



## COVID-19 UPDATE October 5, 2020

### *Global*

Total cases – 35,341,621

Total deaths – 1,039,171

### *United States*

Total cases – 7,451,774

Total deaths – 210,109

COVID-19 is spreading again across most of the U.S. as experts warn that school reopenings and colder weather may cause the situation to rapidly deteriorate. In 34 states, the seven-day average of new cases is higher now than it was a month ago. Although the virus has waned in states including California and Florida, cases continue to rise in the Midwest and some parts of the Northeast.

### **White House COVID-19 Outbreak**

- After White House advisor **Hope Hicks** tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday, early Friday morning **President Trump** announced in a [tweet](#) that he and the First Lady tested positive for the coronavirus.
- In addition to the **President, First Lady, and Hope Hicks**, at least 13 other people working in or around the Administration have positive for COVID-19, including **Kayleigh McEnany**, White House press secretary; **Nicholas Luna**, assistant to the President; **Kellyanne Conway**; **Chad Gilmartin**, White House principal assistant press secretary; **Karoline Leavitt**, assistant press secretary; **Bill Stepien**, Trump campaign manager; **Ronna McDaniel**, RNC chairwoman; and **Chris Christie**; former New Jersey governor. In addition, **Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)**, **Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)**, and **Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI)** have all tested positive. Many of these people attended the Rose Garden announcement of Amy Coney Barrett’s nomination to the Supreme Court last Saturday, including Notre Dame University president Rev. John Jenkins, who has also tested positive. In addition, so far three White House reporters have tested positive and several members of the housekeeping staff.
- **Vice President Mike Pence** tested negative for COVID-19, as did **Ivanka Trump, Jared Kushner, Barron Trump, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin**, and **former Vice President Joe Biden**.
- On Friday evening, **President Trump** was flown in a helicopter to **Walter Reed National Military Medical Center**. He received an experimental polyclonal antibody cocktail and remdesivir, an antiviral drug that has been given emergency approval by the Food and Drug Administration to treat COVID-19, as well as supplemental oxygen. He was discharged from the hospital on Monday night and returned to the White House, where he will continue to receive treatment.

### Other Administration News

- The **White House** blocked an order from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** extending the ban on cruises from U.S. ports. CDC Director Robert Redfield wanted to extend the “no sail” policy, which is now set to expire October 31<sup>st</sup>, until mid-February, but his plan was rejected by the Trump administration.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** has updated its COVID-19 [guidance](#) to acknowledge that COVID-19 can spread beyond six feet indoors. The new recommendations do not contain a statement from previous versions that said the virus can be “airborne,” but rather state that the virus spreads by larger droplets and smaller aerosols released when people cough, sneeze, sing, talk, or breath.
- On Saturday, the Associated Press [reported](#) that **Vice President Pence** ordered **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Robert Redfield** to use the agency’s emergency powers to close the U.S. borders in March. The CDC initially refused to comply with the Trump administration’s directive due to cautioning from scientists that it would not reduce the spread of COVID-19, but carried out the order after a phone call between Redfield and the vice president.

### Congress

- On Thursday, the **House** approved a [\\$2.2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package](#) put forward by House Democrats in a 214-207 vote. Eighteen Democrats voted against the proposal and it has been rejected by Republicans as too costly. The bill is not expected to be taken up by the Republican-led Senate.
- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)** and **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** are continuing to engage in stimulus talks with little sign they are near a deal. Points of disagreement include how much aid to send state and local governments and whether to establish a liability shield for businesses and schools.
- **Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar** testified before the **House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis** on Friday. House Democrats questioned him about the Trump administration’s decision to hold large campaign rallies, efforts to produce a vaccine, and COVID testing.
- On Friday, **Speaker Pelosi** called on airlines to delay furloughs, suggesting that Congress could soon reach an agreement on relief for airline workers. However, House adjourned Friday without taking up an airline-relief measure that **Democratic Rep. Peter DeFazio** was pushing. This measure would extend the airline Payroll Support Program (PSP) by six months
  - DeFazio’s request for unanimous consent to bring the measure to the House floor was denied because it lacked approval from leadership of both parties.
- **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)** and **Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham (R-SC)** said in separate events on Friday that the coronavirus diagnoses of the president and other prominent Republicans will not impact the Supreme Court nomination process for Judge Amy Coney Barrett. Three Republican Senators have tested positive for COVID-19, including two members of the Judiciary Committee, Sens. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Thom Tillis (R-NC).
- **Democrats on the Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform** sent letters on Monday calling on the [Food and Drug Administration](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) to disclose information about the influence of the White House on public-health decisions. The letter requests documents from both agencies and

