



## COVID-19 UPDATE August 10, 2020

### *COVID-19 8/10 Update* *Global*

Total cases – 19,952,057

Total deaths – 732,689

### *United States*

Total cases – 5,074,059

Total deaths – 163,275

Total # tests – 61,792,571

### *Administration*

- President Trump on Saturday [signed four executive actions](#) to provide relief from economic damage sustained during the coronavirus pandemic after talks between the White House and Democratic leadership [collapsed Friday afternoon](#). The president said the order and memoranda:
  - Defer payroll taxes for Americans earning less than \$100,000 a year.
  - Implement a moratorium on evictions and give financial assistance to renters.
  - Add \$400 per week in extra unemployment benefits through the end of 2020, requiring states to cover 25% of the additional benefits.
  - Postpone student loan interest and payments through the end of 2020.
- **President Trump's** directive regarding student loans seems to be the one executive action of the four he took Saturday which will deliver the results the administration hopes.
  - This is the only area of the four, the others being mortgage relief, unemployment aid and a payroll tax holiday, most under control of the Trump Administration and which doesn't need Congressional funding action, state governments or the private sector to fully implement.
- **President Trump** on Saturday took some modest steps to try to mitigate the economic impact — diverting disaster money to boost unemployment insurance, and suspending collection of payroll taxes for some workers.
  - Trump said his actions “will take care of, pretty much, this entire situation.” But many economists disagree, and even his own top aides have admitted they're no substitute for a legislative deal.
  - One thing Trump's response didn't do was spark an immediate return to the bargaining table. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said yesterday the administration would listen to any proposal put up by Democrats. Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) (D-Calif.), asked on CNN whether talks would resume after two weeks of fruitless negotiations with the White House, offered only, “I hope so.”

- Trump said last night that Democrats have contacted the administration “and want to get together” and may be more inclined now to negotiate. Two Democratic congressional aides said Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#) (D-N.Y.) have had no contact with the White House since Friday. No new talks have been scheduled.
- **President Donald Trump** said Saturday that his administration was looking at additional income tax and capital gains tax cuts for American taxpayers besides the payroll tax holiday that would be instituted by his executive order.
  - “We are going to be looking at capital gains for the purpose of creating jobs and income taxes is self explanatory, and it will be income tax for middle-income and lower-income people but middle-income people who pay a lot of income tax, you have tax inequality. I’m saying that as a Republican and you do have tax inequality,” Trump said during a news conference at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey.
- **White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow** argued that the U.S. is making inroads against the spread of Covid-19.
  - “Having gone through a very tough period as the virus spread to the South and West, it looks like we’re making pretty good progress,” Kudlow said on ABC’s “This Week” on Sunday. “Am I worried in general? Yes, I’m always worried in general. Things have happened here that no one expected to happen -- exponentially.”
- The U.S. has been “backsliding” on vaccine confidence for years, to the point where “we almost lost our measles eradication status last year as a country,” **Surgeon General Jerome Adams** said in a radio interview. It’s a warning sign amid the search for a coronavirus vaccine, he said.
  - Without a high enough level of compliance, “it doesn’t matter how effective or how safe this vaccine is, it’s still not going to help us stop this outbreak,” Adams told SiriusXM radio on Friday.
  - The Covid-19 pandemic makes the upcoming flu season in the U.S. “the most important” in decades, he said.
  - “We don’t want the double whammy of our ICUs being overwhelmed with flu cases, in addition to Covid-19 cases, but we also need to socialize the idea of vaccinations,” Adams said.
- **NIH’s Anthony Fauci** expects there could be answers from Moderna and Pfizer’s Covid vaccine trials as soon as November or December, Reuters reports, citing a Brown University webinar.
  - Fauci says trials for Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are likely to be fully enrolled in early fall: Reuters
- **Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin** said the administration is prepared to put more money on the table as stalled stimulus negotiations continue on Capitol Hill, but couldn’t say when his team would meet with Democrats.
  - “We’re prepared to put more money on the table,” he said during an appearance on CNBC, adding, “We’re not stuck at the \$1 trillion dollars, but we’re not going to go to unlimited amounts of money that don’t make sense.”
  - Mnuchin declined to say when negotiators would be meeting, but said he heard House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer over the weekend, and “if we can get a fair deal, we’ll do it this week.”
  - One area where they were willing to compromise is food assistance for children: “I listened to the Speaker over the weekend. She’s right. We started low on food. We realize there’s a lot of kids out there and that there is an issue,” he said, adding that they will “go down the list” on further issues.

