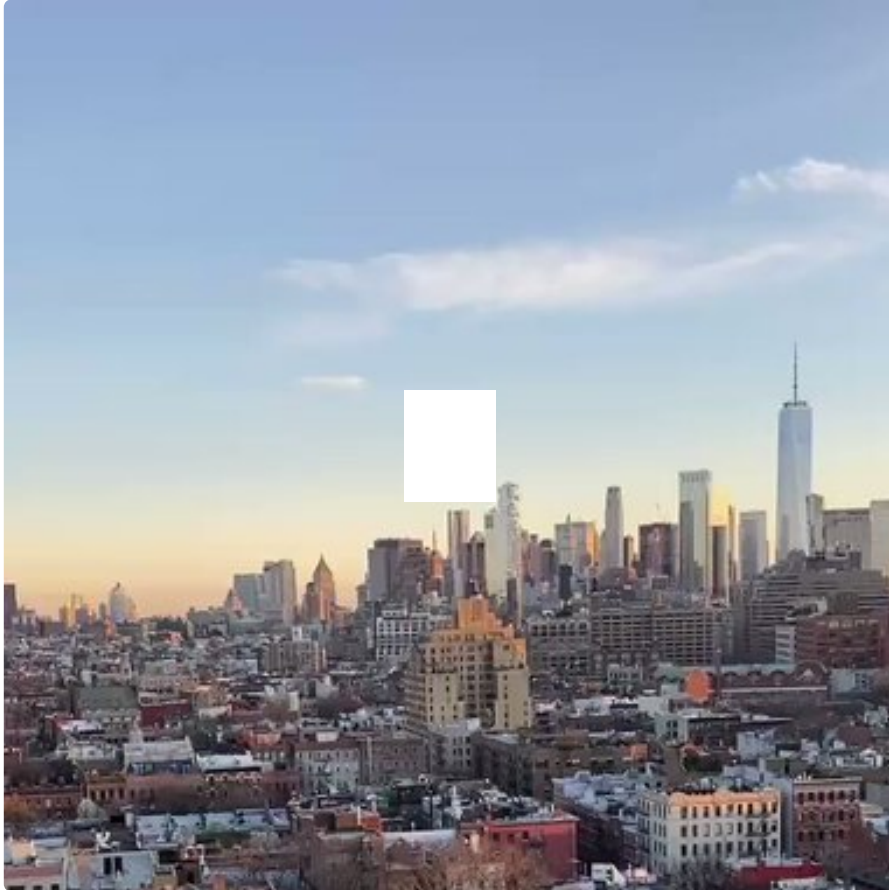
On Friday night, New Yorkers took to their windows to applaud the health care workers, first responders, nurses, grocery store employees, truck drivers and many more who are stepping up to keep us safe during these unprecedented times. Thank you for all you do. 🙏 [#ClapBecauseWeCare](#)



**Chas Pressner**

@cjpressner

The West Village in NYC came out tonight on their roofs to thank the Healthcare workers here in the city, the country and around the world. Thank you for all you do. [#StayHome](#) [@NBCNewYork](#) [#clapbecausewecare](#)



1,300 1:30 AM - Mar 28, 2020

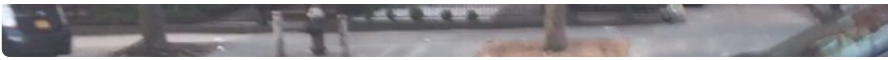
[462 people are talking about this](#)



**Marlene DeNoon**

@marden66

[#ClapBecauseWeCare](#) Parkslope Brooklyn cares 🙌🙌🙌❤️



9 1:55 AM - Mar 28, 2020

[See Marlene DeNoon's other Tweets](#)

It happened again on Saturday night:

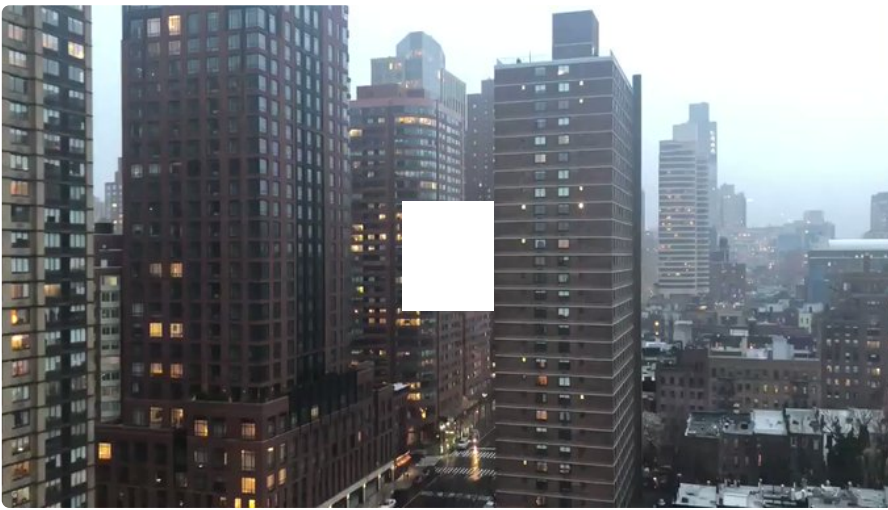


**Matt McDermott**

@mattmfm

Replying to @mattmfm

The only sound in New York City this evening is a mix of applause for health care workers, and ambulance sirens.

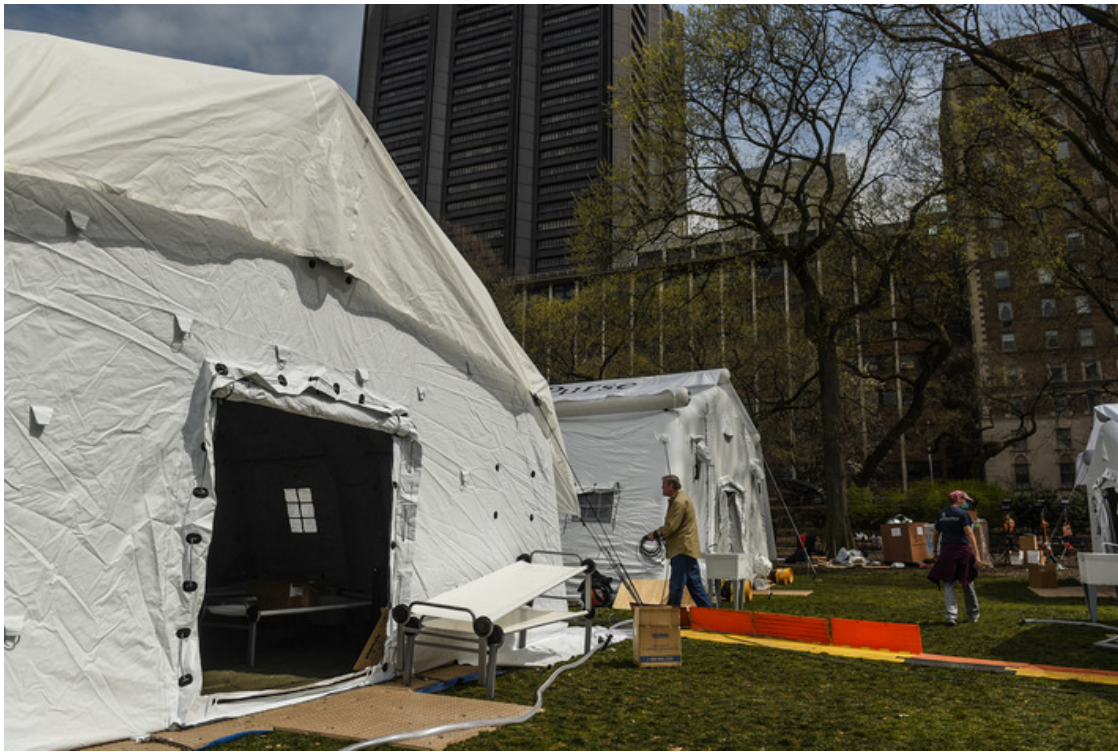


69 1:08 AM - Mar 29, 2020

[23 people are talking about this](#)

