



## COVID-19 Update July 20, 2020

### ***Global***

Total cases – 14,567,109

Total deaths – 607,187

### ***United States***

Total cases – 3,764,355

Total deaths – 140,716

Total # tests – 45,734,327

### ***Administration***

- **Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin** said the Trump administration hopes to pass a phase four stimulus package before the end of the month, and said that negotiations for the package will start with “another trillion dollars.”
  - Mnuchin said the focus of this package will be “kids and jobs and vaccines,” echoing Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's repeated framing of the forthcoming Republican proposal. Mnuchin also claimed there will be a vaccine before the end of the year for emergency use.
  - **Mnuchin** said they want to tweak the enhanced unemployment insurance so they “don’t pay people more money to stay home than go to work.”
  - He also said the new package will have “tax credits that incentivize business to bring people back to work. We’ll have tax credits for PPE for safe work environments, and we’re going to have big incentives, money to the states, for education for schools that can open safely and do education.”
  - Mnuchin added that the administration wants liability protection in the new package.
- Talks on a new coronavirus stimulus package will start at **the White House** on Monday with **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and others**, President Donald Trump’s chief of staff, Mark Meadows, said on Fox News Channel.
  - The Trump administration [is balking](#) at \$25 billion in new funding favored by Republican lawmakers in the next relief bill to help states with coronavirus testing and contact tracing.
  - Also opposed is a plan to allocate billions of additional dollars for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and extra funding for the Pentagon and State Department to address the pandemic around the world.
  - **Top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow** tells Fox Business the Trump admin. is examining ways to cap total unemployment benefits so that people have help but also incentive to work.

- Re-employment benefits are also being looked at, Kudlow says, adding that he can't provide specific numbers because the issue is still under discussion
- Kudlow repeats President Trump's "strong view" that there should be a payroll tax holiday
- **President Donald Trump's Treasury secretary** said today that the White House should consider forgiving "small" loans taken out by small businesses, a move that would yield to advocates who say the Paycheck Protection Program is too complicated to navigate. His remarks come as Congress preps negotiations on the next coronavirus stimulus measure.
  - Mnuchin's interest in forgiving PPP loans comes after a coalition of almost 150 groups sent [a letter](#) to leaders calling for all PPP loans of less than \$150,000—around 87% of all loans approved through June 30—to automatically become grants, rather than requiring those owners to complete the complicated loan-forgiveness process.
  - The program allows loans of as much as \$10 million, which can become grants if borrowers spend most of the money on payrolls. Recipients apply to have loans forgiven and must show they maintained headcount and salaries or the amount forgiven is reduced. But business advocates have complained the application is too long and the process too complicated.
  - "We have complete agreement there should be a second check available to the businesses that are hardest hit, and there should be requirements around that," Mnuchin told the committee. He singled out restaurants, hotels and other travel and hospitality businesses as needing more aid.
- An unpublished document prepared for the **White House coronavirus task force** and [obtained by the Center for Public Integrity](#), a nonprofit newsroom, recommends that 18 states in the coronavirus "red zone" for cases should roll back reopening measures amid surging cases.
  - The "red zone" is defined in the 359-page report as "those core-based statistical areas (CBSAs) and counties that during the last week reported both new cases above 100 per 100,000 population, and a diagnostic test positivity result above 10%."
  - The report outlines measures counties in the red zone should take. It encourages residents to "wear a mask at all times outside the home and maintain physical distance." And it recommends that public officials "close bars and gyms" and "limit social gatherings to 10 people or fewer," which would mean rolling back reopening provisions in these places.
- **President Donald Trump** said **Anthony Fauci**, the U.S. government's top infectious-disease expert, is a "little bit of an alarmist" but that the two men have a "great relationship."
  - Trump made the comments in a lengthy interview on "Fox News Sunday" after members of his administration have criticized Fauci. The president also said he'd heard the U.S. has the "best mortality rate" related to the virus. He provided White House data that undercut his argument, showing the U.S. rate isn't the lowest.
  - "We are the envy of the world," Trump said about testing.
- **Anthony Fauci** told **Facebook, Inc.** 's **Mark Zuckerberg** that he expects results for a clinical trial on monoclonal antibodies by late summer or early fall, underscoring the speed at which the government has been working to quickly approve and roll out treatment for the novel coronavirus.
  - A [monoclonal antibody](#) is a laboratory-produced protein that can potentially be used to treat sick patients as well as for prophylaxis. Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease expert, described them as "precise bullets" that can be developed from antibodies from

other people who've been infected and used as a treatment to fight the virus at multiple stages.