- He reiterated the administration's position against funding for state and local governments after the President's executive action slashed the federal unemployment benefit from \$600 to \$400, requiring states to pay for 25%.
- Mnuchin said House-passed legislation with \$1 trillion of aid to state and local governments was an "absurd number."
- He claimed "all 100%" is coming from the federal government and claimed states had "plenty of money."
- "The 25% isn't really coming from the states because we're authorizing them to use money out of the \$150 billion we just sent them... I have from every single state how much money they have left over. They have plenty of money," he said.
- He suggested states would get that money back in additional legislation.

### *Capitol Hill*

- **Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#)** says Democrats want states like Texas and Florida to bail out New Jersey and New York, which have have suffered from "mismanagement," and those demands have derailed broader stimulus talks.
  - McConnell, in opening floor comments, also says Democratic leaders' push to continue additional unemployment benefits at current levels would pay people more to stay home than return to work
  - He says those demands have halted progress on areas of bipartisan agreement
- **Senate Democratic leader [Chuck Schumer](#)** says the plan his party put forward matches the needs of the country, and Republicans have failed to move to a middle-ground compromise
  - Schumer calls the GOP plan "skippy," and says it doesn't even have enough support among Republicans to pass
  - Schumer calls for GOP to return to stimulus negotiations
- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** said this morning that her advisers are telling her that President Trump's proposed executive actions are "absurdly unconstitutional."
  - Pelosi responded to comments made in an earlier interview on CNN with Larry Kudlow where the Trump economic adviser clarified that the President's proposal to give out-of-work Americans \$400 a week is contingent upon states agreeing to provide \$100. Kudlow said that the federal government would then kick in the additional \$300.
  - Pelosi said these comments by Kudlow show the "weakness and meagerness in what the President proposed," adding that the states do not have this money.
- **Sens. [Susan Collins](#) (R-Maine) and [Jack Reed](#) (D-R.I.)** introduced a bill to deliver \$10 billion in emergency relief to the U.S. bus, motorcoach, and passenger ferry industries, Collins wrote in a tweet. The Senate should pass the measure right away to help keep the U.S. transportation system strong through the pandemic, Collins says
- More than **50 Democratic lawmakers** are asking the Trump administration to turn over documents after the White House directed agencies to create a shortlist of construction projects that could be fast tracked to boost the economy amid the coronavirus pandemic.
  - A [June executive order](#) from [President Trump](#) expedites the permitting of construction projects and energy projects overseen by several federal agencies, using emergency authorities to skirt environmental regulations with little public notice.
  - "By keeping these reports from the public, this administration is concealing its own response to the economic crisis brought on by the COVID pandemic. If the administration

is confident that this Executive Order can legally and legitimately provide economic relief, it should disclose which projects and decisions it is advancing under the auspices of the order,” the lawmakers wrote in a letter to the White House spearheaded by Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking Member [Tom Carper](#) (D-Del.), House Transportation Committee Chair [Peter DeFazio](#) (D-Ore.), and House Natural Resources Committee Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-A.Z.)

- **Reps. [Abigail Spanberger](#) (D-Va.) and [Dusty Johnson](#)** (R-S.D.) sent a [letter](#), along with other House members, to Pelosi and Minority Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) (R-Calif.) urging them to include an additional \$200 million in the next Covid-19 stimulus package for the telehealth program at the FCC.
- U.S. public schools need \$200 billion in federal aid to be able to safely open for the fall semester with the coronavirus continuing to circulate, **witnesses** told a **House panel**.
  - “The worst thing in the world for me would be if we opened pre-maturely, not thoughtfully, opened for two or three weeks and then had to shut everything back down,” Arne Duncan, secretary of education in the [Obama](#) administration, said on Thursday. “That just further traumatizes children, endangers adults, teachers, parents. We should open very slowly.”
  - Most of the largest U.S. school districts have opted for remote learning to start the academic year, despite President Donald Trump urging them to open classrooms.
- **House Energy and Commerce Cmte Chairman Frank Pallone** says probe to determine if insurers are following laws that make Covid-19 testing free for their customers.
  - Pallone didn’t name companies subject to investigation
  - Says cmtc to send oversight letters to health, dental insurers in coming days
  - “I want to know if they’re in compliance with existing statute requiring COVID-19 testing be free of consumer cost-sharing for all patients and how they intend to use their profits to help the American people during this time of crisis,” he says in statement