Field hospital goes up in Central Park





Tents are seen in an emergency field hospital to aid in the COVID-19 pandemic in Central Park on March 30, 2020 in New York City. Photo: Stephanie Keith/Getty Images

A 68-bed field hospital is being constructed in Central Park across from Mount Sinai West at 5th Avenue and 99th Street in Manhattan. The hospital is being built by Samaritan's Purse, an evangelical Christian organization run by the son of the late televangelist Billy Graham. [NY1 reports](#) that the organization constructed a similar hospital in northern Italy earlier this month:

Dr. Elliott Tenpenny, the team leader of this field operation, tells NY1 state officials approved the plan after Mount Sinai Hospital reached out for assistance. The field hospital will be composed of a respiratory care unit with ICU capability. Dr. Tenpenny said highly trained doctors and nurses with experience in infectious diseases will be deployed on a rotating basis.

The hospital is expected to be operational by Tuesday morning.

## NYC nurse shares photo of COVID-19 fatalities

A nurse has shared a photograph, seen in the embedded tweet below, which was taken inside a refrigerated truck outside an unnamed New York City hospital showing bodybags containing people who died from complications of the coronavirus. The unidentified nurse told [Buzzfeed News'](#) Miriam Elder that he took the photo "to show to people ... the ghastly reality of what we deal with and where some of us have ended



up already.” The nurse also told Elder a heartbreaking story about one of the victims in the photograph, whose hand he had held as she died on Saturday night:

“I never had the patience to sit with somebody I’d just met until they took their last breath. But I really liked this lady’s cardigan and pajamas so I decided to stay and get to know her a little,” he said over text message. “Her hair was elegantly done with a sharp, meticulous clip and casually pulled up with a bandana that matched her house clothes. Perhaps if she’d covered her face with it instead, she wouldn’t have ended up here in the first place. But she didn’t die alone.”

One of the many unique horrors of the coronavirus is that its victims are frequently forced to die alone, isolated from relatives and friends, because of its high infection rate. The nurse’s patient was 71 and otherwise healthy. He described how she gasped for air as she died. He said she had tested positive about a week ago and was sent home, only to return on Saturday with shortness of breath. She asked not to be intubated, and died overnight.



**Miriam Elder**  
@MiriamElder

Replying to @MiriamElder

He said at his hospital they were expected to use PPE for \*five days\* before changing out. "They don't want to test us because, at the rates we are exposed, we are likely all sick and we don't know it" [buzzfeednews.com/article/miriam...](https://buzzfeednews.com/article/miriam...)

#### **A Nurse Shared A Harrowing Photo Of COVID-19 Victims To Sh...**

"It is the ghastly reality of what we deal with and where some of us have ended up already," the New York City nurse said.

[buzzfeednews.com](https://buzzfeednews.com)

265 people are talking about this

Since health care workers are not permitted to photograph patients, very few images from the real front lines of New York's COVID-19 epidemic have been made public — though doctors and nurses working in New York City-area hospitals have been sharing their experiences.

## Rhode Island stops singling out New York drivers — will now target *all* out-of-state residents

Rhode Island governor Gina Raimondo has revised her executive order targeting motorists with New York State license plates, but it's not exactly a reprieve. On Friday, Raimondo ordered Rhode Island State Police to pull over drivers with New York plates and order them to self quarantine for 14 days, and sent police and national guard members to the coastal community homes of New York residents with a similar message. The controversial policy was intended to prevent the spread of the coronavirus to the state as New York residents flee the largest known outbreak of COVID-19 in the country.

The move angered Governor Cuomo, who threatened to file a lawsuit against the state. He then said on Sunday that he had spoken with Governor Raimondo about the targeting, commenting that, "I don't think the order was called for, I don't believe it was legal, I don't believe it was neighborly — I understand the point, but I thought there were different ways to do it, and the governor of Rhode Island was very receptive."

Raimondo didn't really back off, however. Instead she simply expanded the order to apply to all out-of-state residents traveling to Rhode Island, by any means, for any reason other than for work. She also made it clear she was annoyed with Cuomo's reaction and attempt, on Sunday, to take credit for the policy change.

## Cuomo extends stay-at-home order until at least April 15

Governor Cuomo announced on Sunday that he was extending his order for all nonessential workers to stay at home until at least April 15.



**Andrew Cuomo**  
@NYGovCuomo

New York State on PAUSE is extended to April 15.

That means the non-essential workforce is directed to continue to work from home until at least April 15.

We will re-evaluate every two weeks.

34.3K 6:15 PM - Mar 29, 2020

[9,336 people are talking about this](#)

## Trump abandons NYC quarantine idea, but CDC issues domestic travel advisory

President Trump's ill-advised thought balloon about ordering a quarantine of the New York City area imploded on Saturday after he faced universal pushback on the idea from his entire coronavirus task force as well as the governors of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Instead, Trump directed the CDC to advise against domestic travel from the states — which has no legal weight.



**Dr. Robert R. Redfield**

@CDCDirector

Domestic Travel Advisory: Due to extensive community transmission of [#COVID19](#) in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, CDC urges residents to refrain from non-essential domestic travel for 14 days effective immediately. Read more: [bit.ly/3bzmFwh](https://bit.ly/3bzmFwh)



21.5K 4:32 AM - Mar 29, 2020

[8,748 people are talking about this](#)

Cuomo, who had dismissed the quarantine idea on Saturday, framed the CDC advisory on Sunday as an affirmation of what he had already ordered. “This is not a lockdown, it is a travel advisory to be implemented by the states ... It’s nothing that we haven’t been doing. Nonessential people should stay at home, so it’s totally consistent with everything we’ve been doing.”

## How do the city’s cases (and testing) break down along socio-economic lines?

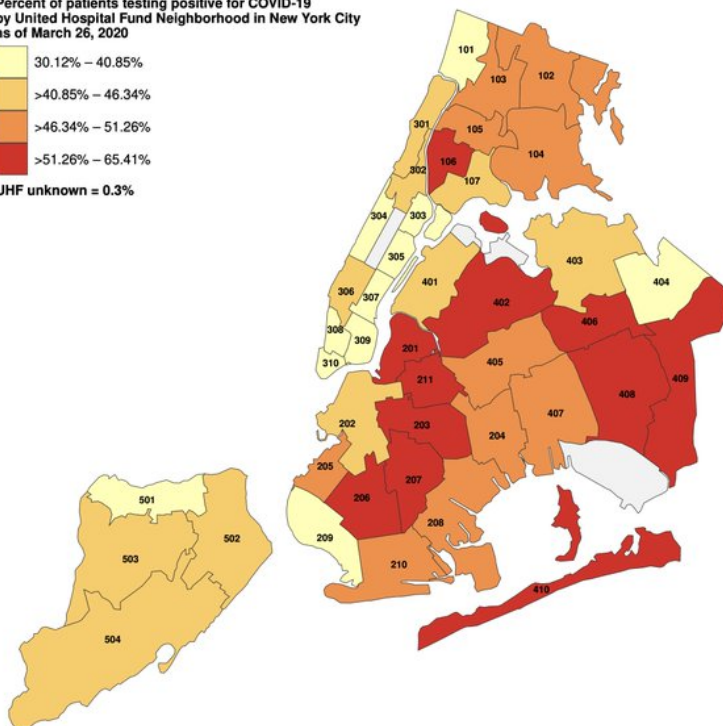
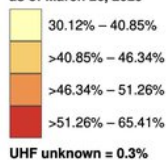
TPM’s Josh Marshall flags a map of New York City’s positive test percentages:



**Josh Marshall**  
@joshtpm

This is a map released by NYC mapping the city in COVID-19 infection. Redder is higher percentage of positive tests. Anyone familiar with the city will see that the pattern lines up at least broadly with the city's wealth. Which makes sense, poorer areas more cramped conditions..