- **Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin, White House Chief of Staff [Mark Meadows](#)** will attend Senate policy lunches on Tuesday to advance talks on next stimulus bill, Politico [reports](#).
  - Trump is scheduled to meet Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#) and House Republican leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) at White House today
  - Trump may also appear at Tuesday lunches, Politico says, without citing a source
- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** has authorized so-called “pool testing” for Covid-19, a move aimed at broadening checks for the coronavirus and using fewer testing resources.
  - Quest Diagnostics Inc. will be able to test samples containing as many as four individual swab specimens, the agency said on Saturday in an [emergency-use authorization](#).
  - The samples collected are then tested in a pool or “batch” using one Covid-19 test, rather than running each individual sample through its own test. If the pool is positive it means that one or more of the individuals tested may be infected, so each of the samples in that pool is then tested again, individually.
- A V-shaped economic recovery in the U.S. must be “tied clearly” to the guidelines aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19, **top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow** tells Fox Business News.
  - “For folks who want a strong economic-growth and jobs-creation pace in the second half and next year, it is essential that they observe the four key health guidelines, that is masking, distancing, testing and good personal hygiene,” Kudlow says
  - Says he still expects a “V-shaped recovery” and 20% growth in the year’s second half, but adds that the Trump admin. is watching coronavirus trends very closely
- The **Transportation Dept** this week negotiated an arrangement with India to allow U.S. carriers to resume passenger services in the U.S.-India market.
  - The issuance of a [DOT order](#) on June 22 imposing a prior approval requirement on Air India for its charter flights led to productive talks with India, DOT says in statement
  - “India has begun to approve U.S. carrier applications, and U.S. carrier passenger services to India are set to resume on July 23rd”: DOT
- **President Trump** says that while he supports the use of masks as protection against the coronavirus he does not believe that wearing a face covering should be mandatory for the nation.
  - “I want people to have a certain freedom,” Trump says in interview with Fox News, an excerpt of which was broadcast by the network ahead of its full airing on Sunday
- Hospitals taking care of the highest numbers of Covid-19 patients will receive an additional \$10 billion in U.S. government aid. Distribution will be based on inpatient admissions from Jan. 1 through June 10 and will go to more than 1,000 hospitals that have admitted at least 161 patients, the **Department of Health and Human Services** said in a statement.
  - Hospitals will get \$50,000 per Covid-19 patient and payments will start as early as Monday. HHS previously gave hospitals in hot spots \$12 billion in May.
- **Anthony Fauci, head of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**, said he’s optimistic that science will come to the rescue in the fight against Covid-19. There’s a delicate balance when reopening economies and policy makers must prevent case increases from turning into serious surges, he said at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce event.

