

Coronavirus Pandemic: A timeline and the failings of the U.S. response

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January 2017

The outgoing Obama administration presented the incoming Trump administration with a global pandemic scenario. From Politico, “The Trump team was told it could face specific challenges, such as shortages of ventilators, anti-viral drugs and other medical essentials, and that having a coordinated, unified national response was ‘paramount.’”

According to a former Obama administration official who was at the meeting: The problem is that they came in very arrogant and convinced that they knew more than the outgoing administration — full swagger.” The title of the document from the National Security Council: “Playbook for Early Response to High-Consequence Emerging Infectious Disease Threats and Biological Incidents.”

“The most likely and significant threat is a novel respiratory disease, particularly a novel influenza disease,” according to a Pentagon plan from January 2017. The plan also warned of “insufficient hospital beds” – “Even the most industrialized countries will have insufficient hospital beds, specialized equipment such as mechanical ventilators, and pharmaceuticals readily available to adequately treat their populations during clinically severe pandemic.”

February 2018**Feb. 1**

The Trump administration cut its CDC epidemic prevention programs at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in 39 of 49 countries. China was one of the countries impacted by the scale-back.

May 2018**May 10**

The top White House official in charge of the U.S. response to global pandemics in the National Security Council was abruptly let go by National Security Adviser John Bolton, leaving a hole in the administration’s response to global health security. Those positions were never refilled.

September 2018

Dr. Robert Kadlec, the top Trump official for public health preparedness, cited budget shortages and declined to move forward with making a machine that could produce millions of N95 respirator masks per week. His office instead focused its attention on biodefense countermeasures.

January – August 2019

The Federal government ran a contagion scenario of a global pandemic with the code name “Crimson Contagion.” The results: the federal government was vastly under-resourced and unprepared to handle a pandemic.

September 2019

The White House Council of Economic Advisers released a report warning that a viral pandemic could cost half a million American lives and decimate the economy. The study also cautioned against conflating a new pandemic and the typical flu.

The Trump administration ended a \$200 million initiative, PREDICT, that was launched in 2009 to train scientists in other countries to detect and respond to early pandemic threats.

October 2019

A draft report revealed the federal government lacked the funding, resources, coordination and preparedness to be ready for a global virus with no treatment. We learn of this report amidst a real pandemic in March 2020.

November 2019

The National Center for Medical Intelligence warned that the coronavirus spreading in China's Hubei region could lead to a "cataclysmic event."

December 2019**Dec. 31**

We learned from the government in Wuhan, China of the treatment of dozens of pneumonia cases without a known cause.

January 2020

U.S. Intelligence agencies began to brief Trump and the federal government with classified warnings about the threat of the coronavirus. According to a U.S. official who was privy to the intelligence reporting and spoke to the [Washington Post](#): "Donald Trump may not have been expecting this, but a lot of other people in the government were — they just couldn't get him to do anything about it." The official added, "The system was blinking red."

Jan. 3.

CDC Director Robert Redfield was notified by his counterpart in China of a new respiratory illness spreading in Wuhan.

Jan. 7

A new virus was isolated and identified: a novel coronavirus.

Jan. 8

The CDC made its first public alert about the novel coronavirus.

Jan. 9

Trump held a campaign rally in Toledo, OH.

Jan. 11

The first death from COVID-19, the illness caused by coronavirus, was reported in China.

Jan. 13-20

The first cases of coronavirus were confirmed outside of China, first in Thailand (Jan. 13), then Japan (Jan. 15), and South Korea (Jan. 20). China at first downplayed its ability to be transmitted from human to human.

Jan 14

Trump held a campaign rally in Milwaukee, WI.

Jan 15

On a conference call, the CDC told local and state public health officials that a test for the new coronavirus would be available soon but that the threat was remote.

Jan. 17

Scientists in Germany developed the first diagnostic test.

Jan. 18

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar was finally able to speak with Trump about the coronavirus after repeated tries. They spoke over the phone and Trump interrupted to ask about when flavored vaping products would be allowed to be back on the market. Azar was worried Trump viewed him as “alarmist.”

Azar began instructing officials to establish national surveillance to track the disease spread, but the government was hamstrung by the lack of tests.

Jan. 20

President Xi Jinping of China warned the public for the first time of the threat of the novel coronavirus, six days after top officials in the country knew they were facing a probably pandemic.

Jan. 21

A man in Washington State became the first confirmed case in the United States after returning from a trip to Wuhan.

Jan. 22

Trump confirmed he was briefed on the first case in the U.S. and declared in Davos, Switzerland, “We have it totally under control. It’s one person coming in from China. It’s going to be just fine.”

The head of Prestige Ameritech, a U.S. based manufacturer of N95 masks told HHS officials he could begin ramping up production to 1.7 million masks per week. His overture was turned down by the government.

January 24

Officials in Beijing barred a lab-to-lab transfer of viral samples between Wuhan and the U.S.

Trump praised China in a tweet, “China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus. The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well. In particular, on behalf of the American People, I want to thank President Xi!”

Jan. 27

2020 Presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden authored an [op-ed](#) in *USA Today*: “Trump is the worst possible leader to deal with coronavirus outbreak.”

Joe Grogan, the head of the White House Domestic Policy Council gave Trump an ominous warning: COVID-19 could cost Trump re-election.

Jan. 28

Dr. Carter Mecher, a senior medical adviser at the VA wrote to government officials, “The projected size of the outbreak already seems hard to believe.”

Jan. 29

Trump was briefed on the coronavirus and claimed that the U.S. was “on top of it 24/7.”

The White House Coronavirus Task Force was formally announced after officials had spent much of their time focused on evacuating Americans from China opposed to testing and a public health response, according to [The Washington Post](#).

The task force debated bumping up travel restrictions to “do not travel” with respect to China, but ultimately did not.

The White House trade adviser, Peter Navarro, wrote in a memo: “The lack of immune protection or an existing cure or vaccine would leave Americans defenseless in the case of a full-blown coronavirus outbreak on U.S. soil... This lack of protection elevates the risk of the coronavirus evolving into a full-blown pandemic, imperiling the lives of millions of Americans.”

Jan. 30

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus a global health emergency.

Trump declared, “We have it all under control ... we have very little problem in this country at this moment.”

HHS Secretary Alex Azar warned Trump of the pandemic on a call and Trump responded that he was being alarmist.

Trump held a campaign rally in Des Moines, IA.

Jan. 31

The Trump administration suspended entry into the U.S. by non-citizens who had traveled to China in the last 14 days. This did not prevent U.S. citizens who had been in China to return to the states.

By that point, 300,000 travelers had entered the U.S. from China over the month of January.

Dr. Fauci and other public health officials advocated for closing off U.S. borders to countries in Europe that were experiencing the spread of the virus, but Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and others resisted, worrying about travel restriction’s impact on the economy. The President agreed.

Public health officials began to worry about the lack of medical equipment, like N95 masks, in the national stockpile.

February 2020**Feb. 2**

Over 360 deaths from coronavirus are reported, and the first death outside of China occurs in the Philippines.

The FDA approved the US diagnostic test, a three-step test from the CDC, over a month after coronavirus was first discovered in China.

Former Trump administration official, FDA Director Scott Gottlieb called for expanded testing procedures.

Feb. 3

The U.S. Army released an unclassified briefing warning with a "Black Swan" analysis – or an outlier event that would have extreme consequences. Their worst-case scenario projections were that "between 80,000 and 150,000 could die."

Feb. 4

HHS Secretary Azar drafted a Congressional funds request for \$4 billion, which Office of Management and Budget officials and the rump White House viewed as outrageous and alarmist given the low case count in the U.S.

At the State of the Union Address, Trump briefly mentioned the response to COVID-19: "We are coordinating with the Chinese government and working closely together on the coronavirus outbreak in China. My administration will take all necessary steps to safeguard our citizens from this threat."

Feb. 5

The Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan quarantined 3,600 passengers after several tested positive for coronavirus.

Senators pleaded with the administration to take the threat of the virus more seriously.

HHS Secretary Alex Azar ultimately requested \$2.5 billion for medical supplies for what was clear to be a depleted national stockpile. Congress ended up approving \$8 billion.

Feb. 6

The WHO announced it would ship 250,000 diagnostic tests to nearly 160 labs globally. The U.S. opted to develop its own test.

The CDC sent 90 test kits to state health labs. Issues with the test kits began to bubble up and the CDC directed labs to send tests to its headquarters in Atlanta, delaying results.

The first person died from COVID-19 in the U.S. – only to be uncovered in April.

Feb. 7

The WHO warned that demand for personal protective equipment was 100 times higher than normal and the stockpile was limited.

The Trump administration announced it was transporting almost 18 tons of protective gear to China. Trump praised President Xi's response: "He is strong, sharp and powerfully focused."

Larry Kudlow declared, "The impact on the American economy will be very, very, very small, if any. ... We really haven't seen any economic impact. There may be some out there. Our own internal numbers say maybe two-tenths of a percent in the first quarter, but that's not going to end this growth cycle."

Feb. 8

The first CDC test kits arrived at a public health lab in New York City. Lab technicians struggled to verify the test's efficacy.

Feb. 10

The number of deaths from coronavirus in China alone surpassed the number of worldwide deaths from SARS in 2002-2003.

Trump declared, "A lot of people think that goes away in April with the heat—as the heat comes in."

Trump proposed a 16% decrease in CDC funding for 2021 – only 11 days after the WHO declared COVID-19 a public health emergency.

On China and the WHO, Trump said, "China is very professionally run in the sense that they have everything under control.... we just sent some of our best people over there, World Health Organization and a lot of them are composed of our people. They're fantastic."

Trump held a campaign rally in Manchester, NH.

Feb. 12

The CDC announced that the third step in the test kits and an issue with one ingredient produced inconclusive results.

The CDC promised 3-step replacement tests that never arrived. Many countries had been successfully using tests from the WHO. Moreover, there was a delay in the number of labs that were equipped to process tests. Initially, only those who had traveled to China or had been in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19 were eligible to receive testing.

Feb. 13

Senator Richard Burr sold off nearly \$1.6 million in stock holdings while receiving classified briefings on coronavirus in the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Feb. 14

The first death related to coronavirus in Europe was announced in France.

The C.D.C. announced it would begin testing people who had not returned from China only in five major U.S. cities, but that testing stalled for weeks.

The National Security Council prepared a memo, the "U.S. Government Response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus," which detailed measures to mitigate the virus.

Feb. 18

The acting chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, Tomas Philipson, told reporters in a briefing, "I don't think corona is as big a threat as people make it out to be."

Feb. 19

Trump held a campaign rally in Phoenix, AZ.

Feb. 20

Iran announced its first two coronavirus cases, and both patients died.

Trump held a campaign rally in Colorado Springs, CO.

Feb. 21

Trump held a campaign rally in Las Vegas, NV.

Dr. Robert Kadlec revealed “deep cracks in the administration’s strategy for keeping the virus out of the United States,” according to a *New York Times* [investigation](#). At a task force meeting, top officials agreed it would soon be time to implement aggressive social distancing measures as the window for containment being useful had passed.

Feb. 23

The number of cases in Italy surged to over 150, and several towns in a region of the country were locked down.

Alabama Republicans successfully convinced Trump to not send patients from the Diamond Princess cruise ship to a facility in their state.

Harvard’s School of Public Health warned that the U.S. only had working test kits in 3% of public health labs.

Dr. Kadlec, upon learning that asymptomatic carriers could spread the virus, warned “we have a huge hole on our screening and quarantine effort.”

Peter Navarro again warned of the threat of the virus in a memo to the President and said that up to 2 million Americans could die of COVID-19.