Percent of patients testing positive for COVID-19  
by United Hospital Fund Neighborhood in New York City  
as of March 26, 2020



N = 51404 total persons tested as of March 26, 2020

478 5:07 PM - Mar 28, 2020

[259 people are talking about this](#)





**Josh Marshall**  
@joshtpm

Replying to @joshtpm

2/ less ability to telecommute, more continued work in the essential services driving the city through the crisis, etc. But another distinct possibility is that people in Manhattan and in the wealthier parts of Brooklyn, Riverdale, etc are getting more tests.

118 5:07 PM - Mar 28, 2020

[24 people are talking about this](#)

“It’s not a helpful map,” goes on to acknowledge, “the city government is being very stingy with data. Without knowing where the most tests are being taken, who knows [if the wealthier parts of the cities are simply performing more]. A valuable map would show numbers relative to population. And then layered on with intensity of testing.”

“I suspect it’s a combination of the two hypotheses I described. But both turn on wealth, power and race in the city.”

---

*Friday, March 27*

## Public schools closed until April 14, at least

Governor Andrew Cuomo on Friday extended the closure of New York public schools by two weeks. Schools will now be closed at least until April 14, at which point the order will be reevaluated. Cuomo had previously closed schools until April 1. “I don’t do this joyfully, but I think if you look at where we are and the number of cases increasing, it only makes sense,” Cuomo said.

New York City schools were already planned to be closed at least until April 20. On Thursday, Mayor Bill de Blasio said he still hopes to open schools by the 20th, but acknowledged “that’s going to be a big challenge.”

## States issue orders for travelers from New York

Several states on Thursday issued new rules for travelers arriving from New York and surrounding areas. Visitors to Texas, Florida, and Maryland who have previously been in the New York tristate area have been ordered by the governors of those states to self-isolate for 14 days. Rhode Island has extended a similar order to those coming from New York.

Enforcement won't be easy. In Texas, where the order only applies to those arriving by air, visitors will be required to tell officials where they will be quarantining. Troopers from the Texas Department of Public Safety will then follow up to ensure the traveler is complying. Rhode Island is stationing members of the National Guard at bus stations, where those arriving from New York will be required to provide ID and contact information. Those traveling in a car with a New York license plate will be pulled over by Rhode Island state police and required to reveal where they're staying and provide contact information.

## Trump doubts New York's need for ventilators

President Trump on Thursday night said he didn't believe claims from Governor Andrew Cuomo that New York will need 30,000 ventilators to cope with the coming crush of coronavirus cases. "I have a feeling that a lot of the numbers that are being said in some areas are just bigger than they're going to be," Trump told Sean Hannity on his Fox News show. "I don't believe you need 40,000 or 30,000 ventilators. You know, you go into major hospitals sometimes they'll have 2 ventilators, and now all of a sudden they're saying, 'Can we order 30,000 ventilators?'"

New York City mayor Bill de Blasio told *Good Morning America* on Friday that Trump is "not looking at the facts of the astronomical growth of this crisis."

---

***Thursday, March 26***

## Cuomo and de Blasio rip stimulus bill, Schumer defends it

Even before the \$2 trillion federal stimulus bill cleared the Senate Wednesday night, Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York City mayor Bill de Blasio lodged their complaints. Cuomo said the bill would be "terrible for the state of New York," and de Blasio called the deal "immoral" for allocating only \$1 billion to the city hit hardest by the outbreak.

In his Thursday morning press conference, Cuomo complained that the stimulus earmarks \$5 billion for New York's COVID-19 response. "It does absolutely nothing for us in terms of lost revenue for the state," he said. The stimulus, which he called "irresponsible" and "reckless," "simply failed to address the governmental need."

Senator Chuck Schumer sees things differently. The stimulus is "very, very good for New York." When all the benefits come through, Schumer said, the bill will provide

\$100 billion in relief for the state.

Both the state and New York City are projecting large revenue decreases. State revenue could fall by as much as \$15 billion, while de Blasio has asked city agencies to identify at least \$1.3 billion that could be cut from the city budget due to lost revenue.

## A nurse dies at Mount Sinai West

Kious Kelly, a 48-year-old nurse died at what was formerly known as Roosevelt Hospital; workers there state that there the facility has not provided them with enough personal protective equipment, or PPE.

On Thursday, Dr. Peter Shearer, the chief medical officer at Mount Sinai in Brooklyn, spoke with *New York*, describing the intensity of the crisis his hospital is dealing with: “I’ve been through the blackout. I’ve been through Sandy. I’ve been through the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. And this is different. 9/11 was a horrendous thing, but there was no impact like this on hospitals. Sandy, some hospitals were completely devastated, and it was horrendous and awful, but the weather got better. And you could start cleaning up. But this is just getting worse. I have never been in a war. It feels like a war.”

## Street-closure pilot program will shut down four streets to vehicle traffic

Stretches of one street in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan will be shut down to vehicle traffic and opened to pedestrians in a pilot of a program meant to make social distancing easier by giving people more space to walk. The following streets will be closed to cars from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Friday to Monday.

Manhattan: Park Avenue, between 28th Street and 34th Street.

Brooklyn: Bushwick Avenue, between Johnson Avenue and Flushing Avenue.

Queens: 34th Avenue, between 73rd Street to 80th Street.

Bronx: Grand Concourse, between East Burnside Avenue and 184th Street.

## COVID-19 spreading fast in NYC jails

New York City has seen a faster spread of the coronavirus than any other place in the U.S. and the city’s jails have it even worse. According to an analysis by the Legal Aid Society, there are now 14.5 infections per 1,000 inmates in city jails. That’s compared

to two per 1,000 people in the city at large. On Wednesday, the Department of Corrections reported 75 total cases in city jails, up from 52 cases reported Tuesday.

---

*Wednesday, March 25*

## An 'apocalyptic' report from Elmhurst Hospital Center

At the 545-bed public hospital in central Queens, 13 people at Elmhurst had died in 24 hours from the coronavirus. "It's apocalyptic," Dr. Ashley Bray, a general medicine resident, told the New York Times. As the paper reported, in a period of a few hours on Tuesday, "Bray performed chest compressions at Elmhurst Hospital Center on a woman in her 80s, a man in his 60s and a 38-year-old who reminded the doctor of her fiancé. All had tested positive for the coronavirus and had gone into cardiac arrest. All eventually died."

## Evidence social distancing measures are working

In a rare bit of good news from Governor Andrew Cuomo Wednesday press conference, he said there is some evidence that the social distancing measures taken by New York residents are working. To demonstrate, he pointed to projections of how many hospital beds will be needed in the state to treat patients. As of Sunday, he said, the projection was hospitalizations would double every two days. But on Monday, the projection shifted, with doubling expected every 3.4 days. The trend continued Tuesday as doubling expected every 4.7 days.

Cuomo cautioned that these projections are "almost too good to be true." Still, he said, "This is a very good sign and a positive sign. I'm not 100 percent sure it holds or it's accurate, but the arrows are headed in the right direction and that is always better than the arrows headed in the wrong direction."