expresses concerns about the FDA's approval process for a coronavirus vaccine as well as "White House censorship" of CDC guidance.

### Vaccines and Treatment

- **Vice President Mike Pence** said on Twitter that the White House Task Force met and would expect to have a vaccine by the end of 2020, a longer timeline than what President Trump had promised before he was hospitalized.
  - Trump has publicly pushed for a vaccine to be authorized by the Nov. 3 election and attacked the FDA for slowing vaccine work to hurt him politically.
- A **Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.** [antibody](#) cocktail may help treat coronavirus patients outside of the hospital by reducing virus levels and symptoms.
  - In an early-stage clinical trial of 275 Covid-19 patients, those who received Regeneron's experimental therapy had lower virus levels in the bloodstream seven days later compared with patients who received a placebo, the company said in a statement.
- **Senior White House officials** have voiced objections to the **Food and Drug Administration's** standards for approving a COVID-19 vaccine. Members of the Trump administration reportedly take issue with a proposal requiring researchers to monitor vaccine trial participants for two months after they receive a shot, and the White House could refuse to sign off on the agency's guidelines.

### Other

- **Disney** announced Tuesday that it laid off 28,000 employees, 67 percent of which were part-time workers. Head of Parks Josh D'Amaro said that the layoffs were due in part to prolonged closures at the company's California-based themed parks.
- **American Airlines, United Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Alaska Airlines, and JetBlue Airways** will begin offering preflight coronavirus testing. Tampa International Airport also plans to offer tests for travelers. The tests range from rapid tests at the airport to tests at home that return results in a few days and will enable passengers who test negative to skip or minimize quarantine restrictions at various destinations.
- **"Covid Relief Now,"** a new coalition of nearly 200 major public and private sector groups across the U.S., today called for "No Recess without Relief," urging Congress to not leave town for the 2020 elections without passing additional stimulus legislation. The coalition includes trade groups like Airlines for America and the National Restaurant Association, and the National Association of Counties, which represents local governments
- In **Wisconsin**, daily statewide coronavirus deaths hit a new record on Wednesday, hospitalizations were at a high since the pandemic began on Thursday, and more than 3,000 new cases were reported. Of the four metro areas in the United States with the most cases per capita, three are in northeast Wisconsin.
- **Texas Governor Greg Abbott** plans to announce additional relaxation of anti-virus rules just weeks after he first began easing restrictions.
  - Restaurants, office buildings, factories, gyms and, other businesses have been allowed to operate at 75% of capacity since Sept. 21 across most of the Lone Star state after hospital admissions plummeted.
- **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** has ordered new restrictions on pandemic hot spots in New York City, although they do not go as far as the city's mayor, [Bill de Blasio, had requested](#).

## MONUMENT ADVOCACY

- The governor, who has the sole authority over all such actions, will require several schools to close and revert to online-only instruction, and said further actions could be on the table soon. De Blasio had asked for a shutdown of all nonessential businesses in zip codes with rising infection rates, all of them in Brooklyn and Queens. Following the governor's remarks, de Blasio said he expected approval to close those businesses soon.
- The **French government** is planning to [shut down bars](#) in the Paris region and impose other new restrictions in the area as the country struggles to contain a spike of new coronavirus cases and avoid a second nationwide lockdown, according to Agence France Presse.
  - Paris and its inner suburbs will be declared a maximum alert zone on Monday, then the measures will go into effect Tuesday to last 15 days, AFP reported late on Sunday, citing a statement from France's Prime Minister's Office.