Feb. 24

Dr. Kadlec and other officials presented Trump with a plan: “Four Steps to Mitigation.” Trump largely ignored the warnings or chose to focus on political messaging. He tweeted that the virus was “very much under control in the USA.”

Trump asked Congress for \$1.25 billion in emergency funds to respond to the coronavirus spread. By this date, the U.S. had 35 confirmed cases and 0 deaths.

Feb. 25

Trump declared the coronavirus is “very well under control in our country.” Trump campaign spokesperson declared. “We will not see diseases like the coronavirus come here...and isn't it refreshing when contrasting it with the awful presidency of President Obama.”

A senior CDC official, Nancy Messonnier, warned the country that an outbreak of coronavirus in the U.S. was inevitable. In response to Dr. Messonnier’s public comments, Trump was reported to be furious of her warnings and shouted at her boss, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar for what he believed would cause the stock markets to tank.

Feb. 26

Latin America experienced its first case in Brazil -- a man who had returned home after a business trip to Italy.

On the U.S. coronavirus response, Trump declared “we have this so under control.”

Congress offered the administration \$6 billion more than what they asked for 2 days prior. Trump mocked Congress: “If Congress wants to give us the money so easy—it wasn’t very easy for the wall, but we got that one done. If they want to give us the money, we’ll take the money.”

Feb. 27

A whistleblower filed a complaint alleging that Department of Health and Human Services workers who were deployed to receive American citizens evacuated from Wuhan, China were sent without proper personal protective gear and training.

The CDC updated testing criteria to include patients with severe conditions that needed hospitalizations. But patients with more mild symptoms were often not eligible for immediate testing. A top FDA official told the CDC that he would "shut you down" if it were subjected to standards public labs are for testing.

Trump declared of coronavirus, "It's going to disappear one day, it's like a miracle."

Senator Richard Burr was recorded giving donors a much more dire view of the virus's impact on the economy than his public statements.

Feb. 28

The first case was reported in sub-Saharan Africa in Nigeria.

Trump accused the Democrats of "politicizing the coronavirus" and using it as "their new hoax."

The President's son, Donald Trump Jr., said "for Democrats to try to take a pandemic and seemingly hope that it comes here and kills millions of people so that they could end Donald Trump's streak of winning is a new level of sickness."

Vice President Mike Pence was put in charge of coronavirus messaging, with all government communications related to coronavirus going through Pence's press secretary, Katie Miller.

Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney at CPAC declared, "This is not Ebola. It's not SARS. It's not MERS. It's not a death sentence; it's not the same as the Ebola crisis." And, "The reason you're seeing so much attention to it today is that they think this is going to be the thing that brings down the president ... That's what this is all about."

Trump held a campaign rally in North Charleston, SC.

Feb. 29

The first death from coronavirus in the U.S. was recorded in Seattle. The Trump administration announced do not travel warnings for areas in Italy and South Korea, and all travel to Iran. The number of cases worldwide reached 87,000.

The FDA allowed academic hospital labs and private labs to develop their own coronavirus tests, 6 weeks after the first confirmed case.

March 2020

March 2

A genetic test of coronavirus in Washington suggested that the virus could have been spreading for up to six weeks before the first case was confirmed. The number of cases confirmed in the U.S. reached 100 across 15 states.

Doctors around the country reported that new CDC tests were delayed in arriving at busy hospitals.

Seema Verma, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, was added to the coronavirus task force, after Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar failed to include her in the formation of the task force. Elderly patients -- who are covered by Medicare -- remain the most at-risk group to the virus.

Trump held a campaign rally in Charlotte, NC.

March 3

The C.D.C. approved widespread coronavirus testing.

March 4

Florida Representative Matt Gaetz mocked the virus by wearing a gas mask on the House floor during a vote on a bill to allocate \$3.8 billion to battling the coronavirus outbreak. Days later, he and several other prominent Republicans self-quarantined after interacting with an individual who tested positive for the coronavirus at CPAC.

Vice President Pence announced that 1.5 million tests would be sent around the country this week.

On the coronavirus response, Trump declared "we are doing a very effective job." On the course of the virus, Trump claimed "hundreds of thousands of people get better just by sitting around and even going to work."

The Department of Health and Human Services warned that the only had 1% of respirator masks required if the outbreak were to become a "full-blown pandemic."

March 5

Trump lauded his response to the coronavirus on Twitter: "With approximately 100,000 CoronaVirus cases worldwide, and 3,280 deaths, the United States, because of quick action on closing our borders, has, as of now, only 129 cases (40 Americans brought in) and 11 deaths."

As cases spread, the CDC expected to release a global travel alert internationally, but it was held.

March 6

Trump made a major change in his senior staff, replacing acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney with Representative Mark Meadows.

Despite Pence's earlier remarks, only 700,000 tests were shipped out.

Trump asked CDC Director Robert Redfield to "make a little statement" during a news conference about the growing outbreak. He responds, "I want to thank you, for your decisive leadership ... that's the most important thing I want to say."

Trump declared that "anybody who wants a test will get a test." In reality, even patients with severe symptoms struggled to obtain tests.

March 7

Trump claimed his administration "closed [the virus] down ... we stopped it."

Tucker Carlson, Fox News host, flew to Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort to beg Trump to take COVID-19 seriously

March 8

The CDC tested 1,707 people nationwide, amounting to 5 tests per every million people.

March 9

Trump downplayed the threat of coronavirus in the U.S. and admonished Democrats and the media: "The Fake News Media and their partner, the Democrat Party, is doing everything within its semi-considerable power (it used to be greater!) to inflame the CoronaVirus situation, far beyond what the facts would warrant. Surgeon General, 'The risk is low to the average American.'"

The Life Care Center in Washington State, the site of a widespread coronavirus outbreak, reported it does not have enough tests for over 60 employees experiencing symptoms.

March 10

The Grand Princess cruise ship was prepared to dock in Oakland, CA. 21 people tested positive for coronavirus, leaving over 3,000 passengers and crew quarantined, but the majority without testing.

With respect to the patients on the cruise ship, Trump declared, "I like the numbers being where they are." And, "I don't need to have the numbers double because of one ship that wasn't our fault."

CDC Director Redfield said there might be a shortage in the reagents used to make the diagnostic tests.

March 11

The National Basketball Association suspended the rest of its season after a player tested positive for coronavirus. The National Hockey League, Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer all would follow suit. The N.C.A.A canceled March Madness and all upcoming championships.

Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Anthony Fauci, testified to the House Oversight Committee, "we will see more cases, and things will get worse."

The WHO official labeled COVID-19 a pandemic.

President Trump addressed the nation from the Oval Office, confusing official U.S. policy in his statement. Trump announced he is banning foreign travel from Europe. The travel advisory originally thought to happen March 5 was held until his national address.

March 12

The Dow Jones industrial average experienced its worst day since 1987, falling 10%. The S&P 500 plummeted 9.5 points, a 20 percent drop from an all-time high last month and the official start of a bear market. This was all despite the Fed's injection of \$1.5 trillion into the bond market.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared the Senate will go away for a three-day weekend rather than vote on the House's major coronavirus relief package, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. A sticking point for House and Senate Republicans: their demands to include Hyde Amendment language in the bill and false White House claims that the bill would provide federal dollars for abortions.

New York barred gatherings of over 500 people, closing down institutions like Broadway theaters. Disneyland in California and Disney World in Florida closed for the first time since September 11, 2001.

HHS placed its first order of N95 masks from 4M for \$4.8 million, despite two months of warnings that the Strategic National Stockpile would not be able to handle the demand in states for PPE.

The wife of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tested positive for coronavirus.

Trump declared, "It's going to go away."

March 13

The President of the United States blamed the previous administration and the agency responsible for responding to coronavirus for his administration's bungled response.





Four states ordered schools closed for a total of over 7 million students.

Esteemed sporting events -- The Masters and the Boston Marathon -- are postponed.

The Trump administration barred states from using Medicaid to expand coverage to vulnerable populations that might receive necessary healthcare due to the coronavirus.

The Trump administration declared a national emergency, freeing up billions of federal dollars to address the crisis.

Louisiana became the first state to delay its primary elections, pushing it out two months from April 4th.

The Secretaries of State in four states that hold primaries on Tuesday issued a joint statement that their state's elections will be held as planned.

Trump used a news conference around the national emergency declaration to shake hands and tout American CEOs in an effort to improve the stock market. Trump appeared to catch Google off-guard by announcing a surprise initiative for a coronavirus testing information website.

Vice President Mike Pence said, "hundreds of thousands of tests" will be made available "in the very near future." A timeline and actual number of tests remained unclear. Moreover, Trump promised easy to access drive-through testing around the country.

On making 5 million tests accessible for COVID-19, Trump declared, "I doubt we'll need anywhere near that."

And on the coronavirus response and testing delays, the President of the United States: "I don't take responsibility at all."

March 14

Early Saturday morning, the House passed their coronavirus response package, with all Democrats voting in favor and 20% of House Republicans voting no. The Senate was set to address the bill the following week.

Trump told reporters he was tested for coronavirus amid reports he was in contact with individuals who since tested positive.

France announced the closure of most businesses, and Spain declared what amounts to a country-wide lockdown, ordering all citizens to stay home and leave only for essential items and medical care.

March 15

The Federal Reserve cut interest rates to almost zero in an emergency move to help boost the U.S. economy. Stock futures still plummeted.

New York City shut public schools for its 1.1 million students, and limited restaurants and bars to takeout and delivery. Governors around the country took aggressive measures to reduce public interactions.

Italy experienced 368 coronavirus-related deaths in one day.

The CDC urged all Americans to not hold or be involved in gatherings over 50 people.

Trump accused “The Fake and Corrupt News” of “never call[ing] Google” to verify multiple reports that he made the announcement of a website on a whim with no basis at a Friday press conference.

At a press conference, Trump declared, “We’re all going to be great — we’re going to be so good.”

March 16

President Trump told governors on a conference call to “try getting [ventilators] yourself” in the event of a shortage.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine took aggressive action to officially postpone the state’s presidential primary.

San Francisco ordered residents to shelter at home, equivalent to lockdowns seen in Italy and other countries.

The Kentucky Derby was postponed.

As of this date, the United States, a country of 327 million people performed only roughly 22,000 tests. South Korea, a country of 52 million, conducted over 270,000 tests.

March 17

Global cases surpassed 200,000.

The hospitality industry was hit hard, with 4 million jobs already lost.

Reports continued to bubble up about a potential shortage of ventilators for COVID-19 patients at hospitals in the United States. Oregon’s Senators called on Trump to deploy the Defense Production Act to streamline the production of vital medical equipment.

Maryland and other states took action to postpone presidential primaries to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Congress frantically debated a massive stimulus package for workers left without paychecks and jobs due to suppression measures.

Trump declared of coronavirus, “I felt it was a pandemic long before it was called a pandemic.” As a reminder, Trump for weeks called the pandemic “a hoax” and failed to heed experts’ advice and take action.

March 18

The U.S. and Canada closed their borders to each other except for essential travel.

The Trump administration asked for \$500 billion in direct cash payments to taxpayers in the U.S. as part of a \$1 trillion economic stabilization effort.

Trump told New York Governor Cuomo he would dispatch a ship with 1,000 hospital beds as cases in New York state continued to rise.

The stock market plunged and was forced into an automatic halt. By the end of the day, the Dow dropped over 1,300 points, erasing all of the stock gains made under Trump's presidency.

The U.S. Senate approved the House's coronavirus relief package after Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul stalled its progress. Trump is expected to sign the bill. The package provided for paid sick leave, unemployment benefits, and free testing for the virus.

Trump and conservative media outlets continued to call COVID-19 "the Chinese Virus" against warnings from the WHO and CDC that this fuels racism.

Trump signed an executive order to activate the Defense Production Act but refused to deploy it.