## NYC to pilot street closures

In his Wednesday morning press conference, Governor Andrew Cuomo said he and New York City mayor Bill de Blasio have agreed on a new plan to reduce congestion in city parks. Part of the plan will "pilot closing streets in New York City," he said. That would leave the streets closed to vehicles but open to pedestrians.

## 40,000 sign-ups for surge health-care force



In anticipation of a coming peak in coronavirus cases, the state has reached out to retirees and medical professionals who are out of the occupation to build what Cuomo called a “surge medical force.” So far, he said, there have been 40,000 sign-ups for “possible reserve duty.” Among them are 2,265 physicians, 2,409 nurse practitioners, and more than 16,000 registered nurses.



**Cara Buckley**  
@caraNYT

Man - 40,000 additional medical professionals have volunteered to help fight coronavirus in New York. How amazing is that?

| Staff  |        |
|--|--------|
| • Surge Healthcare Force: 40,000 Responses to date |        |
| Type   | TOTAL  |
| Physicians   | 2,265  |
| • Anesthesiologists                                | 93     |
| • Emergency Room                                   | 86     |
| • Intensive Care Unit                              | 30     |
| • Infectious disease                               | 12     |
| • Pulmonologists                                   | 10     |
| Nurse practitioners                                | 2,409  |
| Physician assistants                               | 938    |
| Nurse anesthetists                                 | 328    |
| Respiratory therapists                             | 160    |
| RNs  | 16,367 |
| LPNs   | 4,016  |

248 5:36 PM - Mar 25, 2020

[78 people are talking about this](#)

## NYU offers med students early graduation

Senior medical students at NYU have been offered a chance to graduate three months early if they agree to immediately go to work at NYU Langone Health’s Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine departments. The offer was made in an email to students Tuesday. “With the growing spread of COVID-19, our hospitals inundated with patients, and our colleagues on the front lines working extra-long hours, we are still short-staffed in emergency and internal medicine,” the e-mail said.

The situation in New York City’s hospitals has become increasingly dire as cases in the city continue to rise.

## Taxi drivers take a hit, commuters may get a refund

NYC's taxi industry, like many other industries, is being decimated by the coronavirus outbreak and shutdowns that have followed. Some drivers tell the *Times* they're now waiting five or six hours for one passenger, and the Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade reported a 91 percent drop in ridership last weekend. "This crisis is unlike anything we've ever seen before," City Council Speaker Corey Johnson told the paper. "Every New Yorker is struggling, and for-hire vehicle drivers are among the hardest hit."

Meanwhile, the MTA seems poised to give commuters a break on unused MetroCards. Though the details of any coming refunds are not yet clear, the chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said on NY1 Monday: "With respect to refunds, we're going to do the right thing."

---

***Tuesday, March 24***

## Inside New York's hospitals

The Associated Press reports on how health care workers are withstanding the surge of coronavirus patients:

A "cacophony of coughing" in packed emergency rooms. Beds squeezed in wherever there is space. Overworked, sleep-deprived doctors and nurses rationed to one face mask a day and wracked by worry about a dwindling number of available ventilators. ...

"These are people in severe respiratory distress, needing to be intubated and needing the intensive care unit," he said. "We knew it was coming. We saw it in Italy and other places so we were prepared for it, and now we're seeing it."

Columbia University chief surgeon Dr. Craig Smith wrote in a note to colleagues: "To think we could mimic Italy seemed risible a week ago. Not today."

**White House asks anyone leaving NYC area to self-quarantine for 14 days, Fauci says 1/1000 New Yorkers likely infected**

“For anyone in the New York metropolitan area who has traveled, our task force is encouraging you to monitor your temperature, be sensitive to symptoms,” explained Vice President Pence in a Tuesday afternoon press conference, “And we are asking anyone who has traveled out of the New York City metropolitan area to anywhere else in the country to self isolate for 14 days.”

The recommendation, which was endorsed by both National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony Fauci and coronavirus task force coordinator Deborah Birx, came in light of the tens of thousands of COVID-19 cases which have been discovered in and around the city in recent weeks. Fauci highlighted the exodus of many New Yorkers to other parts of the country. “They’re going to Florida. They’re going to Long Island. They’re going to different places,” Fauci said.

He estimated that roughly one out of every thousand people leaving the New York City area were infected, a “disturbing” statistic which he said was “about eight to 10 times more than in other areas.”

Birx recommended that the self-quarantines begin based on when people left, and she praised Florida governor Ron DeSantis’s self-quarantine order for anyone arriving in Florida from the tri-state area — and order DeSantis said Tuesday he would expand to also retroactively include everyone who had come to Florida from the area over the past three weeks.

## Trump is attacking Cuomo

Per the Washington Post, Trump was clearly looking to blame Governor Cuomo for the New York outbreak during a Tuesday town hall on Fox News:

Early in his appearance, he referred to an allegation floating around on fringe websites that Cuomo had in 2015 turned down thousands of ventilators. There was no pandemic taking place at that point, and the source was former New York lieutenant governor Betsy McCaughey (R), who offered no apparent substantiation. The report accused Cuomo of establishing “death panels and lottery instead.” Trump tried to hand a copy of the report to Fox News host Bill Hemmer, but Hemmer cited the need for social distancing.

“I’m not blaming him or anything else, but he shouldn’t be talking about us,” Trump said. “He’s supposed to be buying his own ventilators.” ...

When Deborah Birx, the head of the government's coronavirus task force, weighed in on why the problem was worse in New York than in other states, she cited the density of the metropolitan area's population and the fact that travelers may have returned there from Asia before travel restrictions went into place. Trump wanted her to cite another reason, though: Cuomo. He cut in on Birx and asked her, "Do you blame the governor for that?"

## Cuomo: Peak of the outbreak will be higher and sooner than previously thought

Governor Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday revised the most dire projections for the peak of the coronavirus outbreak in New York. Rather than the 110,000 beds previously thought to be needed when the outbreak peaks, he said the state will require 140,000. "The apex is higher than we thought, and the apex is sooner than we thought," he said in a press conference at the Javits Center.

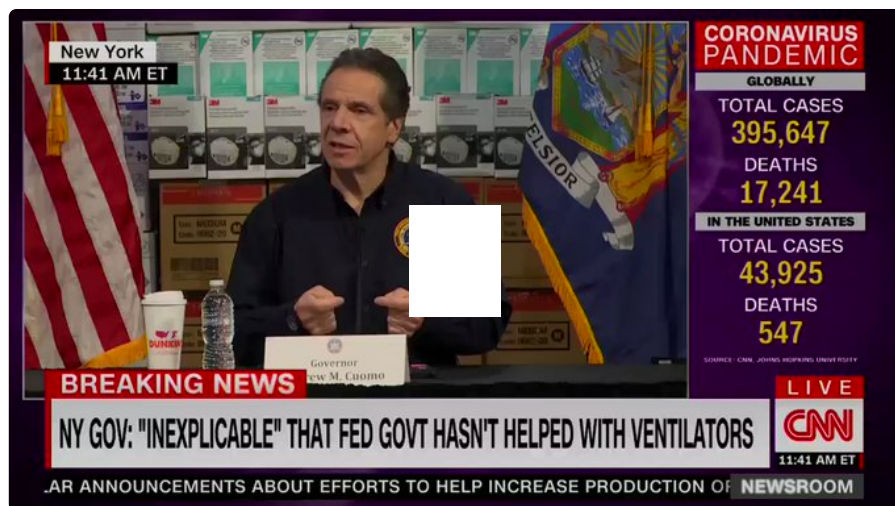
Cuomo also addressed the federal government's response, criticizing the White House for not using the Defense Production Act to produce more ventilators. The state needs 30,000 ventilators, he said, and FEMA is sending 400. "What am I going to do with 400 ventilators when I need 30,000? You pick the 26,000 people who are going to die because you only sent 400 ventilators."