- **Former Fed Chairs Ben Bernanke and Janet Yellen** warned that the U.S. economic recovery from the coronavirus shock could be slow and uneven and said the central bank may opt to cap yields on Treasury securities to help it along.
  - “It is possible, though not certain,” that the Fed will implement yield-curve control, they [wrote](#) on the Brookings Institution website, laying out testimony delivered Friday to the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis.
  - The Fed has looked into the possibility of capping yields on short- to medium-term Treasuries though policy makers have suggested that further study is needed before deciding whether or not to go ahead.
- **Top U.S. Coronavirus testing official Admiral Brett Giroir** says two or three coronavirus vaccines are likely, in an interview for SiriusXM’s “Doctor Radio Reports.”
  - “I don’t care who wins, right?,” Giroir says, “As long as we have a winner for the world. And I think we’ll have two or three. I really do believe we’ll have two or three different vaccine platforms”
  - Giroir also expressed concern that public messaging has interfered with public health
- Students from Europe are exempt from the U.S. coronavirus travel ban, Reuters [says](#), citing **State Dept communication with congressional offices**.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** extended its “no-sail order” for cruise ships through the end of September, preventing vessels from sailing in U.S. waters out of concern over the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - The move probably won’t dramatically change the timeline for the biggest cruise lines in returning to the seas. Last month, industry group Cruise Lines International Association said it would suspend voyages from U.S. ports until Sept. 15.
- **Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin** says a “technical fix” is needed for unemployment insurance, and that he wants to make sure there is liability protection for businesses as talks on the next stimulus package ramp up.
  - Mnuchin says he and White House Chief of Staff [Mark Meadows](#) will attend a lunch Tuesday with GOP lawmakers and also reach out to Democrats
  - Administration is focused on “starting with another trillion dollars” for stimulus with an emphasis on kids, jobs and vaccines, Mnuchin says at the White House
- **President Donald Trump** said he will resume his briefings to the public on the coronavirus pandemic, as infections surge around the country.
  - Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office on Monday, Trump said he would probably hold a briefing on Tuesday at 5 p.m. in Washington.
- [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance](#) for people who are isolating at home with Covid-19 to prevent transmission of the virus.
  - They offer one strategy based on time and symptoms, and another approach based on testing.
  - Someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 and has symptoms may discontinue isolation 10 days after the symptoms first appeared so long as 24 hours have passed since the last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and if symptoms such as coughing and shortness of breath have improved.
  - People with Covid-19 symptoms isolating at home and with access to tests can leave isolation if a fever has passed without the use of medication, if there is an improvement in symptoms, and if tests taken more than 24 hours apart come back negative, according to the guidelines.

- The revised guidelines were posed online Friday. The CDC also updated guidance for people who are in isolation after testing positive for Covid-19 but who don't have symptoms. The agency recommended two options: a time-based strategy and a test-based strategy.
- **Anthony Fauci** said many states rushed too quickly to reopen without bringing the virus adequately under control, leading to the resurgence in states across the U.S. south and west.
  - “We’ve got to regroup, call a time out,” [Fauci](#), director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease, said live in an interview with Facebook Inc. Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg.

### **Capitol Hill**

- Employers who follow public-health guidelines would be protected from federal labor and employment laws and agency investigations if a worker is exposed to the coronavirus in an office setting, according to a draft summary of a legislative proposal being developed by **Senate Republican** leaders.
  - Their bill aims to shield “employers from liability and from agency investigation under federal labor and employment laws for actions taken to comply with stay-at-home orders and other public health guidance,” a draft of the measure says. The document details elements of liability measures that are being considered as part of the larger virus-relief bill that Senate Republicans plan to release next week
  - **McConnell** also wants to give federal courts jurisdiction over liability claims arising from coronavirus infections to limit the legal exposure of businesses, schools and other organizations as they reopen, according to a summary of legislation he plans to offer.
  - The proposal, which would extend through 2024, would move to federal courts medical liability claims against caregivers that arise from care provided for the virus by licensed health care facilities and medical workers. Like employers generally, they could only be successfully sued if they engaged in gross negligence and intentional misconduct.
- **House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy** tells reporters that an initial Republican proposal for new coronavirus-related aid will include a payroll tax cut.
  - The measure, set to be circulated among lawmakers this week, will also call for a new round of direct stimulus money to be sent to Americans
- More than **100 House Democrats and Republicans** told the IRS it needs to do more to address taxpayer problems with delayed or missing stimulus payments, according to a [letter](#) sent to Commissioner Chuck Rettig.
  - “While the IRS claims that all issues may ultimately be resolved with 2020 tax filings in the next calendar year, for many of our constituents, that wait is simply untenable,” the lawmakers, led by Rep. [Suzan DelBene](#), a Washington Democrat, said in the letter Thursday.
- **House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy** (R-Calif.), in an about-face today, will require his GOP colleagues to wear face coverings when they gather for a conference next week, according to a summary of his directive. McCarthy has previously said members should wear masks at the Capitol, but he hadn’t been insisting on it. Democrats have complained that some Republicans have been appearing without masks at in-person hearings or on the House floor.
  - The guidelines for those attending the in-person Republican-only conference on Tuesday are explicit: Masks are mandatory, temperature checks will be taken at the door, and physical distancing measures will be strictly enforced..

