

THE STATE OF THE INFECTED WORLD

An overview of COVID-19's progression throughout the globe

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From border closures to statewide lockdowns, both federal and state governments have been active in attempting to prevent the spread of the disease. Numerous states including New York, California, Illinois, Virginia and Maryland have issued stay-at-home orders, limited large gatherings and public outings and forced nonessential businesses to close. Even with such measures, the White House Coronavirus Task Force is preparing for at least 60,000-100,000 deaths nationwide. With cases increasing, America's health resources like COVID testing kits, protective gear, ventilators and ICU spaces are dwindling.

In response to novel coronavirus transmission across Europe, several western leaders ordered their nations to shut down. Britain, though, chose not to lock down. On March 27, Prime Minister Boris Johnson tested positive for the virus. This came shortly after news of Prince Charles' infection with the virus, throwing the British government further into turmoil. British efforts to control immigration from coronavirus hotspots could exacerbate pro-Brexit nationalist forces in England.



While many countries are struggling to distribute test kits and decrease the transmission of COVID-19, South Korea has been praised for their handling of the virus. Having dealt with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2003 and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome in 2015, the South Korean government has made efforts to regulate public and private data to track their patients' health.

Authorities believe that COVID-19 is reaching its peak in Spain. The country had recorded over 10,000 deaths by April 2, according to the Spanish Ministry of Health. As of April 4, the nation's official unemployment figure had risen to 3.5 million, the highest since 2017, after the government banned all outings and shut down all nonessential businesses. 882,822 people have lost their jobs since the start of the pandemic.

After COVID-19 arrived in Italy, the number of cases quickly surpassed that of China. The incredibly high death toll is mainly attributed to the age of the population. Italy has the highest median age in Europe, making the country more vulnerable to the virus. At the beginning of April, Italian officials announced that the number of cases had plateaued, contributing to the growing consensus that the worst had passed.

Since China detected its first case of COVID-19, there have been more than 1,889,849 reported cases and 117,652 deaths worldwide as of April 13, according to the World Health Organization. Recently, Chinese officials proclaimed that the worst of the virus had passed in the nation. Slowly opening up and lifting restrictions, China will allow travel in and out of Wuhan, the original epicenter of the virus. Met with intense skepticism in record keeping, Chinese officials have responded by arguing that public health should not be politicized.

January 31

President Donald Trump forbids foreign nationals who were in China from traveling to the U.S. for two weeks.



March 11

In a primetime address from the Oval Office, Trump announces the closure of the U.S. border with Europe, giving a mere two days for people to return or leave the country. This sparks panic among families with relatives in Europe.

"My house was chaotic [after Trump's announcement]. The border was set to shut down the next day, so my parents immediately called to awaken my sister who was studying abroad in Spain," junior Adianna Lockwood said. "Then they called the airlines, where we were put on hold for three hours since everyone was trying to change their flights. My dad eventually drove to Reagan National Airport to change her flight in person."



First death on American soil from the novel coronavirus is reported in Washington state. The White House asks Congress to allocate \$1.25 billion in funds as countermeasures to fight the virus.

February 29



President Trump officially declares a state of national emergency. He also announces the formation of the White House Coronavirus Task Force Team led by Vice President Mike Pence, U.S. Global AIDS coordinator Deborah Birx and director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci.

March 13

March 23

The U.S. surpasses its foreign counterparts with a record number of 82,404 cases of COVID-19.



March 27

The president signs a \$2.2 trillion urgent stimulus bill. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, widely known as the CARES Act, allocates money to qualifying Americans while also supporting hospitals and furloughed workers.



The president invokes the Defense Production Act, a Korean War-era power which allows presidential administrations to mobilize specific industries for national defense. Since then, a majority of American businesses have been complying with the president's "we are all in this together" doctrine.

March 27

April 2

The U.S. Department of Labor announces that 6.6 million Americans filed for unemployment insurance the week before April 2.



In a roller coaster of events, the stock market has a 2,000-point gain in a single day—a record-breaking statistic. Wall Street left March with its worst quarter since the Great Depression, furthering the fears of a major recession.

March 31