**Brian Koerber**

@bkurbs

A super powerful moment from Cuomo's press conference today on the Fed's response to COVID-19 in NY. "You pick the 26,000 people who are going to die because you only sent 400 ventilators."



3,657 people are talking about this

## The outbreak hits the MTA

The MTA on Tuesday said it is cutting “duplicative subway service” due to having “fewer train crews available while our employees follow steps that health officials recommend for everyone.” That means no B, W, or Z train service on Tuesday. The announce comes as the MTA is cutting service at a rate nine-times greater than usual, NY1 reports:

The number of subway trips canceled because of a lack of conductors and train operators is growing. Internal MTA figures obtained by NY1 show 1,090 subway trips were canceled from last Wednesday through Sunday, a nearly nine-fold increase compared to the 126 trips, canceled from March 4th through 10th.

There are currently at least 23 MTA employees with confirmed cases of COVID-19.

## Javits Center transformation begins

The New York International Auto Show was supposed to open at the Javits Center on April 10. Instead, the massive glass complex will soon be home to four emergency hospitals constructed by FEMA, each with 250 beds. Another 1,000 beds, set up by the Army Corps of Engineers, will be available for hospital overflow.

“You are going to see an overcapacity of our health system,” Cuomo said during a tour of the facility Monday. “Luckily, Javits has plenty of space.”



**Andrew Cuomo**  
@NYGovCuomo

Toured the Javits Center today where FEMA has started work on a 1,000-bed temporary hospital to open next week.

Equipment from both the state & federal government is being delivered here.

My thanks go to everyone working so hard to make this happen so quickly.





14.2K 10:08 PM - Mar 23, 2020

[2,803 people are talking about this](#)

## NYC area's "attack rate" is five times greater than the rest of the country

Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, said in a press conference Monday evening that the COVID-19 "attack rate" for the New York City metro area, including New Jersey and parts of Long Island, is five times greater than the rest of the nation. Roughly 28 percent of tests in the metro area have come back positive for COVID-19, while that's true of just 8 percent of tests around the U.S.

"Clearly, the virus had been there for a number of weeks," she said. "To all of my friends and colleagues in New York, this is the group that needs to absolutely social distance and self-isolate at this time."

---

***Monday, March 23***

### Putting New York's outbreak in context

#### **Versus the rest of the U.S.**

Well over half of the confirmed U.S. coronavirus cases have been discovered in New York. As of Monday, cases in the state account for 58 percent of cases nationwide, and including 33 percent of the U.S. deaths from the disease.

#### **The most testing in the nation, too**

The state has also done more testing for the virus than any other state — 78,000 tests and counting as of Monday, according to Governor Cuomo, compared with a little more than 26,000 tests done in California as of Saturday.

#### **NYC-area cases dominate**

As of Monday, New York City's more than 12,300 COVID-19 cases accounted for more



than 58 percent of the state's overall cases. And a total of nearly 8,000 cases have been discovered in the counties surrounding the city.

### **Versus the world**

New York currently has more confirmed coronavirus cases per capita than Italy. If the state were a country, it would have more cases than every other country in the world other than Italy, Iran, China, Spain, and Germany.

## **New York City's outbreak chart**

As of Monday morning:

Photo: Handout

## **A look at the demographics of New York City's cases**

As of Monday morning, nearly half of the confirmed coronavirus cases in New York City have been in people younger than 45 years old, and 57 percent of the people with confirmed cases have been male.

## Cuomo orders hospitals to increase capacity by 50 percent

Governor Cuomo said Monday that he had issued an emergency order directing New York hospitals to expand their capacity by 50 percent. “Find more beds, use more rooms,” Cuomo said at his Monday press conference, “I don’t think it’s unreasonable to say try to reach a 100 percent increase but you must reach a 50 percent increase.”

So far, roughly 13 percent of New York coronavirus cases have resulted in hospitalization, and as of Monday morning, 2,635 COVID-19 patients were being cared for in New York hospitals — including 621 in intensive care. But health officials believe the state will need as many as 113,000 hospital beds to handle the outbreak — more than double the current capacity of 53,000 beds. Even worse is the projected ICU unit shortage: health officials have said the state may need as many as 18,000 to 37,000 intensive care units for COVID-19 patients, but there are currently only 3,000.

On Sunday, Cuomo announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was building four temporary hospitals inside the Javits Convention Center in Manhattan, and another three in the New York City suburbs. The USNS *Comfort* hospital ship is also on its way to New York.

## De Blasio: NYC likely to “lose the whole school year”

On the same day that New York City public schools began a new remote-learning program for its 1.1 million students, Mayor Bill de Blasio said that it’s unlikely they will return to the classroom this school year. “I do unfortunately believe the likelihood right now is that we lose the whole school year,” which is “deeply unfortunate,” he said.

That’s particularly significant for the 300,000 estimated students who do not have the ability to take part in the remote-learning program. The city is working to get Wi-Fi-

enabled laptops and tablets to those students, but as of this week only 25,000 were available.

## NYPD cases nearly double

The number of known COVID-19 cases in the NYPD nearly doubled over the weekend, with officials confirming 98 cases on Sunday, up from 52 Friday. “In one Brooklyn precinct, the entire detective squad called out Sunday,” the New York *Post* reported. The number of officers calling in sick is roughly 1,000, double the average. Police Commissioner Dermot Shea told the *Post* that the department has enough officers and staff to absorb the absences, at least for now.

---

## U.S. Army building four temporary hospitals

Governor Cuomo said Sunday that he had approved the building of temporary hospitals at four downstate locations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Those locations will be the Javits Center in Manhattan as well as sites in Stony Brook, Westbury, and Westchester.

## NYC public parks (and public) will face new scrutiny

Governor Cuomo gave city leaders 24 hours to come up with a plan to limit the use of public parks on Sunday. Cuomo said he was “appalled” at the number of people who were congregating in the city’s parks on Saturday. “There is a density level in New York City that is wholly inappropriate,” Cuomo said at his Sunday coronavirus press conference, noting that he saw people playing basketball and shopping in open-air markets:

You would think there is nothing going on in New York City. You would think it’s just a bright sunny Saturday. I don’t know what I’m saying that people don’t get ... This is not life as usual. I was in these parks and you would not know there is anything going on. This is just a mistake! A mistake! It’s insensitive! It’s arrogant! It’s self-destructive! It’s disrespectful to other people! It has to stop and it has to stop now! This is not a joke and I am not kidding!

“The City has already banned team sports and revoked all permits for large gatherings and has increased the presence of NYPD and Parks Enforcement Patrol officers to enforce social distancing,” a city spokesperson told Gothamist. The Parks Department

says it has been cleaning and disinfecting park facilities to control the spread of COVID-19, but that doesn't currently include regular cleaning of outdoor furniture and playground equipment.

On Sunday afternoon, NYPD commissioner Dermot Shea said that police would be patrolling parks and both breaking up large groups and politely reminding people to return home after getting their exercise. It's not clear if or what penalties parkgoers will face if they don't comply.

## Another call for releasing people from NYC jails, where at least 38 people have tested positive

The Board of Correction asked city leaders in a letter on Saturday to begin immediately releasing some of the roughly 7,000 people currently in custody in New York City jails — particularly those in custody at highest risk of dying from the coronavirus. The BOC, which oversees the city's jail system, said that in the past week it has learned that at least 17 employees of the Department of Correction and Correctional Health Service had tested positive for COVID-19 as well as at least 21 people being held throughout the city's jail system. Fifty-eight people in custody were also being monitored in the contagious-disease and quarantine units.