March 19

China reported no new domestic infections for the first time since the first case was discovered three months ago.

Two members of the House of Representative tested positive for the virus.

The CDC found that 38 percent of Americans hospitalized due to the virus were between the ages of 20 to 54, despite reports and public perception that the coronavirus only impacts older adults.

#GetMePPE trended on social media, a cry from doctors, nurses and health care workers for personal protective equipment as a shortage of crucial gear like masks, gloves and face shields rattles hospitals around the country.

The death toll in Italy surpassed the number of deaths in China to date.

Trump claimed, "Nobody knew there would be a pandemic or epidemic of this proportion." He was warned by an NSC official in 2018 that, "The threat of pandemic flu is the No. 1 health security concern. Are we ready to respond? I fear the answer is no."

The U.S. State Department advised Americans to either return home from abroad or shelter in place. The State Department raised its global travel advisory to the highest warning, level four.

President Trump accused the media of "siding with China" with respect to their coverage of coronavirus. "They are siding with China. They are doing things that they shouldn't be doing. They're siding with many others. China's the least of it," the President derided.

Also at the White House briefing, reporters caught Trump's notes in which he crossed out "corona" and replaced it with "Chinese" Virus in bold black ink. Trump repeatedly called coronavirus "Chinese Virus" despite its potential to spread xenophobia and attacks against Asian Americans. [Reports](#) of such attacks have been increasing.

March 20

California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a shelter-in-place order for all 40 million residents of the state.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that 100% of non-essential workers are ordered to work from home.

The deadline for filing taxes was been pushed back to July 15th.

The global death toll surpassed 10,000.

The Trump administration announced U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico would be closed to all nonessential travel beginning this weekend. The same day, the Trump administration quietly shut down the ability to seek asylum at the U.S. border for refugees fleeing poverty and violence.

The Dow dropped 925 points as it closed its worst week since the 2008 financial crisis.

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker issued a shelter-in-place order for the entire state beginning Saturday.

The *Washington Post* reported that U.S. intelligence agencies began issuing warnings of the threat of coronavirus in January and February. Trump and major media outlets like Fox News spent those months downplaying its danger and repeatedly calling it a hoax.

The president's son-in-law began his shadow taskforce inside the White House to handle the supply chain of medical supplies to states.

March 21

Unemployment claims jump to almost 700,000 across 17 states.

Trump tweeted unproven claims about possible treatments for COVID-19:
"HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE & AZITHROMYCIN, taken together, have a real chance to be one of the biggest game changers in the history of medicine. The FDA has moved mountains - Thank You! Hopefully they will BOTH (H works better with A, International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents)....." Neither medication was approved for the treatment of the novel coronavirus. Healthy people have begun hoarding hydroxychloroquine, leading to price surges and shortages for Lupus patients who actually need it.

March 22

Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky tested positive for coronavirus – the first U.S. Senator to contract the virus. He was asymptomatic and did not come into contact with any known individuals who were infected yet received a test. He continued to use the Senate gym and swimming pool while waiting for his test results. Last week, his father, Ron Paul, published an [op-ed](#) admonishing the virus as a “hoax.”

Late Sunday night, Trump continued to spread confusion as he tweeted, “WE CANNOT LET THE CURE BE WORSE THAN THE PROBLEM ITSELF. AT THE END OF THE 15 DAY PERIOD, WE WILL MAKE A DECISION AS TO WHICH WAY WE WANT TO GO!”

Senate Democrats voted together to block Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s economic stimulus package for the virus. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer spoke to the bill lacking key projections for everyday workers, and provisions in the bill that would not disclose where federal dollars were going to bailout big businesses. 5 Republican Senators were not present for the vote due to self-isolation.

March 23

India grounded all domestic flights and has issued what amounts to a nationwide lockdown of its 1.3 billion people.

The Fed took aggressive action by announcing it would buy unlimited government debt to help cushion the economy. The stock market nevertheless continued to fall, with the S&P 500 dropping 3 percent in early trading.

Reports swirled that Trump wanted to decrease social distancing measures, despite advice from experts and warnings from other countries.

The U.S. jumped to third globally with over 35,000 cases, behind only China and Italy.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a stay-at-home order in the UK.

Guests and anchors on Fox News began talking about sacrificing the lives of older Americans for the sake of the economy. Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick said, “No one reached out to me and said, as a senior citizen, are you willing to take a chance on your survival in exchange for keeping the America that all America loves for your children and grandchildren? And if that’s the exchange, I’m all in.” National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow admitted we will have to make “difficult tradeoffs.”

President Trump held a two-hour briefing on the coronavirus and exclaimed, “America will again and soon be open for business” despite warnings from health experts that softening suppression strategies would worsen the spread.

Lawmakers in Washington inched closer to a deal on their nearly \$2 trillion relief package, with Democrats demanding oversight of the \$500 billion government-backed bailout of corporations.

March 24

The Summer Olympics were delayed until 2021. They were initially scheduled to be held this July in Tokyo.

Stocks made gains as investors saw positive signs with the possible impending relief package deal in Washington.

The WHO cautioned that the U.S. could become the next epicenter of COVID-19 globally, as the pace of case increases in the U.S. exceed other countries with major outbreaks.

Trump continued to refuse to deploy the Defense Production Act for life-saving ventilators and personal protective equipment for healthcare workers. Today the administration announced it would use the Act to produce 66,000 test kits after promising millions of tests.

In a Fox News town hall, Trump said he would like the country "opened up and just raring to go by Easter" – a wish that flies in the face of advice from leading public health experts. He further claimed, "We have to go back to work much sooner than people thought. People can go back to work and they can also pass it on my practice good judgment."

Cases in the U.S. surpassed 50,000 and cases globally surpass 400,000.

March 25

Early Wednesday morning, a deal was reached between Senators and the White House on a historic \$2 trillion stimulus package. It is expected to become law this week. Key changes fought for by Democrats include, extending unemployment insurance by 13 weeks, \$150 billion for states, localities and tribes, an additional \$55 billion for hospitals, oversight for \$500 billion in loans that can go to corporations, and a provision that loans and investments from the Treasury cannot go to businesses controlled by Trump, Pence, members of Congress, heads of executive branch agencies, or their families.

Prince Charles, who is heir to the British throne, tested positive for COVID-19.

As the Senate moved towards making the stimulus package reality, airlines were set to receive a significant bailout, to the tune of \$30 billion. How did the markets respond? Despite the growing public health crisis, the S&P 500 and Dow are up over 4 and 5 points, respectively.

A handful of Republicans in the Senate, including Lindsey Graham, pushed an amendment to set limits on unemployment insurance because they believe it will disincentivize workers from returning to their jobs. Unemployment insurance would not apply to those who left their jobs voluntarily without good cause.

Trump falsely claimed, "We've done more tests in eight days than South Korea has done in eight weeks." In reality, South Korea has performed more raw tests, and on a per-capita basis, has surpassed the U.S. by testing 6,768 per million people, versus 1,084 per million in the U.S.

Trump shed light on why he has yet to invoke the Defense Production Act: "It's a great point of leverage. It's a great negotiating tool."

Trump alleged that the mainstream media is rooting for social isolation tactics to hurt his reelection.

The U.S. Senate passed its \$2 trillion relief package late Wednesday night. Global deaths due to the virus passed the 20,000 mark.

March 26

A record number of Americans filed unemployment claims last week, reaching 3.3 million. The Economic Policy Institute projected that a staggering 14 million jobs will be lost by the summer.

As the U.S. suffered its 1,000th death related to COVID-19, Trump tweeted in reference to the relief package passing the Senate:



**96-0 in the United States Senate. Congratulations
AMERICA!**

Speaker Nancy Pelosi expected “a strong bipartisan vote” on the relief package that passed in the Senate.

With the relief package expected to pass tomorrow, stocks rallied and closed at historic highs despite the dismal job numbers.

The U.S. became the global leader in cases, passing both Italy and China with over 81,000 Americans infected.

On Sean Hannity’s show Thursday night, Trump questioned the need for life-saving ventilators and requests from Governors in heavily-impacted states: “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,” he said. “I don’t believe you need 40,000 or 30,000 ventilators. You go into major hospitals sometimes, and they’ll have two ventilators. And now all of a sudden they’re saying, ‘Can we order 30,000 ventilators?’”

March 27

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced he tested positive for COVID-19 after developing mild symptoms.

Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky threatened to delay the passage of the economic relief package in the House of Representatives. Trump tweeted in frustration, “Workers & small businesses need money now in order to survive. Virus wasn’t their fault. It is “HELL” dealing with the Dems, had to give up some stupid things in order to get the “big picture” done. 90% GREAT! WIN BACK HOUSE, but throw Massie out of Republican Party!”

The Trump administration canceled an announcement about a partnership with General Motors and Ventec Life Systems to produce 80,000 ventilators over a dispute over the price.

Trump then reversed his earlier position on the need for ventilators and tweeted, “FORD, GET GOING ON ventilators, FAST!!!!!!” Trump promised, “Within the next 100 days, we will either make or get, in some form, over 100,00 additional units” of ventilators.

Rep. Massie in fact delayed voting on the historic bill by forcing a recorded vote, but ultimately the House passed the \$2 trillion emergency relief package. From the *New York Times*:

“The legislation would send direct payments of \$1,200 to millions of Americans, including those earning up to \$75,000, and an additional \$500 per child. It would substantially expand jobless aid, providing an additional 13 weeks and a four-month enhancement of



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benefits, and for the first time would extend the payments to freelancers and gig workers.”

The United States Conference of Mayors reported that almost 200 cities are in dire need of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers.

Trump signed the COVID-19 emergency relief package, the CARES Act.

At Friday's press conference, Trump criticized Michigan's Governor Gretchen Whitmer, calling her "that woman in Michigan," and suggested needed federal aid would be tied to Governors' praise of the president.

"If they don't treat you right, I don't call," Trump said of Governors. "I think they should be appreciative. Because you know what? When they're not appreciative to me, they're not appreciative to the Army Corps [of Engineers], they're not appreciative to FEMA. It's not right."

March 28

New York state postponed its presidential primary from April 28th to June 23rd.

The *New York Times* published a [detailed tick tock](#) of the series of Trump and his administration's mishandlings of preventing and responding to the outbreak in the U.S.

Trump floated potentially quarantining the New York region, and then hours later confirms he will not do so, likely causing many in the area to panic and leave.

The U.S. suffered over 2,000 deaths. It took one month for deaths to increase from 1 to 1,000 and only 48 hours for deaths to double from 1,000 to 2,000.

In an email to employees, the head of the emergency department at NYU Langone Health in New York City said doctors have "sole discretion" with respect to putting patients on ventilators and "withhold futile intubations" if needed.

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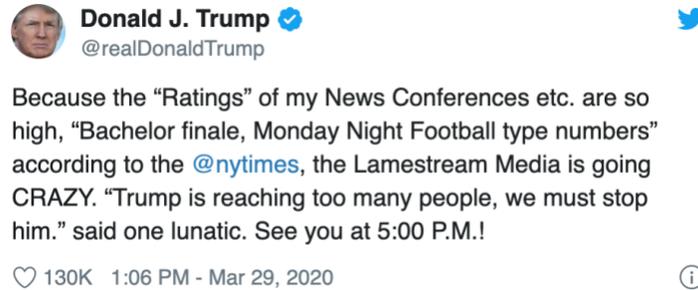
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March 29

As cases rose to over 140,000 and deaths surpassed 2,200, Trump tweeted to boast about his press conferences' television ratings:



Trump extended the national social distancing guidelines to April 30, despite his earlier comments that he hoped the country would be back to normal by Easter.