- **Senate Democrats** called on the **Trump administration** to reverse recent changes that require hospitals to report coronavirus data to the Health and Human Services Department rather than the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those changes pose “challenges to the nation’s response by increasing the data management burden for hospitals, potentially delaying critical supply shipments” and “reducing transparency,” the lawmakers said.
- **Education and Labor Chairman Bobby Scott**(D-Va.) accused the White House of blocking CDC testimony to his panel “at a time when its expertise and guidance is so critical to the health and safety of students, parents, and educators.”
- **Sen. Elizabeth Warren** calls for an investigation into reports that dozens of companies received pandemic relief funds after hiring Trump-connected lobbyists to help seek funds, according to a letter.
  - **Warren** asks in letter that Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery Brian Miller include an analysis of the role lobbyists and former Trump administration officials play in helping companies secure CARES Act aid
- **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** and the **head of the U.S. Small Business Administration** will testify before a House committee today on Treasury and SBA programs responding to the economic fallout from Covid-19.
  - Mnuchin and SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza will appear before the [House Small Business Committee](#) ahead of Congress’ return to Washington next week, when talks are set to accelerate on another stimulus package both chambers will work to pass before departing again for a month-long August recess.
- **Majority Leader Mitch McConnell** (R-Ky.) said earlier this week he’s been talking to Mnuchin, and is developing a new stimulus. He plans to share details of it with lawmakers after they return Monday.
  - The proposal would continue providing unemployment insurance subsidies, tax incentives for employers to avoid layoffs and encourage rehiring, and a new round of checks and direct payments sent by the IRS, according to sources. The proposal will resemble much of the historically large aid package passed in March ([Public Law 116-136](#)). But it isn’t likely to include a new round of direct aid to state and local governments, a payroll tax cut, or the full \$600 per week unemployment subsidy provided by that law.
- **Majority Leader Steny Hoyer** (D-Md.) told members to expect votes on another economic recovery package but said the timing will be up to the Senate. In May, the House passed a \$3 trillion stimulus, the “Heroes Act” ([H.R. 6800](#); see [BGOV Bill Summary](#)).
- **Speaker Nancy Pelosi** (D-Calif.) said she’s confident Congress can pass another virus relief plan in the coming weeks and that the GOP will ultimately agree to spending levels closer to those in the Heroes Act.
  - “I have no doubt they’ll come around,” she said yesterday in an interview on Bloomberg Television. She said McConnell and other Republicans have moved from questioning whether another stimulus is necessary to agreeing that at least \$1 trillion more in relief is needed.
- **Democratic senators** said they want \$350 billion for minority communities in the next coronavirus stimulus measure to address needs ranging from child care to infrastructure. They propose getting \$200 billion of the \$350 billion amount by tapping unspent money from a fund set up in the coronavirus stimulus legislation approved last March that facilitates corporate lending by the Treasury Department. Democrats released a [summary](#) of the plan yesterday.