"It is likely these people have been in hundreds of housing areas and common areas over recent weeks and have been in close contact with many other people in custody and staff," the board said. "Given the nature of jails (e.g., dense housing areas and structural barriers to social distancing, hygiene, and sanitation), the number of patients diagnosed with COVID-19 is certain to rise exponentially."

Regarding whom to let out, the BOC highlighted more than 3,000 people in city custody who are:

- Over the age of 50
- Have underlying health conditions
- Are in custody for technical parole violations ("including failure to make curfew, missing a meeting with a parole officer, or testing positive for drugs")
- Are serving city sentences of less than a year for low-level offenses

The Legal Aid Society has also sued the city to release 116 parole violators with underlying health conditions who are in custody.

More than 200 people have been approved for release by district attorneys in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens, but it's not clear if and when they will be let out. (Both a DA and a judge have to sign off on the releases.)

One of the reported deaths from the coronavirus in New York was a DOC investigator, who died last week. In addition, on Saturday, the Federal Bureau of Prisons reported the first inmate case of COVID-19 at the notorious Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

---

*Saturday, March 21*

## FAA briefly halted flights into and out of New York City

All flights to and from airports in the New York City area and Philadelphia were temporarily halted on Saturday for about two hours after the FAA learned an air-traffic-controller trainee had tested positive for the coronavirus. The trainee last worked at the New York Air Route Traffic Control Center in Ronkonkoma on March 17, and the FAA shut down travel to the region while the center was cleaned.

## New York City restricts testing to preserve medical supplies

In an effort to preserve dwindling medical equipment and testing supplies, the New York City Department of Health has directed city health-care facilities to stop testing for the coronavirus for anyone who is not hospitalized.

“At this point in the pandemic, demand for unnecessary testing is contributing to the rapidly diminishing supply of PPE and leading to a decreasing supply of swabs and viral transport media used to collect diagnostic specimens for COVID-19 testing,” the department said in a statement. “Testing may play a more significant role after the pandemic has peaked.”

## Life during the coronavirus pandemic

In Intelligencer’s first installment of a weekly poll about how the coronavirus crisis is affecting our readers, more than 1,000 people weighed in with their thoughts, fears, and how often they are leaving their homes:

- Not at all: 15.50%
- Just for essential errands: 73.26%
- I still have to leave for work but am not making many other trips: 9.50%
- I’m living my life as normal: 1.74%

Read the rest of the results here, including comments like this:



Climbing the front of this curve feels like the first big hill of a months-long roller coaster that I'm riding against my will.

## The public-school system's safety net

Also here at *Intelligencer*, Collier Meyerson [reports](#) on how the shutdown of the New York City public-school system is already having an impact on the city's most vulnerable:

[F]or low-income families (about 73 percent live in poverty), 114,000 homeless students, undocumented students, and English-language learners, school closures are a cataclysmic event. It isn't that those impacted wish for schools to remain open during a pandemic, but the realities of life without a safe place for kids to go and learn reveal how integral the school system is for New York City's most vulnerable and how so many social safety-net measures are tied to it.

The biggest school system in the country is now struggling to create a new normal, where the needs of New York City's most unprotected residents are taken care of. But it's not that simple.

Read more about the crisis how some families are being affected by the shutdown [here](#).

---

*Friday, March 20*

## New York declared a disaster area

On Friday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued a Major Disaster Declaration for New York — opening up billions of dollars in federal disaster aid for the state as it tries to handle the country's largest known coronavirus outbreak.

## Cuomo announces a “pause” on public movement

After resisting Mayor de Blasio's call for a shelter-in-place order, Governor Cuomo announced Friday what he's calling a “pause.” The new measures call for all non-essential businesses to keep 100 percent of their workforce at home. Pharmacies and grocery stores will stay open.

Cuomo also announced bans on all nonessential gatherings and several other provisions for those in non-vulnerable populations. New Yorkers, he said, should “remain indoors to the greatest extent.”



**Capital Tonight**  
@CapitalTonight

With Governor Andrew Cuomo's mandate that everyone in New York stay home, excluding essential services, here are what the state is calling "PAUSE Provisions." [#coronavirus](#)

### PAUSE Provisions for Non-Vulnerable Populations

1. Non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason (e.g. parties, celebrations, or other social events) are cancelled or postponed at this time.
2. Any concentration of individuals outside their home must be limited to workers providing essential services and social distancing should be practiced.
3. When in public individuals must practice social distancing of at least six feet from others.
4. Businesses and entities that provide essential services must implement rules that help facilitate social distancing of at least 6 feet.
5. Individuals should limit outdoor recreational activities to non-contact and avoid activities where you come in close contact with people.
6. Individuals should limit use of public transportation to when absolutely necessary, and should limit potential exposure by spacing out at least 6 feet from other riders.
7. Sick individuals should not leave their home unless to receive medical care, and only after a telehealth visit to determine if leaving the home is in the best interest of their health.
8. Young people should also practice social distancing and avoid contact with vulnerable populations.
9. Precaution: Isopropyl alcohol wipes

14 5:33 PM - Mar 20, 2020

[21 people are talking about this](#)

## De Blasio blasts Trump, new call for shelter-in-place order

On CNN Friday morning, Mayor de Blasio said the Trump administration needs to step up and help the city, which now has nearly a third of the nation's cases of COVID-19. “I have made repeated appeals to the federal government to get us basic medical supplies, and there is no meaningful response,” he said. “Where the hell is the federal government in the middle of the biggest crisis we’ve seen in generations?”

On MSNBC, he said the Feds have sent New York City expired medical supplies. He also renewed his call for a shelter-in-place order in New York City, something that Governor Cuomo must order but has so far resisted. Citing an order given by California governor Gavin Newsom, who told the state's 40 million residents to stay at home Thursday, de Blasio said, “What the State of California did was a recognition of a necessity.”

## Cuomo orders more closures

Barber shops, nail salons, tattoo parlors, and “similar services” will be shut down in New York State beginning Friday at 8 p.m., Governor Cuomo tweeted. New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania will do the same. The closure comes a day after the indoor sections of shopping malls, amusement parks, and bowling alleys were shut down.

---

*Thursday, March 19*

## New York City Council Speaker calls for \$550 for every resident

On Thursday, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson proposed that every adult in New York City receive a “temporary universal basic income” of \$550 and every child receive \$275 as part of a \$12 billion stimulus package. Justifying the measure, he stated that the impact of any UBI payment from the federal government “is far less in New York than almost every other city in the country.”

## A surge in new cases as testing expands

Governor Cuomo announced more than 1,700 new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday, a jump that comes as testing is expanded around the state. Cuomo said the state processed tests for more than 7,500 people Wednesday night and that 22,284 people total have been tested in New York. Of those who’ve tested positive, 777 have been hospitalized, a 19 percent hospitalization rate.

In his remarks, Cuomo said the outbreak “reminds me of 9/11.” He continued: “Children who were young at that time, but of school age, watched on TV. They didn’t know if their parents were coming home. I think it changed their whole outlook on life after 9/11. This is a situation like that.”

## Cuomo announces a raft of new rules

New York businesses are now required to keep at least 75 percent of their workforce at home, Governor Cuomo said Thursday. He also announced that mortgage payments will be waived for 90 days for people financially hurt by the outbreak. “If you are not working, if you are working only part time, we are going to have the banks and financial institutions waive mortgage payments for 90 days,” he said. “That will be a real-life economic benefit. It will also be a stress reliever for many families.” Fees for ATM overdrafts will be waived and foreclosures will also be suspended, he said.