Trump exclaimed that compared to the possibility of 2.2 million deaths, 100,000 would be “a very good job: “...if we can hold that down, as we’re saying, to 100,000 — it’s a horrible number — maybe even less, but to 100,000, so, we have between 100,000 and 200,000, we all together have done a very good job.”

March 30

The Tokyo Olympics were rescheduled for July 2021.

Dr. Antony Fauci told CNN that he brought data to the president that showed COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. could reach 200,000 during the outbreak. He said he would not be surprised if deaths reached 100,000.

Health care workers continued to be strapped for vital resources and are falling sick themselves. President Trump accused New York’s health care workers of stealing protective gear at his Sunday press conference.

More states issued stay-at-home orders, including Maryland and Virginia on Monday. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis continued to avoid taking the action that many other states impacted by the virus have.

President Trump suggested that shortages in test kits had been addressed, saying he “hasn’t heard about testing in weeks.” But Governors were telling a completely different story. Montana’s Governor Steve Bullock said, “Literally we are on day away, if we don’t get test kits from the CDC, that we wouldn’t be able to do testing in Montana.”

11 veterans died at Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts after a COVID-19 outbreak.

Vice President Mike Pence had promised 5 million tests would be performed by March 13. On March 30, we finally reached 1 million tests. The U.S. tested in 10 weeks as many people as Germany tested in four days and South Korea tested in a week.



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March 31

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he is taking a "wait and see" approach to if another piece of legislative relief is needed, while House Speaker Nancy Pelosi aggressively pushes for the Congress to draft up additional relief.

The CDC said it was reconsidering its guidance against healthy individuals wearing masks as the virus has proven to spread effectively by asymptomatic carriers. It has previously warned against it.

A nursing home in Maryland was ravaged by COVID 19 – 66 residents tested positive, 11 were hospitalized and one man died.

The Captain of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, an aircraft carrier with over 100 sailors who are infected with COVID-19, begged for help in a letter to senior military officials: "We are not at war. Sailors do not need to die. If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset — our Sailors."

Trump changed his posture toward China after President Xi flattered him – a seemingly about face. Trump and his advisors for weeks referred to the virus as "the Chinese virus" or "the Wuhan virus" to the outcries of public health officials and increasing instances of racism against Chinese Americans.

The Department of Defense said it was making 2,000 ventilators available for use for COVID patients, but today we found out that 0 ventilators have been shipped because the Department has not been told where to send them.

By this day, more Americans perished due to COVID than were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average experienced its worst Q1 ever and its worst quarter since 1987.

President Trump and his allies said he was distracted by the impeachment trial and that affected his response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Senate voted to acquit Trump on February 6.

The White House coronavirus task force projected 100,000 to 240,000 Americans might die due to COVID-19. Trump finally admitted the virus is worse than the flu: "It's not the flu; it's vicious."

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April 2020

April 1

Reports surfaced of confusion around U.S. aid to other countries as health care workers in the U.S. are short on personal protective equipment.

The Fed estimated that the unemployment rate might reach 32% with an estimated 47% million Americans losing their jobs.

Vice President Mike Pence on CNN said he does not think that "the president has ever belittled the threat of the coronavirus."

House Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats released their infrastructure priorities and Trump tweeted positively about infrastructure, hoping to take advantage of low interest rates.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis finally issued a stay-at-home order for the state after the White House released its grim death toll projections. 25% of the population of the state is over 60 years old.

Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York again pleaded for help from the federal government for medical supplies.

The Trump administration refused to reopen the Affordable Care Act exchanges to add an additional enrollment period so uninsured Americans can get health coverage they need.

When asked if the administration would make Medicaid accessible to more middle-class Americans, Vice President Mike Pence did not directly answer the question and said he was "inspired by the spirit of American businesses."

Doctor Anthony Fauci received increased security as threats against him and his family ramped up.

Trump told the nation, "We're building thousands of ventilators right now. It takes a period of time to build them. And again, nobody could have known anything like this could happen."

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April 2

An astounding 6.6 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits last week, on top of the 3.3 million that filed the previous week. The stock market nonetheless opened largely flat.

The *New York Times* reported that over 2,000 ventilators are not available as the federal government let a contract expire last summer to maintain these ventilators. A new company did not start producing more ventilators until late January. California reported that 170 of its ventilators from the federal stockpile arrived broken. And federal officials warned that the national stockpile of medical equipment was near depletion.

The DNC delayed the party convention from July to mid-August.

Governor Brian Kemp (R-GA) claims he did not know that asymptomatic individuals could transmit the virus "until the last 24 hours." The Governor did not make a shelter-in-place order effective until April 3rd. The CDC is located in Atlanta, GA.

The Department of Defense worked to procure 10,000 additional body bags "to address mortuary contingencies on behalf of state health agencies."

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that the state has only six days left worth of ventilators for COVID-19 patients.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the formation of a bipartisan House committee to oversee the Trump administration's response to the COVID-19 crisis and its implementation of the \$2 trillion economic relief package.

The Navy fired the aircraft carrier captain that last month begged for help for his crew from the Navy, many of which were sickened by COVID-19.

A Navy ship with 1,000 beds, the U.S.N.S. comfort arrived in New York to help sick New Yorkers, but so far had only received 20 patients.

Trump said at a White House briefing, "We have over 100,00 ventilators being built right now or soon to be started." He invoked the Defense Product Act to direct companies to produce masks and ventilators.

The FEMA director admits that there are 6-7 distributors responsible for selling vital medical equipment to states, forcing states to bid for supplies in the national stockpile.

Confirmed cases surpassed one million globally, as stocks rose due to hopes of oil production cuts – largely fueled by Trump. Global deaths surpassed 50,000.

April 3

The U.S. lost over 700,000 jobs in March, the first time since 2010 in which the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a job lost – the end of a 113-month stretch of job creation.

New York state experienced its deadliest day to date. The death toll doubled in only three days.

Top CDC officials wanted to urge Americans to wear masks in public, but some White House officials pushed back.

Half of the world's population is under a form of lockdown, but not every U.S. state has followed suit. Experts have warned against a patchwork response with varying levels of suppression across the 50 states.

The CDC announced that Americans should wear cloth masks in public when going out for essential items, a change in course. The President's guidance at the Friday evening press conference was, "You can do it. You don't have to do it."

Confirmed cases in the U.S. passed 275,000. FEMA was reported to be short on employees trained for front-line jobs.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that millions of masks that the union that represents healthcare workers in California purchased never arrived. A federal fraud investigation was announced.

Trump reportedly met with Fox News host Laura Ingraham and two doctors who appear on her show in the White House to discuss hydroxychloroquine, the antimalarial that Trump repeatedly touted as effective for COVID-19 despite the lack of scientific evidence.

As cases in the United States ballooned, Trump fired the intelligence community inspector general, Michael Atkinson, who played a major role in telling Congress about the whistleblower complaint that led to Trump's impeachment over his pressure campaign in Ukraine.

April 4

Countries around the world fought for much needed medical resources. The Trump administration was accused of hijacking shipments of supplies to other countries.

Trump said he might start taking unproven anti-malaria drug despite testing negative for COVID-19 twice, calling the drug "a game-changer."

April 5

The Surgeon General warned that “the next week is going to be our Pearl Harbor.” Dr. Fauci admitted that the U.S. does not “have it under control.”

Trump, meanwhile, ruminated about opening up the country and suggested that churches open for Easter and the NFL go on as scheduled.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson was admitted to the hospital days after his COVID-19 diagnosis.

At a hastily scheduled White House briefing, Trump opined on the hydroxychloroquine – the drug unproven to treat COVID 19: “What do I know? I’m not a doctor but I have common sense.” The President then falsely stated that the FDA approved the drug – in reality the agency only gave it a limited emergency use authorization.

This came after reports that Peter Navarro, the White House trade representative, berated the top infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci in the situation room for Fauci’s reticence about encouraging Americans to use the unproven drug. When a reporter asked Fauci about the drug during the briefing’s Q&A, Trump jumped in and prevented Fauci from responding: “You know how many times he’s answered that question? Maybe 15. ... You don’t have to ask the question.”

April 6

An internal government watchdog for HHS issued a report that detailed that hospitals around the country are experiencing severe shortages of medical equipment needed to handle COVID-19. Hospital administrators interviewed said that conflicting messages from federal, state, and local officials on how healthcare workers should use personal protective equipment – among other issues – caused “a greater sense of confusion, fear and distrust among staff.”

The Acting Secretary of the Navy called the recently fired commander of the USS Theodore Roosevelt “too naïve or too stupid” for writing a memo asking for help with his sickened crew. The Navy had only reached 67% of its own evacuation target of the aircraft carrier scheduled for last Friday.

The number of new deaths leveled off in New York as deaths nationally surpassed 10,000.

Governor Tony Evers (D-WI) defied the Republican-led legislature and issued an emergency executive order delaying the state’s primary elections. The order suspended in-person voting from April 7th to June 9th.

In the face of a rising death toll, the stock market made large gains.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in a letter to House members, said she is moving forward on developing another relief package.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson was transferred to the ICU. 758 patients died in hospitals in Britain in the past 24 hours.

Louisiana, a state in which 32% of the population is Black, reported African Americans accounted for 70% of all COVID-19 deaths.

President Trump pushed back on the internal watchdog report at the evening press briefing.



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April 7

Wuhan, China lifted its lockdown today and other cities showed promising signs. Officials in China reported no new COVID-19 deaths for the first time since January.

Trump fired Glenn Fine, the acting Defense Department inspector general and chair of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. Fine would have overseen the disbursement of COVID-19 funds from the CARES Act.

The *New York Times* reported Trump has a financial stake in Sanofi, the pharmaceutical company that makes generic hydroxychloroquine.

CDC Director Robert Redfield said, "I think you're going to see the numbers are, in fact, going to be much less than what would have been predicted by the models."

A crew member of the USS Comfort tested positive for COVID-19. The acting Navy Secretary resigned his post after calling the recently let-go commander "stupid."

Trump announced and then reversed plans to halt U.S. funding for the World Health Organization: "We're going to put a hold on money spent to the WHO. We're going to put a very powerful hold on it and we're going to see."

The U.S. experienced its highest death toll in one day to date, with 1,997 COVID-19 related fatalities.

Governor Gavin Newsom (D-CA) announced he was ordering 200 million masks per month for essential workers in the state.

There was still no national strategy to ramp up testing in the U.S.

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April 8

Senator Bernie Sanders dropped out of the Democratic presidential primary, making former Vice President Joe Biden the presumptive nominee. Trump sent out several tweets about Senator Sanders and in attempt to sow discord within the Democrat party.

President Trump admitted in a tweet that he opposes vote-by-mail for political reasons: "Republicans should fight very hard when it comes to state wide mail-in voting. Democrats are clamoring for it. Tremendous potential for voter fraud, and for whatever reason, doesn't work out well for Republicans. @foxandfriends."

The head of the WHO criticized Trump for politicizing COVID-19 and that doing so could lead to "many more body bags."

New York had its single highest death toll to date, with 779 perishing due to COVID-19.

Democrats called for twice the \$250 billion that the Trump administration requested of Congress for the next phase of federal dollars to address the economy during the crisis.

HHS announced that General Motors would send 30,000 ventilators to the national stockpile by the end of August, with the first batch by June 1st – largely after peak demand will have passed. This comes after Trump accused GM of trying to "rip off" the U.S.

The federal stockpile was nearly out of N95 respirators, face shields, gowns, surgical masks and other much-needed medical equipment for frontline healthcare workers. HHS said that they were deploying all remaining PPE it had left in its stockpile.

The U.S. National Guard admitted that testing was delayed due to the lack of PPE. 349 guardsmen have tested positive for COVID-19.

Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, top White House officials and children of the president, defied federal and D.C. guidance and [traveled](#) to the Trump National Golf Club Bedminster in New Jersey for the first night of Passover.



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April 9

6.6 million more Americans filed for unemployment benefits last week, bringing the total to over 16.7 million since the COVID-19 pandemic set in in the United States over the past three weeks.

CNN [reported](#) that over the last three weeks Trump has made at least 50 false or misleading statements at the Coronavirus Task Force briefings, which many in the media have noted have been in part a stand-in for his political rallies.

Healthcare providers around the country have been denied tests for COVID-19, despite showing symptoms and treating COVID-19 patients. A hospital system in Michigan that tested its staff found 700 workers tested positive for COVID-19, a 25% positive rate.

The Federal Reserve said it could inject \$2.3 trillion into the U.S. economy by buying up municipal bonds and riskier debt. Additionally, it would set up lending structure to companies not eligible for loans under the Small Business Administration loan program.

Senate Democrats blocked the Republican effort to increase small business lending, and Republicans blocked the Democrat effort to increase money to hospitals as well as state and local governments in a new round of debates over stimulus funding.

COVID-19 is responsible for the deaths of black and Latino New Yorkers at a rate two times higher than that of white people in the city.

Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL) incorrectly claimed and downplayed the threat of the virus to children and young adults: "This particular pandemic is one where, I don't think nationwide there's been a single fatality under 25."

Trump, flouting public health experts, denied the need to do widespread testing before getting Americans back to work.

Trump again tweeted about his press briefings' ratings, as the death toll in the United States surpassed 15,000.

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April 10

The Washington Post [reported](#) that the Trump administration was pushing to reopen the economy, despite warnings from medical and public health experts.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said that antibody tests would be available “within a week or so.”

The fund to provide loans to small businesses was estimated to run out of money in as little as a week, but Congress struggled to come to an agreement to increase funds. The \$350 billion bailout to small businesses so far has been poorly executed, with many small businesses and nonprofits reporting glitchy websites, being denied by banks, lack of information from the federal government, or issues with not having standing relationships with institutional lenders.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer removed an exception from the state’s stay-at-home order to allow travel between residences. Gov. Whitmer also announced a task force to help determine why African Americans in the state are disproportionately impacted by the virus – African Americans accounted for 40% of COVID-19 patients while only making up 14% of the state.

Nearly 70 countries had altogether banned the export of protective medical equipment and medicine during the crisis, which the WHO warned could hamper the ability to make a vaccine globally accessible.

The federal government produced new projections that showed infections would increase if stay-at-home orders were removed after 30 days. Trump continued to tweet about the Democratic primary that has already been reduced to one remaining candidate.

Global deaths due to the virus reached 100,000.

April 11

New York City public schools closed for the remainder of the academic year.

Trump and his administration “used the crisis to make federal assets and personally a support group to industry, rather than the other way around,” according to an NBC News [report](#).

The U.S. surpassed Italy in confirmed COVID-19 deaths with as many as 2,000 perishing each day.

April 12

Prime Minister Boris Johnson was released from the hospital.

Dr. Anthony Fauci admitted that “you could have saved lives” had Trump acted more quickly and swiftly to contain the virus and implemented social distancing measures when he was advised to.

The FDA Commissioner Steven Hahn admitted that the U.S. was still lacking the widescale testing it needed.

A trial in Brazil on the efficacy of chloroquine for COVID-19 patients was stopped after patients that took higher doses of the drug developed potentially fatal heart complications.

Several public health leaders called on Trump to not defund the World Health Organization, as the administration weighs possible cutting funding to the organization and standing up a new institution.

April 13

A month after declaring a national emergency, despite Trump's promise, there was not a widescale rollout of drive-through testing for COVID-19.

A month after declaring a national emergency, despite Trump's promise, there was not an implementation of at-home testing for rural Americans.

A month after declaring a national emergency, despite Trump's promise, there was not a testing website developed by Google.

A sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt died due to the coronavirus.

Trump retweeted a post that said "Time to #FireFauci" as Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, shed light on Trump's slow response to the virus.

Congress remained divided across partisan lines on how to maintain funding for small business lending that was set to run dry at the end of the week.

Trump insisted that he alone can reopen the economy within states, as he tweeted: For the purpose of creating conflict and confusion, some in the Fake News Media are saying that it is the Governors['] decision to open up the states, not that of the President of the United States & the Federal Government. Let it be fully understood that this is incorrect...." "....It is the decision of the President.."

The death toll in New York state alone passed 10,000.

Ten states – three on the West Coast and seven on the East Coast – announced they would coordinate regional plans to reopen their economies.

The surgeon general of Florida, Dr. Scott Rivkees, said, "As long as we're going to have COVID in the environment, and this is a tough virus, we're going to have to practice these measures so that we are all protected," only to be pulled away from the press conference by a spokeswoman for Governor Ron DeSantis.

President Trump held an unruly press briefing, where he played what amounted to a campaign ad in the White House briefing room and contradicted his many prior statements to have governors "running things" by declaring that the authority of the president is "total."

April 14

Russian President Vladimir Putin has been orchestrating a disinformation campaign around the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a [report by the *New York Times*](#).

Dr. Anthony Fauci said with respect to testing and tracing needed to reopen the U.S. economy, "We have to have something in place that is efficient and that we can rely on, and we're not there yet."

Net new hospitalizations in New York were down for the first day. Governor Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) responded to Trump's declaration of absolute power: "We don't have a king; we have a president."

The International Monetary Fund projected that the global economy would shrink by 3.0% in 2020, the worst economic slowdown since the Great Depression.

Abortion clinics in Tennessee and Louisiana became the sixth and seventh states to enter legal fights over abortion bans due the pandemic. Anti-abortionists have ramped up their attacks on choice during the public health crisis ([more on that in a Future Majority memo here](#)).

In a Coronavirus Task Force press conference in which no public health officials spoke, Trump reversed his position on China and said he did not praise their transparency. He also walked back his comments from the day prior and said that he will consult with governors about when they will reopen their economies.

In what was purported to be an announcement of the formation of a new task force to reopen the American economy, Trump spent ten minutes reading off a list of names of corporations. Several business leaders reportedly did not know they were a part of the council until their names were read by the president.

Trump ordered a halt to U.S. funding to the World Health Organization in the midst of the pandemic.

Stimulus checks to tens of millions of Americans were to be delayed several days because for the first time in history the president ordered that his name be printed on the checks.

Trump and the airlines reached a deal in principle over a \$25 billion bailout for the industry.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff noted that his committee would investigate what materials the intelligence community gathered about the pandemic in the early days, what information got to Trump and how the president responded.

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) falsely claims that the U.S. under the Obama administration gave a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Rather, it was a grant to an American-based virology program, the EcoHealth Alliance, out of the National Institutes of Health.



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April 15

Republican lawmakers in the federal and state governments continued to make the crisis a political issue and urged to reopen economy despite warnings from public health experts.

U.S. retail sales dropped 8.7% in the month of March, a record decline.

Global cases of COVID-19 passed 2 million. The United States made up a third of those cases.

A day after Trump announced he would halt funding to the WHO, CDC director Robert Redfield declared that the WHO remains "a longstanding partner for the CDC."

Democrats in the U.S. Senate release a plan to quickly ramp up COVID-19 testing with a \$30 billion investment.

The College Board, a company that administers the SAT for college admissions, announced it was developing an at-home version of the test.

Governor Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) announced that he would order residents to wear facial coverings such as masks in public if people are not able to stay 6 feet away from each other, such as while on public transport.

The IRS announced it was launching an online portal to speed the delivery of stimulus payments to Americans. The agency told lawmakers that it could take up to five months to mail paper checks to Americans, but this portal would allow payments to be sent via direct deposit.

Trump mused over adjourning the Congress, a far-fetched idea to ram through more recess appointments.

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April 16

5.2 million more Americans filed for unemployment insurance, bringing the four-week total to over 22 million. That is about equal to all of the jobs gained in the post-recession era over the last 9 years.

A [Business Insider](#) report found that Trump, whose preferred mode of public communication is Twitter, tweeted or retweeted 900 times in the month of February. Only 20 of those tweets mentioned the coronavirus.

The small business lending program ran out of money and stopped accepting new claims. Congress remained at a stalemate on how to move forward. 1.6 million SBA loans were approved to date.

Governor Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) extended the state's stay-at-home order until May 15.

Glitches severely hampered getting stimulus checks out to Americans and \$500 infusions for parents with children often did not make it out to families.

The Trump administration gave a \$55 million contract to Panthera, a company with no expertise of manufacturing N95 masks.

Trump told governors they could "call their own shots" to begin opening their economies as early as May 1.

The U.S. experienced its highest single day death toll on record, with 4,591 Americans dying in 24 hours.

April 17

Texas announced it would let all stores in the state open the following week for "retail-to-go" and other states began relaxing some restrictions.

The U.S. still does not have widescale, rapid testing needed to track the spread of the virus and return to normal. Trump tweeted, "The States have to step up their TESTING!" despite previous promises that the federal government would be mass-producing tests, and please from governors for help.

Trump made calls on Twitter to "LIBERATE" states where protests bubbled up because Democratic governors continued to abide by advice from public health experts and not immediately open up their economies.

Trump attacked the Obama administration's handling of H1N1 in 2009.

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April 18

Fox News widely covered the anti- stay-at-home protests around the country, with the president inciting them despite their intent and message going against his own federal guidance.

The network also echoed the administration's narrative that the virus originated in a Chinese lab due to lax safety procedures.

The *Washington Post* reported that the U.S. sent millions of dollars of face masks and other protective gear to China in January and February with the backing of the federal government. The value of the items exported ballooned more than 1,000 compared to the same time last year.

Federal officials acknowledged that "sloppy laboratory practices" at the CDC caused contamination that made the first COVID-19 tests "ineffective." And the "CDC did not manufacture its test consistent with its own protocol."

Trump declared that "we're finding more and more problems" with the WHO, continuing to blame the organization as other world leaders called for more funding and support to the WHO. The *Washington Post* reported that "more than a dozen U.S. researchers, physicians and public health experts ... at the World Health Organization transmitted real-time information about coronavirus to [the] Trump administration."

April 19

Governors continued to publicly declare that a shortage of tests was the biggest obstacle to easing restrictions in their states. Governor Larry Hogan (R-MD), said, "It's not accurate to say there's plenty of testing out there, and the governors should just get it done."

Vice President Mike Pence declared, there is a sufficient capacity of testing across the country today for any state in America."

Trump announced that he would use the Defense Production Act to increase production of tests by 20 million per month: "You'll have so many swabs you won't know what to do with them."

At this point, the U.S. was conducting 150,000 tests per day. Harvard researchers estimated that the country would need to increase that by three times to safely lift stay-at-home restrictions.

A nursing home in New Jersey was the site of 70 COVID-19 related deaths. Police had found 17 bodies in bags in a room at the nursing home last week.



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April 20

Lawmakers and the White House were expected to reach a deal to replenish funds to the small business loan program that went dry last week. The package was reported to be \$450 billion, with most going to the Paycheck Protection Program, \$50 billion to the Small Business Administration disaster relief fund, \$75 billion to hospitals, and \$25 billion for testing.

The price of crude oil fell by 37% to \$11.42 per barrel, a new low in about 20 years.

Leading economic indicators dropped 6.7% in March.

A group of 45 economists, social scientists, ethicist and lawyers released a "[Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience](#)," and urged that 20 million tests per day would be needed to "fully re-mobilize the economy." To date, the U.S. had conducted 3.7 million tests – total.

Trump's new testing czar, Brett Giroir, was forced out of a job at Texas A&M in 2015 for being "more interested in promoting yourself" than the center where he was employed.

The U.S. surpassed 750,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 40,000 related deaths.