**State/Local**

- **Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson** ordered people to wear face masks in public, reversing course during a surge in coronavirus cases, the Associated Press reported. The Republican governor had resisted a statewide mask mandate and opposed issuing a stay-at-home order earlier in the pandemic, the wire service said.
- **Washington State Governor Jay Inslee** further curbed the state's reopening, limiting social gatherings to 10 people in counties returning to normal business because of the rise in virus cases.
  - "Unless something changes we will have to make more decisions that are difficult," Inslee, a Democrat, told reporters. "So we hope everyone bears down right now."
  - On Tuesday, Inslee paused any new reopening for at least two weeks. The limits on social gatherings do not apply to weddings, funerals or religious services. The state's department of health reports 43,046 cases and 1,421 deaths.
- **Ohio Governor Mike DeWine** expanded mandatory mask-wearing to about 60% of the state, according to [the Journal-News](#). "I will do whatever it takes to keep the people of Ohio safe," he told reporters,
- **New York residents** should prefer in-state labs for processing coronavirus tests over companies such as Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings and Quest Diagnostics Inc., a state official said.
  - "While there have been reports of specifically LabCorp and Quest having much longer turnaround times due to the volume they are seeing from Arizona, Florida and other states, if you look at the labs that the state is using, the average lag time for tests that were run yesterday was about one to three days," said Gareth Rhodes, an aide to Governor Andrew Cuomo.
- **Texas Gov. Greg Abbott** announced that five US Navy teams will be deployed Sunday to areas in South and Southwest Texas "to help combat the spread of Covid-19."
  - The teams will assist at various hospitals in the cities of Harlingen, Del Rio, Eagle Pass and Rio Grande City, according to a press release from the governor's office.
  - "These teams consist of medical and support professionals which are being deployed to help meet medical needs in hospitals throughout the state," the press release says.
- **Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves** said that unless coronavirus conditions change dramatically over the weekend, the state may add 11 counties to its mask requirement.
  - Thirteen counties are already under the more restrictive order.
- In an order issued today, **Broward County, Florida**, is enacting a curfew for the entire county, including incorporate and unincorporated areas, to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19.
  - The curfew is effective immediately from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. ET nightly through Aug. 1, the order said.
- The majority of schools in **California** will not be reopening for in-person education this fall, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced in a news conference today.
  - All private and public schools in 33 of California's 58 counties will be required to close under Newsom's new guidance. Those 33 counties represent more than 80% of the state's population.
  - Newsom on Monday asked these counties — which are on the state's watch list — to close indoor activities, such as gyms, places of worship, offices for non-critical sectors, hair salons and barbershops, and indoor malls.

- **Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker** said that he supports local municipalities creating additional restrictions as long as they don't negate the guidance issued by the state.
  - During a Friday afternoon news conference, Baker said additional restrictions — such as how Gloucester is limiting beach lots to only residents — are "perfectly appropriate."
- **Democratic Representative Donna Shalala** said Florida's Covid-19 outbreak is "totally out of control" and called for a lockdown of the third most-populous U.S. state.
  - "It's terrible," and talking about reopening schools is "ridiculous," Shalala, whose South Florida district sits within Miami-Dade County, said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."
  - She faulted the Trump administration and Governor [Ron DeSantis](#) for reopening the state too soon.
- **New York City** is ready to enter the fourth and final phase of reopening Monday, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.
  - Zoos, botanical gardens and outdoor movie production can resume, but indoor dining, museums and malls will remain closed. A formal announcement will come later from Governor Andrew Cuomo, the mayor said.
  - The two are in agreement on cautiously "opening the parts of our economy that we can do safely," de Blasio said.
- **California** said public schools in the state's hardest hit counties won't be able to open for on-campus classes until the spread of the coronavirus in that area is contained. The order means that students in counties accounting for more than 70% of the state's population will likely switch to remote learning for the beginning of the school year.
  - California has seen a dramatic surge in new virus cases, driving up the number of deaths and patients needing hospitalization and ICU beds at an alarming rate. That forced Governor Gavin Newsom earlier this month to scale back reopening and to order indoor dining and bars closed and a halt to indoor ac
- **Colorado Governor Jared Polis** issued a statewide mask mandate for public indoor spaces, including stores, for anyone over 11 years old. The order takes effect at midnight, and will last at least 30 days.
  - "Look, in Colorado, there's no shirt, no shoes, no mask, no service," Polis, a Democrat, told reporters. "Very simple."
- A preliminary plan that gives the framework for reopening the city's schools was released on Friday by **Chicago Public Schools (CPS)**, the third-largest school district in the nation with 642 schools and 355,000 students, according to CPS.
  - CPS is seeing feedback from parents and the community over the next two weeks on the proposal, which includes a hybrid learning model that has most students learning from home and attending school a limited number of days a week, provided its safe to do so based on guidance from public health officials.
- **Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds** said Friday that it's critical to bring Iowa's children back to the classroom, and schools will not be allowed to provide more than half of instruction through remote learning unless she authorizes it because of how the state law is written.
  - "Schools must prioritize in-person learning for core academic subjects including science, math, reading and social studies. And the legislature has made it clear that most schools cannot provide more than half of their instruction remotely unless I authorize remote learning in a proclamation," she said.
- **Las Vegas** hospitals are preparing for a surge in patients as cases in the Nevada spike, adding beds and staff, the Las Vegas Review-Journal [reported](#).