---

*Wednesday, March 18 and before*

## Amazon confirms a case in its Queens warehouse

“We’re writing to let you know that a positive case of the coronavirus (COVID-19) was found at our facility today,” a Wednesday text to workers at the Amazon warehouse in Queens read, according to *The Atlantic*. Workers were sent home so that the facility could be disinfected, as the company faces a surge of orders as Americans stuck at home turn to the e-commerce site en masse. Two office workers in Amazon’s headquarters in Seattle have already tested positive, though this is the first case among hourly warehouse workers who handle goods directly.

## A family tragedy in central New Jersey

The New York Times reported of an Italian-American family based in Freehold, New Jersey, in which a 73-year-old grandmother, Grace Fusco, died on Wednesday night from the infection. Hours before, her son, Carmine Fusco, passed away from the virus. Five days before that, her daughter, Rita Fusco-Jackson, succumbed to the virus. Grace Fusco did not know that two of her children had died before her. In total, six of her children tested positive for the coronavirus; three of them are still in critical condition.

## Naval hospital ship to anchor in New York Harbor — eventually

The USNS *Comfort*, a 1,000-bed naval hospital ship, is on its way to New York City, Governor Cuomo said Wednesday. The 894-foot ship, which will be moored in New York Harbor, will add to the hospital capacity in the city, where there are only 53,000 hospital beds. Cuomo has said the city could need more than 100,000 beds when infections peak in 45 days.

The announcement comes after Mayor de Blasio called for the U.S. military to take a bigger role in combating the outbreak in the nation’s largest city. “The military has extraordinary medical capacity,” he said on the *Today* show. “It’s needed in places like New York right now.”

Unfortunately, the *Comfort* won’t be able to provide for New Yorkers in need right now:



**Roxana Tiron**  
@rtiron

Breaking: The Comfort hospital ship won't be able to go to NYC for weeks, [@ChiefPentSpox](#) says. Ship is in maintenance in Norfolk, Va., and Pentagon is now expediting maintenance

4,158 8:11 PM - Mar 18, 2020

[3,178 people are talking about this](#)

## New York State's unemployment website crashes

The New York State Labor Department's website to file for unemployment benefits is having trouble keeping up with the crush of traffic coming its way. On Tuesday, moves were made to increase capacity, the *Times* reports:

On Tuesday, it added staff, expanded hours and instituted a new system limiting filings to certain days.

Those with last names starting with the letters A through F can file on Mondays. Tuesdays are for letters G through N, and Wednesdays for the rest of the alphabet. On Thursdays and Fridays, anyone can apply.

"We experienced a massive increase in the volume of Unemployment Insurance claims, which slowed down the server," the department said in a social-media post. "It continues to be addressed but now appears to be operational."

## MTA asks for a \$4 billion bailout

With subway ridership down 60 percent, bus ridership down almost 50 percent, and commuter-rail ridership down almost 90 percent, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority wrote to New York's congressional delegation on Tuesday requesting a \$4 billion bailout package. Of those funds, \$300 million would go to cleaning costs related to combating the infection, while the other \$3.7 billion would buttress the continent's largest public-transportation system through the period of decreased traffic.

## NYC adding 8,200 hospital beds, faces ventilator shortage

The city is moving to rapidly add 8,200 beds to local hospitals through a combination of "retrofitting facilities that have nothing to do with health care" and carving out new space in existing hospitals by postponing elective surgeries and discharging patients



early, Mayor de Blasio said Monday night. The city will also be opening five drive-up facilities for health-care workers to be tested for the coronavirus.

Setting up hospital rooms is one thing, but having enough ventilators for them is another. According to a 2015 report from the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law, “New York could be short by as many as 15,783 ventilators a week at the peak of the crisis,” the *Times* reports.

## New York primary could be postponed, Queens special election canceled

Discussions are under way at the New York State Board of Elections to delay the New York primary from April 28 to June 23, the New York *Times* reported Sunday. Two states and Puerto Rico have already postponed their primaries. Should New York follow suit, the decision would be made by Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature.

On Sunday, Mayor de Blasio announced that the March 24 special election for Queens Borough president was canceled. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee, who has temporarily replaced former borough president Melinda Katz, said she would continue to serve in the meantime.

## “Everyone in New York should assume that they have been in contact with COVID-19”

New York City officials briefed United Nations diplomats on Saturday that the coronavirus has spread throughout the city, could threaten residents through late September, and that “everyone in New York should assume that they have been in contact with COVID-19,” according to *Foreign Policy.*

## New York is offering its own sanitizer

This probably makes sense at a time when Purell is more valuable than oil:



**Jimmy Vielkind**  
@JimmyVielkind

Happy Monday@NYGovCuomo just announced New York State has developed its own line of hand sanitizer.

It's being produced by prison inmates. NY's is 75%. Cuomo says we're making 100,000 gallons per week.



2,420 5:12 PM - Mar 9, 2020

[1,799 people are talking about this](#)

As Intelligencer’s Adam K. Raymond noted in his write-up on the product launch, “NYS Clean” doesn’t just address a supply shortage during a public-health emergency, cost a little more than \$6 a gallon, and make a good backdrop for a press conference — it can also be used to threaten corporations:

At the press conference, Cuomo said the state will mass produce the sanitizer if price gouging continues. “To Purell and Mr. Amazon and Mr. eBay, if you continue the price gouging, we will introduce our product, which is superior to your product, and you don’t even have the floral bouquet,” he said. “So stop price gouging.”

Initial reporting stated that NYS Clean is manufactured by inmates at Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Washington County, who reportedly make roughly \$0.65 an hour and may not be able to use the sanitizer themselves — because it contains alcohol. But Vice News reported on March 25 that inmates at Great Meadow “are doing nothing more than taking existing hand sanitizer and rebottling it into packaging labeled NYS Clean.”

*This post has been updated throughout to reflect new information and context.*

**We’re committed to keeping our readers informed.**

*We’ve removed our paywall from essential coronavirus news stories. Become a*

*subscriber to support our journalists. [Subscribe now.](#)*

## RELATED

➔ Getting a Coronavirus Test Is Like ‘Being Stabbed in the Brain’

➔ How to Protect Yourself Against the Coronavirus

➔ The City’s Doormen Are on the Front Lines of the Pandemic

TAGS: CORONAVIRUS NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC HEALTH WESTCHESTER COUNTY MORE

380 COMMENTS

## THE **Intelligencer** FEED

8 MINS AGO

### Why not three weeks ago?

WH says Trump has invoked Defense Production Act again to prod General Electric and other companies to produce more ventilators.

—@Acosta

2:42 P.M. COVID DIARY

### How Do You Get Laptops to 1.1 Million Public-School Students?

By PETRA BARTOSIEWICZ

An East Village principal, sick at home, tries to take his school remote.

2:17 P.M.

### This isn’t going to be soon enough for a lot of people

NEW with @AlexNBCNews: Week of April 13 is earliest Americans will see direct deposit relief payments from the government; paper checks could take as long as 20 weeks – nearly 5 months

– for some Americans

—@kasie

## MOST POPULAR

### **1. Coronavirus in New York: Latest Updates**

*By* CHAS DANNER, MATT STIEB, AND BENJAMIN HART

### **2. How and When Can Americans Access the \$1,200 Coronavirus Stimulus Checks?**

*By* MATT STIEB

### **3. Pence, in Craziest Lie Yet, Denies Trump Ever Downplayed the Coronavirus**

*By* JONATHAN CHAIT

### **4. The Small-Business Bailout Just Got a Lot Better**

*By* ERIC LEVITZ

### **5. Republicans: ‘Nobody Expected’ the Coronavirus Pandemic. So Joe Biden Is Nobody?**

*By* JONATHAN CHAIT

**2:07 P.M.** THE NATIONAL INTEREST

### **Trump Replaced White House Pandemic-Response Team With Jared Kushner**

*By* JONATHAN CHAIT

Luckily, the president’s son-in-law is also an expert in pandemic response.