The governors of Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina announced a series of reopening plans for businesses in their states, despite lack of widespread testing needed to safely do so.

President Trump announced via Twitter that he would stop U.S. immigration, with the details of his plan unclear.

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April 21

Almost half of all U.S. states have reported double-digit percent losses to the cash funds they use to meet unemployment claims according to a [Wall Street Journal analysis](#).

The [AP reported](#) that publicly traded companies with thousands of employees, and even some with past penalties stemming from government investigations, were recipients of \$300M in small business loans from the Paycheck Protection Program meant for small businesses.

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) penned an [op-ed](#) alleging that the virus originated in a lab in Wuhan.

Governor Jared Polis (D-CO) announced his state would be shifting from a stay-at-home order to a "safer at home" guidance next week.

The FDA authorized the first COVID-19 test kit designed for at-home use via emergency authorization. The kit is produced by LabCorp and would be intended at first for small-scale use for healthcare workers and first responders exposed to the virus or showing symptoms.

A [study](#) of 368 veterans in VA hospitals found that those who received hydroxychloroquine (with or without azithromycin) were more likely to die than those who did not (28% versus 11%). The drug was famously touted by Trump and his administration.

The Senate passed a \$484 billion interim relief package to replenish funds to the small business loan Paycheck Protection Program.

Trump reversed position on guest worker programs, but announced a halt to the issuance of new green cards in the U.S.

Trump said the U.S. had led the world in testing for COVID-19, a false claim. Testing in the U.S. had been stagnant for a month, and the nation was far from tripling its capacity needed to safely reopen the economy.

A panel convened by the National Institutes of Health issued guidelines that showed there are not enough data on the drugs Trump frequently touted, including hydroxychloroquine.

The CDC Director Robert Redfield warned, "There's a possibility that the assault of the virus on our nation next winter will actually be even more difficult than the one we just went through."

April 22

The medical examiner in Santa Clara, California said that two people who died in early February were infected with COVID-19, which was weeks before the first recorded death in Seattle. Neither of the individuals had traveled, meaning that they contracted the virus from community spread. This shifted the timeline of the arrival of the virus in the United States.

Trump on Twitter praised states for prematurely reopening their economies: "States are safely coming back. Our Country is starting to OPEN FOR BUSINESS again. Special care is, and always will be, given to our beloved seniors (except me!). Their lives will be better than ever...WE LOVE YOU ALL!"

A coal company with ties to the Trump administration was the recipient of a \$10 million small business loan.

The VA paid Trump friend's company MyPillow \$75,000 for KN95 masks for its hospitals – a product the company does not produce.

Trump disagreed with Gov. Brian Kemp's (R-GA) decision to reopen many businesses in his state: "I want him to do what he thinks is right, but I disagree with him on what he is doing." But Kemp continued to press forward with his plans.

Dr. Rick Bright, the government official in charge of developing a vaccine for COVID-19 was abruptly fired after he insisted on rigorous testing for hydroxychloroquine.

April 23

4.4 million more Americans filed for unemployment benefits, which brought the 5-week total to 26 million Americans out of a job.

Officials in Texas reversed their weeks-long efforts to ban abortion in the state, allowing them to resume.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell suggested that states struggling with deficits due to the crisis should file for bankruptcy, rather than the federal government send cash to them. Governors resoundingly disagreed.

Senator Elizabeth Warren's oldest brother died of COVID-19 in Oklahoma.

3,600 VA employees were quarantined due to their exposure to the virus, raising concern about the health systems capacity to care for COVID patients.

The House passed a \$484 billion interim relief package to replenish the small business loan program.

President Trump suggested that COVID patients use disinfectants and UV light to treat the virus, a dangerous and completely unproven statement that visibly surprised Dr. Deborah Birx during the daily White House press briefing.

April 24

Trump signed the bill to provide an additional \$484 billion in economic relief to the Paycheck Protection Program

Disinfectant maker Lysol issued a press release urging Americans to not inject themselves with their product after Trump's press conference comments the night prior.

Governor Brian Kemp (R-GA) continued with his plan to reopen much of Georgia's economy, and large lines formed outside of businesses allowed to open, including barbershops, nail salons, gyms, bowling alleys and tattoo parlors.

Atlanta's Mayor, Keisha Lance Bottoms, pleaded with residents to stay home: "Listen to the scientists. There is nothing essential about going to a bowling alley or getting a manicure in the middle of a pandemic."

Other states also allowed some businesses to begin opening their doors on this date, despite warnings from public health experts. Alaska removed restrictions for restaurants, retail stores and salons. Oklahoma opened salons and state parks.

The FDA warned that the hydroxychloroquine, the anti-malarial drug that Trump for several weeks touted, could lead to dangerous side effects – abnormal heart rhythms – and said that the drug should be reserved for clinical trials or for patients in hospitals so that they can be closely monitored.

50,000 Americans succumbed to the disease caused by the coronavirus, a devastating toll that most experts agree is likely undercounted.

Trump said his comments the night prior about injecting powerful lights and disinfectants into the body to cure COVID-19 were "sarcastic" and meant for reporters to "see what would happen."

Trump gave an unusually brief press conference, taking no questions from reporters as Republicans became increasingly wary about his briefings in light of his "disinfectant" comments.

After spreading disinformation, the Trump administration abruptly canceled funding to the EcoHealth Alliance, a vital US-based program that studies bat-borne coronaviruses, like COVID-19.

April 25

There was no coronavirus task force briefing for the public.

April 26

Reports swirled about Trump looking to fire HHS secretary Alex Azar and replace him with perhaps a more loyal member of the administration.

China announced that there were no more hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Wuhan.

Dr. Deborah Birx said that social distancing in the U.S. will need to be carried forward through summer: "social distancing will be with us through the summer." This was in response to a statement made by Vice President Mike Pence three days prior, "Honestly, if you look at the trends today, I think by Memorial Day weekend we will largely have this coronavirus epidemic behind us."

According to a [Washington Post](#) analysis, Trump spoke for 13 hours at coronavirus task force briefings over a three week period. He spent two hours attacking reporters, 45 minutes praising himself and his team, 9 minutes promoting the unproven drug hydroxychloroquine, and only 4.5 minutes offering sympathy for the victims.

April 27

Tens of millions of pounds of produce in the U.S. rotted in fields, while hunger shot up due to the economic toll of the crisis. *Politico* reported that the Department of Agriculture "took more than a month to make its first significant move to buy up surplus fruits and vegetables — despite repeated entreaties."

The *Financial Times* [estimated](#) that the number of deaths due to COVID-19 globally could be 60% higher than what is officially reported. According to official reporting, the global death toll surpassed 200,000 and 55,000 alone in the U.S.

President Trump and the White House reversed their decision to no longer hold coronavirus task force briefings after Trump was resoundingly criticized for his comments about disinfectants being a potential cure for the virus.

Trump, in another day of Twitter rages, tweeted: "FAKE NEWS, THE ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE!" He appeared to have scrubbed his Twitter tirades from the day prior. He then canceled the task force briefing for the public hours after announcing it would be on.

An Illinois man filed a class action lawsuit against Trump for denying stimulus checks to the 1.2 million Americans who are married to immigrants without Social Security Numbers.

New York state canceled its primary elections scheduled for June 23rd.

Robert Westbrook was appointed to oversee the COVID-19 economic relief disbursements after Trump abruptly fired the first person named for the job.

The global COVID-19 case count surpassed 3 million and the number of lives lost reached 200,000.

After hours of back-and-forth, Trump held a press conference and declared, "There has been so much unnecessary death in this country. It could've been stopped, and it could've been stopped short, but somebody, a long time ago, it seems, decided not to do it that way."

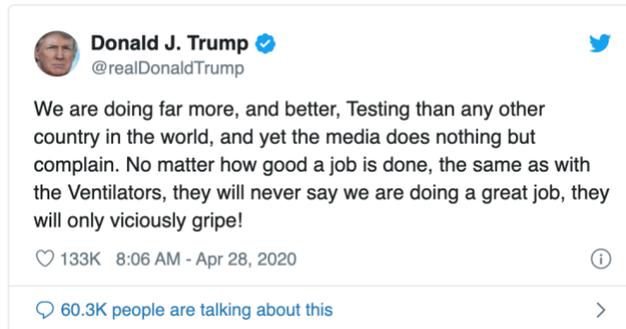
Trump announced that expanded testing would be a priority for his administration, after repeated promises by himself and other officials that widescale testing would be available.

Trump took no responsibility for the spike in calls around the country to state poison control response lines as some Americans took his hunch to heart and exposed themselves to household cleaners and disinfectants.

April 28

The CDC issued new guidelines for the list of symptoms of COVID-19, expanding symptoms to include "repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and a loss of taste or smell."

Trump defended his administration's new plans to expand testing, as experts criticized the efforts for not being enough:



House Democratic leadership reversed their planning and decided to not call the House of Representatives back into session in the nation's capital next week due to concerns of the virus.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that companies in receipt of \$2 million or more in small business loans could face criminal liability if they were in fact not eligible to apply for COVID-19 relief funds. His comments came after reports of large, publicly traded companies receiving millions of dollars in relief aid while small businesses struggled to access the website or get a hold of an SBA representative, let alone a loan.

Vice President Mike Pence, the head of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, visited Mayo Clinic and despite federal guidance and hospital protocol, did not wear a mask when visiting patients.

More Americans died of complications due to COVID-19 than the total who were killed in the 20-year Vietnam War.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States surpassed 1 million.

Trump said he wanted blue states to provide "sanctuary city adjustments" in exchange for financial relief for the virus.

Trump attempted to blame the experts – who he refused to listen to – for America's disastrous response to the coronavirus: "Many experts said that this would never affect the United States, it wouldn't affect Europe, it wouldn't affect anything outside of China. So, we were listening to experts, we always will... but the experts got it wrong."

The CDC released data that showed there were 9,000 more deaths in the seven states hit hardest by the pandemic that reported in the official death counts.



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April 29

The U.S. GDP dropped 4.8% in the first quarter, the first time the economy shrunk since 2014, and the worst fall since the Great Recession a decade ago.

Gilead, the pharmaceutical company, said it was "aware of positive data" coming out of the NAID study of its antiviral remdesivir for COVID-19 treatment.

As 20 meatpacking workers died from COVID-19, and over 6,500 were infected, rump ordered meat-processing plants to remain open by declaring them critical infrastructure under the Defense Production Act.

On Fox & Friends, Jared Kushner declared, "I'm very confident we have all the testing we need to start reopening the country." As nearly 60,000 deaths were reported, he said America is "on the other side of the medical aspect of this and I think that we've achieved all the different milestones that are needed. So, the government, federal government rose to the challenge and this is a great success story and I think that that's really what needs to be told."

Dr. Anthony Fauci warned that a second wave of COVID-19 was "inevitable" and that the country "could be in for a bad fall and a bad winter" if we don't put into place the proper precautions and countermeasures.

60,000 Americans died from COVID-19.

A new CDC study showed that black Georgians made up 4/5 of the state's COVID-19 patients in hospitals, another example of the virus disproportionately affecting black Americans.

When asked how the virus will be eliminated without a vaccine, Trump said, "It's gonna go. It's gonna leave. It's gonna be gone. It's gonna be eradicated."

Jeffrey Sprecher, Sen. Kelly Loeffler's husband and CEO of the Intercontinental Exchange, wrote a \$1 million check to a Trump-aligned PAC, America First Action.

State officials in Florida stopped releasing COVID-19 deaths as reported by Florida's medical examiners, which showed a higher death toll than the number published by the state.

A private jet company, Clay Lacy Aviation, used the taxpayer-funded Paycheck Protection program loan it received to finance private jet-owning clients.