- “We’re not at danger of being overrun,” Dan McBride, chief medical officer for the Valley Health System, which operates six hospitals, was quoted as saying. “These conditions can change quickly.”
- **Los Angeles**, facing a renewed onslaught of the coronavirus, may be “on the brink” of new restrictions, said Mayor Eric Garcetti.
  - Another stay-at-home order was an option, Garcetti, a Democrat, said on CNN’s “State of the Union” on Sunday. But he emphasized that the city still had room in hospitals and is testing aggressively.
  - The mayor said he favors a “surgical” response “rather than a cleaver that would just shut everything down.”
- **Georgia Governor Brian Kemp** sues Atlanta over the city’s requirement to wear face coverings in public, AP [reports](#).

### ***International***

- **Greece** is imposing restrictions at its land borders after seeing an increase in the number of cases, with new measures lasting from July 22 until Aug. 4. Only 6 ports of entry will be open, and foreign workers who leave the country before Aug. 4 won’t be allowed back until further notice, Greek Government Spokesman Stelios Petsas said.
- **Mexico’s** economy recovery will take longer than expected and will depend on the evolution of the coronavirus pandemic, Finance Minister Arturo Herrera said.
  - International consensus was for a two-month lockdown followed by a fast economic recovery, Herrera said during a virtual meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.
- The [UK government has admitted](#) that it launched its Covid-19 test and trace program without complying with a key aspect of data protection law.
  - Under British law, officials were required to conduct a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) before launching the program on May 28, but failed to do so.
  - The impact assessment is a “legal requirement for any type of processing, including certain specified types of processing that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals,” according to the UK’s information commissioner’s office.
  - The UK Department of Health made the admission in a letter to the privacy campaigning organization [Open Rights Group](#) (ORG).
  - The government also maintains that there is no evidence that the information that has been collected has been used unlawfully.
- **Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel** said he would impose new restrictions after an emergency meeting on rising cases, saying the nation is not respecting measures to curb Covid-19.
  - ‘It’s a reality that restrictions are not being respected by a number of people, making them in some way a risk for others,’ Bettel said.
  - Gatherings in homes and in public will be cut to 10 from 20, and violators will be fined, he said. Businesses that fail to obey virus-related rules could be forced to pay back virus aid, and restaurants or cafes that repeatedly breach the law could be forced to close for three months.
- **Chile’s President Sebastian Pinera** unveiled a five-stage plan to reopen the economy as the coronavirus pandemic eases in the Latin American nation for a fifth week. The lifting of

restrictions will depend on epidemiological indicators, the assistance network and traceability in each region of the country