**1:28 P.M.** CORONAVIRUS

### **Georgia Governor Shows Remarkable Ignorance About How the Coronavirus Spreads**

*By* ED KILGORE

Brian Kemp finally paid attention to evidence that asymptomatic people can transmit the illness, and imposed a tardy stay-at-home order.

**1:21 P.M.** CORONAVIRUS

### **Coronavirus in New York: Latest Updates**

*By* CHAS DANNER, MATT STIEB, AND BENJAMIN HART

Dozens of mobile morgues have been deployed around New York City.

**12:57 P.M.** INVESTIGATIONS

## **What's the Deal With Andrew Cuomo's Nipples? An Investigation**

*By* OLIVIA NUZZI

Groping for levity and searching for answers beneath the New York governor's thin white polo shirt.

**12:43 P.M.** HABITS

## **Welcome Back to the Appointment Internet**

*By* BRIAN FELDMAN

Social distancing has given rise to an older — and better — way of being online.

**12:31 P.M.** VISION 2020

## **Democratic Convention Moved to August Due to Coronavirus**

*By* ADAM K. RAYMOND

Originally scheduled for mid-July, the convention has been pushed back to the week of August 17 — for now.

**12:11 P.M.**

### **Even this seems optimistic at the moment**

JUST IN: DNC Convention postponed: In light of the unprecedented health crisis facing our country, DNCC announced today that the 2020 Democratic National Convention will now be held the week of August 17 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. [@NY1 @SpectrumNewsDC](#)

—@JvitalTV

**12:11 P.M.** DIARY OF A HOSPITAL

## **Diary of a Hospital: A Truck Full of Bodies**

*As Told To* ANNA SILMAN

"We're getting a little bit more of a sense that this is the new normal."

**12:08 P.M.**

### **Things remain dire in NYC**

A frontline doctor at a major NYC hospital told me he lost his first patient this morning to rationing of care — not enough ventilators to go around. The lack of supplies and testing is real — and costing lives — no matter what the daily reality show tries to sell you.

—@danielsgoldman



**11:37 A.M.**

### **The latest New York numbers**

NEW: @NYGovCuomo says there are now 92,381 confirmed cases of #coronavirus in New York State, 51,809 in City.

—@ZackFinkNews

**10:04 A.M. RECESSION**

## **10 Million Americans Lost Their Jobs in the Past Two Weeks**

*By* ERIC LEVITZ

Before the coronavirus, weekly jobless claims had never exceeded 700,000.

**9:33 A.M.**

### **Another way to look at it**

Apprently, the US has lost more jobs in the past 2 weeks than in all of the 2008-09 recession.  
10M vs. 8.6M

—@NathanKalmoe

**8:47 A.M.**

### **A staggering figure**

Perspective - 10 MILLION lost their job in the past two weeks. Unthinkable.

—@AnaCabrera

**8:35 A.M.**

### **A number worse than almost anyone was expecting**

CNN: 6.6 million people filed claims for unemployment benefits in week ending March 28...  
highest number of initial claims filed in history, surpassing last week's 3.3 million claims.

—@Acosta

**8:21 A.M.**

### **This may catch on widely**

Britain is 'looking at' giving people 'immunity certificates' if antibody tests show they have had coronavirus

No 10: 'This is something which has been discussed in other countries

‘We are always looking to learn from other ideas.’

—@Steven\_Swinford

**7:30 A.M.** JUST ASKING QUESTIONS

## **A Leading Silicon Valley Investor Talks Coronavirus Fears and Solutions**

*By* JEBEDIAH REED

“I hate to use this word, but I think it’s going to be Depression-like in its severity,” says the Silicon Valley investor and NBA-team owner.

**4/1/2020** CORONAVIRUS

## **Pentagon Requests 100,000 Body Bags for Coronavirus Victims: Report**

*By* MATT STIEB

The request for “Human Remains Pouches” is a harrowing physical reminder of the pandemic’s potential toll.

**4/1/2020**

### **If this curve is just the first wave**

The U.S. is still in the clambering-into-the-life-raft phase of responding to Covid-19, and thinking clearly about what to do is still difficult. This confusion has made it hard to appreciate two facts: One is that social distancing combined with scaling up testing, production of medical equipment, and other countermeasures are essential and must be replicated across the country, intensified, and continued. The other is that if these measures have the desired effect of reducing the number of new cases accumulating each day, they provide only a temporary solution. ...

It is very possible that after this first wave subsides, we will still have a largely susceptible population, though that depends on how well the social distancing works. Effective treatments and increased ICU capacity could reduce the demand for critical care, lightning the load on the health system, but again, these measures only delay things.

If the SARS-CoV-2 virus has a contagiousness of three, meaning every case infects three other people, then we won’t get to the end of the epidemic until two-thirds of the population has become immune by infection or by vaccination. Successful control of the first peak of infections could leave a majority (perhaps a large majority) of the U.S. population still susceptible to the virus.

**Navigating the Covid-19 pandemic: We’re just clambering into a life raft. Dry land is far away**

—Marc Lipsitch & Yontan Grad @ Stat News

4/1/2020

## Another productive Trump presser

Reporter asks Trump a question about reports of increased domestic violence.  
Trump: Mexican violence?  
Reporter: Domestic violence.  
Trump: Oh.

—@GeoffRBennett

4/1/2020 CORONAVIRUS STIMULUS

## How and When Can Americans Access the \$1,200 Coronavirus Stimulus Checks?

By MATT STIEB

Everything you need to know about the unprecedented check coming to a vast majority of Americans in April.

4/1/2020 CORONAVIRUS

## The Coronavirus Ushered in Boom Times for Gun Retailers

By MATT STIEB

According to FBI data, the spike in firearm purchases caused by the pandemic surpassed sales boosts following 9/11 and the Sandy Hook shooting.

4/1/2020 2020 ELECTIONS

## Republican Women in Congress Will Remain a Small Band in 2021

By ED KILGORE

The small ranks of Republican women in the Senate could fall in 2020, and probably won't rise above the current 13 members in the House.

4/1/2020 CORONAVIRUS

## Federalism Is a Bad Prescription for Handling the Coronavirus Crisis

By ED KILGORE

Reliance on cash-strapped state and local governments during the COVID-19 crisis could mean austerity measures that thwart the national response.

4/1/2020 THE NATIONAL INTEREST

## Republicans: 'Nobody Expected' the Coronavirus Pandemic. So Joe Biden Is Nobody?

By JONATHAN CHAIT

The new conservative defense is that everybody was as late to see the pandemic as Trump. Nope.

**4/1/2020** CORONAVIRUS

## Will the Coronavirus Tear Europe Apart?

By VINCENT BEVINS

Germany has ditched its economic playbook to confront the pandemic at home, but it's not yet clear if it will do the same for its southern neighbors.

**4/1/2020**

## RBG clearly getting some pushback on her workouts

An update on RBG's workouts: "At Justice Ginsburg's request, the Court has set aside the limited private space next to its health facility for Justice Ginsburg to exercise. Her doctors share her view that the training sessions are essential to her well-being." 1/2

—@adamliptak

**4/1/2020**

## NYC still short on ventilators

NYC needs 400 more ventilators by Sunday and 2500-3000 over the course of next week, @BilldeBlasio says.

—@erinmdurkin



SIGN IN TO COMMENT

## Intelligencer

NEWSLETTERS ABOUT US

HELP CONTACT

MEDIA KIT WE'RE HIRING

PRESS PRIVACY