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April 30

3.8 million more Americans filed for unemployment claims in the last week, which brought the six-week total to over 30 million Americans out of a job.

Consumer spending dropped 7.5% in March versus February.

Federal guidelines on social distancing lapsed on April 30, and the Trump administration did not renew them. At least 31 states were set to partially reopen their economies despite the rising death toll and case rate.

The Trump administration pressured U.S. spy agencies to support a conservative media theory that the coronavirus originated in a government lab in Wuhan.

On Fox & Friends, Second Lady Karen Pence defended the Vice President for not wearing a mask at Mayo Clinic: "It was actually after he left Mayo that he found out they had a policy of asking everyone to wear a mask." Pence and his office, as well as the traveling press, were notified of the policy before their visit.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a public statement about its ongoing investigations of the origins of the COVID-10 outbreak. In part it read, "The Intelligence Community also concurs with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified."

Several heavily armed gunmen wreaked havoc on the Michigan capitol to intimidate lawmakers into relaxing stay-at-home orders.

The U.S. Capitol attending physician said that there were not enough COVID-19 tests to conduct on the 100 U.S. Senators as the Senate planned to come back to session next week.

As over 61,000 Americans were lost to the virus, Trump praised his administration's response: "Our death totals, our numbers, per million people, are really very, very strong. We're very proud of the job we've done."

The federal government ordered 10,000 new body bogs in the month of April.

Trump blamed the Obama administration for the lack of tests, despite falsely claiming that the U.S. had performed more tests than "every other country combined." The last administration left us nothing. We started off with bad, broken tests, and obsolete tests."

Despite Trump's prediction, the virus did not "go away like a miracle" in April.

May 2020

May 1

Trump called the armed protestors in Michigan “good people” and encouraged them to keep up their protests.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that schools across the state would remain closed through the end of the academic year.

The World Health Organization extended its public health emergency declaration.

Los Angeles opened its first day of free testing for all with nearly 10,000 residents tested.

In another Friday evening firing, Trump removed the watchdog official – Christi Grimm – who reported shortages in medical supplies in April.

May 2

The FDA granted emergency use approval of the antiviral drug remdesivir.

May 3

Trump accused China of a coverup of the scale of the coronavirus in its early days of the outbreak. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared that the virus originated in a research lab in Wuhan. But U.S. intelligence agencies released a statement that the virus was “not man-made or genetically modified.”

After projecting the death toll would not surpass 60,000 Americans, Trump revised his projections in a Fox News town hall and said, “We’re going to lose anywhere from 75, 80 to 100,000 people.”

The Interior Secretary relaxed the rules for holding events at the Lincoln Memorial so that President Trump could hold his Fox News town hall on the area in front of the iconic monument.

Trump admitted he knew the virus was a threat on January 23rd – a full seven weeks before he declared a national emergency.

Trump declared that a vaccine would be ready by the end of 2020, contracting public health officials and pharmaceutical companies that are working to develop a vaccine: “We think we’ll have a vaccine by the end of this year and we’re pushing very hard.”



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May 4

The first major retailer in the U.S. declared bankruptcy, with J. Crew filing for bankruptcy protection.

Six more states began to phase in the reopening of their economies – Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and West Virginia.

For the first time ever, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments by phone in an attempt to hear cases in the midst of the pandemic.

Despite encouraging states to reopen their economies, the Trump administration projected that daily deaths due to COVID-19 would reach 3,000 until June 1. That would be a doubling of daily deaths, and new cases were projected to balloon from 25,000 per day to 200,000 each day.

The Treasury announced it would borrow \$3 trillion in the second quarter alone for COVID-19 relief.

A coronavirus model often cited by the Trump administration doubled its COVID-19 death toll projections in the U.S., from 72,000 to 134,000.

Dr. Anthony Fauci dismissed the talking point that the virus was generated in a lab in Wuhan: If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what's out there now, [the scientific evidence] is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated.”

The U.S. Senate convened in Washington. Senator Rand Paul, who tested positive for COVID-19 several weeks ago, did not wear a mask. Half of the Senate is over the age of 65, increasing their risk of complications due to the virus.

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May 5

In a [New York Post](#) interview, Trump boasted about being right all along: "Now, the one thing that the pandemic has taught us is that I was right."

Despite promising signs in major cities like New York first hit by the virus, new cases continued to rise around the country, including in rural areas.

Trump flew to Arizona for his first cross-country trip since the beginning of March. He deboarded the plane without a face mask and shook hands, despite his own federal guidance. He then toured a Honeywell factory that produces respirator masks and did not wear a mask, despite guidelines around the factory that read "Please wear your mask at all times." The song "Live and Let Die" blasted from speakers in the factory as the President toured the facility.

Trump said he would not allow Dr. Anthony Fauci to testify to House investigators because the House was filled with "a bunch of Trump haters." The week prior, the reasoning was that he was too busy to spend time on Capitol Hill.

Dr. Rick Bright, the official in charge of funding vaccine discovery, treatments and tests filed a whistleblower complaint alleging that he was ousted due to standing up to corruption and cronyism in the administration, including by his boss Dr. Robert Kadlec. His attorney in an interview with Rachel Maddow said the administration thought "there would be a big political win to flood New York and New Jersey" with hydroxychloroquine, an unproven drug with severe side effects. In other words, the 'win' would be causing great harm or even death to the residents of those two states who took the drug under false pretenses.

Reports surfaced that the White House Coronavirus Task Force would be winding down by the end of May, as 70,000 Americans died from the virus and projections showed that number would at least double. About the news, Vice President Mike Pence said, "It really is all a reflection of the tremendous progress we've made as a country." President Trump said, "I think we're looking at phase two, and we're looking at other phases. The country's starting to open up. The task force has done a phenomenal job." When asked why the White House was ready to disband the task force, Trump said, "Because we can't keep our country closed for the next five years."

The pandemic response would be coordinated instead by federal health agencies, while the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, would be responsible for overseeing the development of a vaccine.

Trump all but admitted that Americans will die for the sake of the economy: "Will some people be affected badly? Yes," the president said yesterday. "But we have to get our country open." He added, "I'm viewing our great citizens of this country to a certain extent and to a large extent as warriors. They're warriors. We can't keep our country closed. We have to open our country."

The *New York Times* [reported](#) that Jared Kushner's operation to secure medical supplies favored his friends and allies, as well as volunteers at private equity and consulting firms not trained in medical supply procurement.

David Raynor, a lobbyist for Georgia's Chamber of Commerce, emailed the Governor's office asking to prioritize protections for liability businesses that were reopening in the state.

A federal judge ruled that New York's June primary must go on.

May 6

The ADP National Employment [report](#) showed that 20 million private sector workers lost their jobs in April, an unprecedented drop.

Trump contradicted his and Pence's remarks from the day prior and said the coronavirus task force would "continue indefinitely." Its focus would be on, per the President "SAFETY & OPENING UP OUR COUNTRY AGAIN."

The Arizona Department of Health Services told a team of researchers from Arizona State and the University of Arizona to stop working on projection modeling for COVID-19. The health department also cut off the researchers' access to the data needed for modeling.

The U.S. Justice Department opened a criminal investigation into Blue Flame Medical, a company created by Republican operatives who began to sell Covid-19 supplies as the outbreak took hold this spring. Reports had surfaced that the company failed to provide masks to Maryland and California.

A volunteer on the "shadow" task force led by Jared Kushner filed a whistleblower complaint with the House Oversight Committee, alleging that volunteers had no experience in supply chain management, procurement or healthcare yet were leading the charge to procure PPE, and that they prioritized requests from Trump's political allies (deemed "VIP's") to produce PPE.

May 7

3.2 million more Americans filed for unemployment benefits, which brought the total jobless Americans to over 33 million.

A 17-page report detailing guidelines and advice for local leaders, faith organizations, schools, and business owners to reopen was never released. CDC officials were told the paper would "never see the light of day," according to an AP [report](#). The White House rejected

A House panel established to oversee \$500 billion federal dollars meant for large companies has struggled to get off the ground with Republicans threatening to boycott the commission. House Minority Leader Keven McCarthy (R-CA) eventually named members to the commission, including Trump allies Reps. Steve Scalise (R-LA) and Jim Jordan (R-OH), while calling it "impeachment 2.0."

Republicans and conservatives in the media began to question the official death toll numbers in an effort to diminish the tragedy and sow skepticism.

Vice President Pence announced the first FEMA delivery of gloves, masks, gowns and safety glasses to over 15,000 nursing homes nationwide. This first delivery came as 75,000 Americans had perished due to the virus.

Dr. Deborah Birx sent an email to the coronavirus task force criticizing the rollout of the antiviral drug remdesivir: "We can later review the decision-making process, the lack of engagement of Task Force, and the methodology and analysis used by the data and modeling group that resulted in the misalignment of the therapeutic and on-the-ground current need in the first shipment so we can be assured this doesn't occur in the future."

An [unreleased White House report](#) dated May 7 showed that COVID-19 cases were spiking in both metropolitan and smaller communities around the country, including Nashville, TN, Des Moines, IA, and Amarillo, TX.

May 8

20.5 million Americans lost their jobs in the month of April, according to Labor Department Statistics. That brought the unemployment rate to 14.7% -- shattering the peak of 10% during the Great Recession. In a little over a month the economic fallout from COVID-19 erased all job gains since 2010.

Black, Latinx and women workers were hit hardest by the job losses. Women lost 1.5 million more jobs than men. And the unemployment rate among black and Latinx Americans was 16.7% and 18.9%, respectively.

Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and Ed Markey (D-MA), released the Monthly Economic Crisis Support Act – a bill to provide monthly \$2,000 payments to Americans who make less than \$120,000 annually.

A staffer to Vice President Mike Pence tested positive for COVID-19. The day prior, a valet for President Trump tested positive. In response to the news, the White House announced that Trump would be tested daily for the virus.

The Jared Kushner-led Project Airbridge has declined to disclose where the supplies they have procured have been delivered. A [Washington Post](#) analysis showed that the project's flights had delivered just 768,000 N95 masks compared to the 85 million masks procured through traditional FEMA efforts.

Defense Secretary Mike Esper was maskless as he held a ceremony with World War II veterans in their nineties.

In a continued effort to downplay the need for testing, Trump on the news of Pence press secretary Katie Miller testing positive for COVID-19 said, "Katie, she tested very good for a long period of time, and then all of the sudden she tested positive ... this is why the whole concept of tests aren't necessarily great ... today, I guess, for some reason, she tested positive."

Trump declared of the virus, "this is going to go away without a vaccine."

May 9

The White House became a hot spot of COVID-19 infections, with aides and Secret Service members close to the President and Vice President contracting the virus. Trump and Pence were to be tested for the virus daily, but Pence said he would continue his normal routine in the White House and not self-isolate. Staff members were encouraged to still report to work at the White House instead of remotely.

Despite many states falling short of the White House reopening guidelines, Trump tweeted, "TRANSITION TO GREATNESS."

Trump promoted one of his golf courses to his tens of millions of Twitter followers, "So great to see our Country starting to open up again," as the death toll in the U.S. neared 80,000.

Global cases of COVID-19 surpassed 4 million.

May 10

In a deluge of angry tweets on Mother's Day, Trump tweeted, "OBAMAGATE," seemingly in an attempt to muddy the waters around the previous President who left office in January of 2017.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said on Fox News Sunday that the jobless rate is likely worse than reported, and the unemployment rate could reach 25% soon. He added, "The reported numbers are probably going to get worse before they get better."

May 11

U.S. intelligence agencies accused China of hacking American research to get ahead in the development of a vaccine for COVID-19.

38 children in New York City were reported to have fallen ill with an inflammatory syndrome linked to COVID-19.