### *State/Local*

- A day after **Trump** took executive action to offer \$400 per week in supplemental unemployment benefits, including 25% he said should be kicked in from state coffers, governors pushed back. The leaders of states including New York and Michigan said Trump’s plan ignores the cash-strapped reality of most states, which have deep budget holes as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
  - **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D)** said the president’s order was based on “shaky ground legally” and it was “impossible” for states to pay. “The concept of saying to states ‘you pay 25% of unemployment insurance’ is just laughable,” Cuomo said on a call with reporters yesterday. “The whole issue here was getting states funding.”
  - **Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D)** said Trump is ordering states “that are facing severe holes” in their budgets to pay 25% of the funding while the federal government cuts funding for unemployed workers. “His refusal to provide full federal funding to states across the country to help us combat this virus will hurt the brave men and women on the front lines,” Whitmer said in a statement
- **Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf** announced that he will be awarding \$96 million dollars in grant money to 4,933 small businesses that were impacted by Covid-19 in the state, according to a statement released by his office on Monday.

- More than 50% of the grants were awarded to historically disadvantaged businesses, the statement said.
- “As we continue to address this public health crisis, it’s critical that we also focus on our state’s economic recovery and supporting our small businesses across the state, which continue to be impacted by our necessary mitigation efforts,” Wolf said.
- The grant money may be used to cover operating expenses during the shutdown as a result of the global pandemic and to help businesses transition to reopening among other things, according to guidelines set forth by the governor’s office.
- **Governor [Mike DeWine](#)**, a Republican who has aggressively pushed public-health measures for Ohio, said Thursday night that an initial positive test for Covid-19 was apparently a false result.
  - DeWine had taken a so-called antigen test in preparation for greeting President Donald Trump on the tarmac in Cleveland, where the president visited Thursday. But then the governor said later in the day that a second test -- using the PCR or nucleic acid method -- came back negative, as did tests for his wife and staff members.
  - DeWine’s office said in a statement that PCR tests are “known to be extremely sensitive, as well as specific, for the virus.” His office said the PCR test was run twice, returning negative results the first time and also a second time on another diagnostic platform.
- **Texas Gov. Greg Abbott** extended his disaster declaration for all Texas counties in response to Covid-19, according to a statement released by his office on Saturday.
  - The disaster declaration, originally issued on March 13, provides the state a variety of resources to effectively mitigate the spread of Covid-19, the statement said.
  - "Renewing this Disaster Declaration will provide communities with the resources they need to respond to Covid-19," Abbott said. "I urge Texans to remain vigilant in our fight against this virus. Everyone must do their part to slow the spread of Covid-19 by wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and washing your hands frequently and thoroughly. We will overcome this challenge by working together."
- Public schools on the **Hawaiian island of Oahu** are going to employ distancing learning for the first four weeks of this academic year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hawaii Department of Education said in a statement.
  - Schools will begin preparing to transition to distance learning next week and then implement "full distance learning models" on August 17.
- **Vermont Gov. Phil Scott** today said his administration is working with the Vermont Principals Association, the Superintendent's Association of School Athletic Directors and Coaches, “with a goal that will allow for all sports to move forward in some fashion.”
  - “Like so many things during this crisis, fall sports won't be exactly what we’re accustomed to,” Scott said.
  - Scott said his plan includes cross country running, soccer, field hockey, football, cheerleading, volleyball, bass fishing, and golf, and practice will start at the same time classes start, which is now Sept. 8.
  - This guidance will also cover Vermont's recreational sports leagues, the governor said.
- **California colleges and universities** reopening this fall will need to follow guidelines issued on Friday by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), which includes the use of face coverings, social distancing and intensified cleaning protocols.
  - While indoor lectures are currently prohibited in counties on the state’s monitoring list, courses offered in specialized indoor settings like labs and studio arts will be permitted as

long as substantial physical distancing measures are in place based on the nature of work performed in the space, the guidance says.