- **Rome** and its surroundings could go under lockdown again, a regional health commissioner warned, after 17 new cases were reported, including 10 from other countries, the Associated Press reported.
  - “We can’t turn back and waste all the efforts done till now,” Lazio Region Health Commissioner Alessio D’Amato said.
- **British Prime Minister Boris Johnson** asked his cabinet to return to the office next week and suggested he won’t impose another lockdown on the country, potentially setting his government up for further discord with its scientific advisers.
  - Johnson summoned his cabinet to meet in-person the first time since March, the Mail reported on Sunday, citing an unidentified person in Johnson’s office. He wants the government to set an example for the country to return back to office, the Mail said.
- **Catalan officials** imposed new curbs on movement and gatherings in Barcelona after the business and tourism hub suffered an upsurge in new cases. Bars and restaurants will be limited to 50% capacity and night clubs, gyms, swimming pools, cinemas and theaters closed, Meritxell Budo, a regional government spokeswoman, said at a news conference.
  - Gatherings of more than 10 people will also be forbidden. People should stay at home unless going out is absolutely necessary, Budo said. The number of new cases in Barcelona jumped to 494 last week, tripling those recorded the week before, according to data published by the regional government.
- **Singapore** will [tighten](#) rules on travelers who had been in coronavirus hotspots including Japan, Hong Kong and Australia’s Victoria state, mandating quarantine in dedicated facilities from July 20.
  - Travelers who have been in those regions in the 14 days prior to entering Singapore won’t be able to serve their quarantine at their residence, the island’s authorities said on Friday.
- **Prime Minister Boris Johnson** relaxed work-from-home guidance, putting him at odds with his top scientific adviser as he seeks to pump life into the economy. Anyone will now be able to use public transport, Johnson said in a televised press conference, marking a change from guidance to avoid it where possible. And from Aug. 1, he said employers will have “more discretion” on bringing staff back into offices.
  - Johnson and Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak are trying to revive economic activity and stave off an expected wave of job cuts as the government tapers support for businesses and continues to ease a lockdown that began on March 23.
- **Australia’s [most-populous state](#) -- New South Wales** -- will further tighten restrictions for gatherings and venues, including clubs and cafes, Premier Gladys Berejiklian told reporters.
  - Meanwhile, Australia’s Victoria state recorded an additional three coronavirus deaths and posted its biggest ever increase in cases -- with 428 overnight.
  - Starting from Friday of next week, restrictions already imposed in New South Wales on pubs that include limiting bookings to a maximum of 10 people, will be extended to clubs, cafes and all indoor hospitality venues, she said

**Other**

- **Former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen** tells House panel she's "tremendously concerned" about Congress allowing federal unemployment insurance benefits to lapse, leading to a "catastrophe" for the economy.
  - "We need the spending that those unemployed workers can do," Yellen says Friday at a House Select Subcmte on the Coronavirus Crisis hearing, without it, we would see "more weakness"
  - Yellen said that the benefits could be based on the worker's wages when they were employed, or that they could be pegged to the unemployment rate in that worker's state
- The **American Bankers Association (ABA)**, which represents large and small banks, joined other business groups in calling for its members to adopt national mask mandates "to protect the health of bank employees and customers."
  - "We owe it to frontline bank staff to prioritize their safety and to contribute to the wider effort to limit the spread of this infection," said Rob Nichols, ABA president and CEO, [in a release](#) on Monday.
- A top corporate lobbying group renewed calls for a "consistent federal and state guidelines on safety measures, including face coverings."
  - The **Business Roundtable** said it's been lobbying for those mandates since April, according to a press release Friday. The group, chaired by Walmart CEO Doug McMillon, represents the CEOs of America's biggest [companies](#).
  - "Rising infection rates around the country are putting public health and our economy at grave risk. Failure to bring the pandemic under control will have devastating, long-term consequences for millions of Americans," the group said in a statement.
- **Lowe's Companies Inc., Rite Aid Corp. and video-game retailer GameStop Corp.** joined chains from Walmart to Kroger in [requiring masks](#) at all locations. Lowe's and Rite Aid are offering free face coverings for customers.
  - "As the pandemic continues to embattle the country, it's critical that healthcare companies lead by example and do all we can to ensure the health and safety of our associates and customers," Rite Aid Chief Operating Officer Jim Peters said in a statement.
  - **Target, CVS, Walgreens and Apple** have also announced requirements for masks, an issue that has led to verbal and physical confrontations at stores.
- The **International Monetary Fund** urged more U.S. stimulus to hasten the economic recovery, saying the country "has fiscal space and it should be deployed quickly."
  - The IMF warning reinforces concern that the looming expiration of several federal relief programs threatens the rebound. The fund's statement reflects preliminary staff findings from the IMF's annual review of the U.S. economy.
- The first **vaccine** for Covid-19 could be available in the U.S. later this year, Goldman Sachs analysts forecast. The potential for Moderna Inc. to file interim results with U.S. regulators from a 30,000-patient trial due to start by July 27 is underappreciated, analysts led by Salveen Richter said.
- **Marks & Spencer Group Plc** [plans](#) to cut 950 jobs in yet another blow to British shopping districts reeling from the pandemic. The clothing and homewares retailer said the job losses would come from central support functions in its property and field operations as well as its store management network. The cuts represent about 1.2% of its workforce of 78,000.