- **Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker** announced enforcement rules for businesses, schools and child-care providers on the use of face coverings and the size of gatherings. Penalties range from warnings to fines.
  - “These rules will help ensure that the minority of people who refuse to act responsibly won’t take our state backward,” Pritzker, a Democrat, said in a statement.
  - He also signed a bill that penalizes assaults on retail workers who tell customers to [wear a mask](#) or socially distance.
- **New York Governor Andrew Cuomo** said all school districts in the state can reopen in September.
  - “By our infection rates, all school districts can open,” Cuomo told reporters on Friday. “Everywhere in the state, every region is below the threshold that we established. Which is just great news.”
  - School openings will be revisited if infection rates spike, he said. New York reported 714 new virus cases on the day, a 0.2% increase that’s in line with the state’s seven-day rolling average.
- **Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds** signaled she’d overrule any local officials who impose outdoor mask-wearing requirements. While businesses, school districts and local governments can legally require people to wear face masks inside their premises, anything beyond that would be subject to reversal by the governor, Reynolds said.
  - “We don’t believe during a public health emergency that the local governments have the authority to supersede what is in place at the statewide level by the governor,” Reynolds, a Republican who has refrained from issuing a statewide stay-home order, said Thursday.
- Over 350 cars were stopped at **New York City** “quarantine checkpoints” in the first three days after being established, according to Laura Feyer, press secretary for NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio.
  - Feyer said there were 353 total stops across the city from Wednesday through Friday. Approximately 1,100 masks were distributed as well, Feyer said.
  - On Wednesday, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that several checkpoints would be set up around the city to give travelers from [travel advisory states](#) information about the quarantine and to remind them that it’s mandatory. Travelers who fail to quarantine are subject to a \$10,000 fine and individuals who refuse to fill out the New York State Department of Health [travel form](#) are subject to a \$2,000 fine, de Blasio said.
  - The checkpoints will also be at major bridge and tunnel crossings, New York City Sheriff Joseph Fucito said Wednesday.
- **North Paulding High School in Georgia** will have digital learning only on both Monday and Tuesday, according to a letter from the school district sent to parents this evening.
  - “We have consulted with the Department of Public Health and are temporarily switching the instructional model to digital learning at NPHS,” the letter read in part. “Tuesday evening parents and students will be notified of whether digital learning will continue, or if in-person instruction may resume.”
  - “The school will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected on Monday and Tuesday and the district will consult with the Department of Public Health to assess the environment and determine if there are any additional close contacts for confirmed cases who have not already been identified,” the letter read.

- During a news conference on Friday, **Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson** announced he is signing an executive order that will allow people with "COVID-related concerns about going to the polls in November" to qualify for absentee ballots.
  - "I signed the executive order today, and at the request of the county clerks it will do one other thing, and that is that it will allow the county clerks to prepare the ballots in advance for counting them beginning on Election Day at 8:30 a.m., which is a current law," Hutchinson said.
  - "So currently, they have a week before that they can prepare the absentee ballots without opening up the envelope, but still getting prepared so that on Election Day it is quicker to count," he added.
- **Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker** indefinitely postponed the state's reopening plan and decreased the limits on gatherings after a "slight uptick in positive cases," he said Friday.
  - He also authorized state and local police to enforce shutdown orders.
  - "Due to that slight uptick in positive cases, we are indefinitely postponing step two of phase three in our reopening process," Baker said.
  - Baker said contact tracers have documented several pool parties, house parties and holiday celebrations with people not adhering to state guidance. "We cannot move forward at this time, or anytime soon in the near future," he said.
  - Additionally, Baker will sign an executive order that will reduce the limit on outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50 people starting Tuesday, he said.
  - The governor updated state restaurant guidance "to make absolutely clear that alcoholic beverages may only be served for on-site consumption if accompanied by food prepared on site," Baker said.
- Restaurants in **Baltimore** will be allowed to reopen at 5 p.m. ET today, with indoor dining limited to 25%, despite White House coronavirus task force coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx naming the Maryland city as [an area of concern](#).
  - Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Letitia Dzirasa said she herself wouldn't advise going out to eat indoors at a restaurant, instead encouraging residents to eat outside or order takeout.
- **Hawaiian officials** are tightening restrictions after a surge in Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations statewide -- with the majority of the cases on the island of Oahu.
  - About 200 new cases and two new deaths were reported Thursday, Gov. David Ige said.
  - There is no question that the virus is surging," he said. "This is the last thing that we wanted to do ... As we reopen our community people let their guard down. It's been very disappointing."
  - Ige announced that a 14-day inter-island travel quarantine will be in place starting August 11 to stop further spread to other islands.
- **Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp** announced Monday an expansion in testing for the Atlanta area.
  - A Covid-19 mega-testing site will run from today until Aug. 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. local time, Monday through Friday in College Park, Georgia.
  - The site will be able to test 5,000 people per day, and will offer results within 48 to 72 hours, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health.
  - Today's announcement comes as a result of US Health and Human Services identifying Atlanta as one of several "hot spots" around the country, according Nancy Nydam of the Georgia Department of Public Health.

*International*

- People arriving in **England** from **Belgium**, the **Bahamas** and **Andorra** starting Saturday will have to quarantine for two weeks because of increasing Covid-19 cases in those [countries](#), according to a U.K. government statement.
  - **Brunei** and **Malaysia** were added to the list of so-called travel corridors for England following decreases in confirmed coronavirus cases.
- The **Italian government** will extend its coronavirus safety measures until Sept. 7, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said Friday during a news conference.
  - The council of ministers approved a decree related to the health emergency, which will be in force from Aug. 10 through Sept. 7.
  - "The new decree will find the extension until 7 September of the minimum precautionary measures that are currently in force," Conte said. "We are in a situation of substantial stability with regards to the epidemiological curve, with slight signs of a resurgence of the number of infections."
- **Hong Kong** will offer universal, voluntary coronavirus testing for all citizens, the city's Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced Friday.
  - Lam said she hoped the testing scheme would launch in two weeks time.
  - "This is an entirely voluntary program to provide testing for those who want to have a test either to find out whether they are infected or they just want to be more sure that they are safe in that sense," Lam said.  
"The new coronavirus pandemic is still severe. The overall number is still high."
- The **Hong Kong** government on Monday extended social distancing measures to Aug. 18 despite a declining number of new cases.
  - According to a statement, public gatherings of more than two people will be banned during this period. Additionally, in-house dining at restaurants should be limited to only 50% of the venues' capacity and will not allowed between 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. local time.
- **UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson** says the UK has a "moral duty" to reopen schools full-time next month for children's wellbeing.
  - Schools in England closed in March, though many remained partially open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.
  - Some pupils in kindergarten, grade 1 and grade 6 went back to school in June.
  - Johnson visited schools in East London on Monday.
- **Italy's Health Minister Roberto Speranza** confirmed in an interview with Corriere della Sera the government's plan to open all schools on Sept. 14.
  - Another lockdown would do an "enormous damage, and we need to avoid it more than anything," Speranza said in the interview.
- **Denmark** is unlikely to go ahead with a planned reopening of nightclubs after the number of daily virus cases has jumped, Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said. Danes may also have to get used to wearing face masks more often. At the moment, the face coverings are only encouraged during rush hour in public transport.
- **Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin** reintroduced restrictions for Kildare, Offaly and Laois counties, saying that the government couldn't afford to wait in the face of emerging clusters in those areas.
  - Most bars and cafes will close, sporting events will be canceled and residents have been urged to stay within their county boundaries for the next two weeks. Amid outbreaks in



food factories, the three areas accounted for about two-thirds of the 98 new cases announced in Ireland on Friday.

- **Mexico City**, which has the highest number of Covid cases and deaths in the country, [plans to reopen](#) restaurants next week and allow other businesses, like bars and party venues for children, to operate exclusively as restaurants, Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said.
- **Greece** extended a ban on people standing in nightclubs, bars and live-music venues until Aug. 31, and newly prohibited church services and street fairs until further notice.
  - Travelers from **Malta**, a fellow European Union member, were added to the list of visitors who must present a negative Covid-19 test no older than 72 hours before entering Greece, according to the civil protection ministry.

#### *Other*

- A \$765 million government loan to **Eastman Kodak Co.** announced less than two weeks ago is on hold [pending probes](#) into allegations of wrongdoing, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation said in a tweet.
  - The loan, announced July 28, was the first of its kind under the Defense Production Act in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Defense. It was intended to speed production of drugs in short supply and those considered critical to treating Covid-19, including hydroxychloroquine, the controversial antimalarial drug touted by President Donald Trump.
  - Congress and the Securities and Exchange Commission are investigating the deal, and Kodak's board said Friday it is also opening a review of the loan disclosure.
- The **Mid-American Conference** announced it will cancel its fall season over Covid-19 concerns, making it the first league competing at college football's highest level to make such a decision.
  - The conference intends to "provide competitive opportunities for the student-athletes" during the spring semester of 2021 and has begun formalizing the spring plan under consultation with medical experts. At this time, it has made no decisions regarding winter sports.
- **Princeton University** reversed its plan to bring some of its students back on campus for the next term, saying classes won't be held in person because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - "In light of the diminished benefits and increased risks currently associated with residential education amid New Jersey's battle against the pandemic, we have decided that our undergraduate program should be fully remote in the fall semester of 2020," the Ivy League school said Friday in an emailed statement.
- **Gilead Sciences** says it has submitted a New Drug Application to the U.S. FDA for Veklury (remdesivir), an investigational antiviral for the treatment of patients with Covid-19.
  - Veklury available in U.S. under an EUA
  - Filing is final tier of the rolling NDA submission that was initiated on April 8
  - Filing supported by data from two Phase 3 clinical studies conducted by Gilead and the Phase 3 randomized, placebo-controlled study of Veklury conducted by NIAID