Some Republican members of the House of Representatives encouraged or even joined anti-stay at home order protests. Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), told constituents in a teletown hall, "They promised 2 million dead at the beginning of this ... The media has a vested interest in making things sound worse so that you tune in the next day." While pushing for protests, 72 people who attended a protest in Wisconsin on April 24th tested positive for COVID-19.

At a combative press conference, Trump falsely claimed in words and in large banners that the U.S. led the world in COVID-19 testing and low death rates. In fact, the United States was 131st globally in death rates per 100,000 and tested less per capita than 20 countries. Trump added, "We have met the moment and we have prevailed."

When a reporter asked why it was important to boast about test rates when new cases and deaths still occurred daily, Trump responded, "Don't ask me. Ask China."

Also at the contentious press conference, Trump declined to elaborate on "Obamagate" by saying, "You know what the crime is. The crime is very obvious to everybody."

Despite data that showed cases were rising around the country, especially in states that relaxed stay-at-home orders, Trump declared, "all throughout the country, the numbers are coming down rapidly."

Trump changed his tune and required that all staff members in the West Wing must wear masks – other than him. Additionally, he would be tested daily, while every person he came into contact with would also be tested. Anyone with a positive result would be immediately quarantined and their contacts would be traced. A formula that, if expanded to the country, would allow the United States to safely reopen.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said, "I don't think we have yet felt the urgency of acting immediately" and denied the need for a fifth COVID-19 relief bill.

May 12

Dr. Anthony Fauci testified to the U.S. Senate on the federal government's response to the pandemic. He warned that there would be "needless suffering and death" if the country were to be opened too soon: "If we skip over the checkpoints in the guidelines to 'Open America Again,' then we risk the danger of multiple outbreaks throughout the country. This will not only result in needless suffering and death, but would actually set us back on our quest to return to normal."

The Assistant Secretary of HHS, Admiral Brett Giroir, declared that the U.S. would be able to perform 40-50 million tests per month by September.

Former Vice President Joe Biden announced that if elected president he would call for an inspector general to investigate "every stimulus loan given to every big company or political insider."

At the Senate hearing, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), to Dr. Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease official: "you're not the end all." When Sen. Paul suggested that schools should reopen immediately because of his claims that kids suffer less from COVID-19, Fauci responded, "I think we've got to be careful if we are not cavalier in thinking that children are completely immune to the deleterious effects."

As the Senate's HELP committee held its hearing, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments about the release of Trump's personal financial information. His lawyers effectively argued that he is above the law and should not "be treated as an ordinary citizen."

Despite deeming farmworkers essential to the economy, the Trump administration failed to outline any standards to keep farmers safe and made any guidance completely voluntary.

House Democrats introduced the HEROES Act, a \$3 trillion relief package to address the COVID-19 crisis. The bill included \$1 trillion in economic relief for state, local, and tribal governments, another round of stimulus payments to individuals and families, and an expansion of unemployment benefits. It would also limit the president's ability to fire inspectors general.

California State University said it would conduct most of its classes online for the fall semester. It is the country's largest four-year public higher education system.

The U.S. reached its largest one-month deficit in history, with a \$738 billion deficit in April. That brought the fiscal year deficit to \$1.4 trillion.

Jared Kushner, when asked about a possible delay to the November elections, said "I'm not sure I can commit one way or the other, but right now that's the plan." The White House has no authority over the elections, which are mandated by federal law for the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.



May 13

Federal Reserve Chair, Jerome Powell, said that the economy could face an “extended period” of declining growth and stagnant incomes, and the U.S. would need more major fiscal policy to avoid a recession.

The Attorney General of Texas told three Democratic-led cities – Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio – that their stay-at-home orders and mask requirements that went above the Governor’s executive orders were unlawful.

Dr. Rick Bright, the former head of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, posted his written testimony to the House of Representatives and said in part that “2020 will be the darkest winter in modern history” if the U.S. does not make significant changes to its COVID-19 response.

As COVID-19 badly infected prisons around the country, former Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort was released from prison to serve the remainder of his four-year sentence in home confinement. There were no cases of COVID-19 at the prison where he was serving his time.

Trump and his close advisors launched a campaign to push the CDC to modify how it tallies death due to COVID-19. The changes would almost certainly decrease the reported death count. The day prior, Dr. Fauci testified that the real death toll was “almost certainly” higher than the official statistics.

The White House and the CDC were not on the same page about reopening America’s economy. A 63-page document that was not released was [obtained](#) by the Associated Press and showed that the CDC guidance was more detailed and stringent than the “Opening Up America Again” plan released in April that put decisions on reopening economies squarely with governors and local officials.

Trump again tweeted, “OBAMAGATE,” in an attempt to deflect from his administration’s response to the pandemic. The death toll in the U.S. reached 84,000.

The FBI seized the cellphone of Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), the chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, as part of an investigation into his stock trades that he made before the market crashed.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled to invalidate Governor Tony Evers’s (D-WI) extended stay-at-home order.

May 14

3 million more Americans have lost their jobs according to the latest weekly unemployment numbers. That brought the total since the economy started faltering in the middle of March to 36 million.

Dr. Rick Bright testified to the House subcommittee on Health in regard to the whistleblower report he filed. He said that the outbreak, "would get worse and be prolonged" if the U.S. did not ramp up its response to the pandemic. Trump called Dr. Bright a "disgruntled employee," and claimed, "I don't know the so-called Whistleblower Rick Bright, never met him or even heard of him."

Dr. Bright also testified that "lives were lost" in the U.S. due to the Trump Administration ignoring early warnings of COVID-19.

Senator Richard Burr stepped down as chair of the Intelligence Committee a day after his phone was seized as part of the FBI investigation into his stock trades related to the coronavirus.

The global death toll surpassed 300,000. The U.S., a country representing 5% of the world's population accounted for 28% of the lives lost.

The Pentagon's industrial policy head responsible for production of PPE through the Defense Production Act was removed from her post.

The CDC issued a warning on the unusual inflammatory syndrome showing in children related to COVID-19. 110 cases had been reported in New York alone, with three children dying.

Trump called testing "overrated" and suggested that the reason the U.S. had more cases than the rest of the world was because it had ramped up testing: "And don't forget, we have more cases than anybody in the world," he added. "But why? Because we do more testing. When you test, you have a case. When you test, you find something is wrong with people. If we didn't do any testing, we would have very few cases."

May 15

Retail sales dropped 16.4% in the month of April, a record that was well above projections. Clothing stores were hit the hardest, with a 78.8% fall.

Governor Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) said beaches in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut would reopen Memorial Day weekend.

The House voted on Speaker Pelosi's \$3 trillion relief bill by virtual vote for the first time in the body's history. The bill passed.

The pharmaceutical company Regeneron said it would have an antibody cocktail to treat the virus available by late summer.

In the latest Friday night firing, Trump removed the State Department's Inspector General, Steve Linick. It was reported that the inspector general had opened an investigation into Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for allegations that he used government staff for private errands.

May 16

Former President Barack Obama gave a national commencement speech to graduating high schoolers, and criticized leadership on the COVID-19 response: "Doing what feels good, what's convenient, what's easy, that's what little kids do ... Unfortunately, a lot of so-called grown-ups, including some with fancy titles and important jobs, still think that way, which is why things are so screwed up."

The FDA gave emergency clearance for a COVID-19 testing kit that will allow individuals to take a nasal sample at home and send it out to a lab for testing.

Two-thirds of states had phased in a form of reopening their economies.

May 17

Federal Reserve Chair, Jerome Powell, said that U.S. GDP could shrink by 30% in the second quarter, and that an economy recovery could last through 2021. He warned that unemployment could reach 25%.

The state of Illinois made it a misdemeanor for businesses owner to ignore pandemic restrictions.

Trump said he enthusiastically supported the return of live sporting events during the pandemic – he wanted "big, big stadiums loaded with people."

The Trump White House openly aired its misgivings with the CDC on the Sunday shows, with Peter Navarro leading the charge: the CDC "let the country down" on testing.

May 18

HHS Secretary Alex Azar said of Trump White House comments about the CDC, "The comments regarding the CDC are inaccurate and inappropriate."

China announced it would provide \$2 billion in support to the WHO to combat COVID-19. At the same global health meeting, Azar sharply criticized the WHO: "We must be frank about one of the primary reasons that this outbreak spun out of control ... There was a failure by this organization to obtain the information that the world needed, and that failure cost many lives."

Moderna announced than an early-stage human trial for its COV_D-10 vaccine successfully produce antibodies. A large clinical trail would begin in July.

The DOW rose 900 points in the face of good news for the markets: promising vaccine news, the reopening of many states, and the Fed Chair's comments that they had the ammunition to sustain a recovery.

The retail giant, J.C. Penny, said it would be closing 1/3 of its stores as it struggled to remain afloat.

The Congressional Oversight Commission released its first report on the \$500 billion federal bailout program from the CARES Act and raised questions about how the funds had barely been used to date to support companies that are vital to America's national security.

As Trump put the onus on safely reopening the country with state and local leaders, he tweeted, "REOPEN OUR COUNTRY!"

Millions of Americans continued to wait to receive the unemployment benefits they qualified for.



Trump said he was taking hydroxychloroquine for over a week to prevent a COVID-19 infection, despite the lack of evidence that it prevented the disease and could have significant deleterious effects. The White House doctor then released a letter that made it unclear if Trump was actually taking the medication. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi raised concern about Trump's comments: "As far as the president is concerned, he's our president and I would rather he not be taking something that has not been approved by the scientists, especially in his age group and in his, shall we say, weight group -- morbidly obese, they say. So, I think it's not a good idea."

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. passed 1.5 million and Americans lost to the virus reached 90,000.

May 19

Trump threatened to freeze funding to the World Health Organization indefinitely.

The Trump administration announced a \$354 million four-year contract with a new pharmaceutical company based in Virginia, Phlow Corp., to manufacture generic drugs to treat COVID-19.

Moncef Saloui, who was tapped to lead "Operation Warp Speed" by the White House for the development of a vaccine, resigned from the board of Moderna but still had 156,000 shares of the company's stock (worth ~\$10 million).

A White House plan showed that 40,000 National Guard workers on the frontlines of fighting the pandemic would have a "hard stop" of June 24th – a day short of many National Guard members becoming eligible for federal benefits.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell, in a hearing before the Senate Banking Committee, said that the COVID-19 pandemic has hurt the economy in ways not seen "since World War II." He added that the Fed is "committed to using our full range of tools to support the economy." Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that there could be "permanent damage" to the economy if states kept their stay-at-home orders extended for months longer.

President Trump held a buffet-style lunch with Republican Senators – who were not tested before dining with Trump. In another meeting that flouted Trump's own social distancing guidelines, Trump held a cabinet meeting in front of the cameras with cabinet members in close proximity.

Trump said the 1.5 million cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., which by far led the world in cases, was a "badge of honor."

May 20

As part of Michigan fell under threat to severe flooding, Trump threatened to withhold federal funding to the state for expanding vote by mail programs. The President also falsely accused the Secretary of State in Michigan of sending absentee ballots to residents – it was simply absentee ballot applications that were sent, as has been done in several other states.

To varying degrees, all 50 states had begun reopening their economies.

A vaccine showed promise in protecting monkeys from COVID-19.

The Department of Justice sent a warning to Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-CA) that the state's plan for reopening was discriminatory toward religious institutions, as it would allow restaurants and shopping malls to reopen first.

The White House edited the 60-page guidebook that it initially rejected the CDC from releasing. It removed an entire section on "communities of faith" and softened the language for how schools and businesses should "promote" social distancing.

According to a CNN [report](#) on the mounting tension between the White House and the CDC, "CDC officials say their agency's efforts to mount a coordinated response to the Covid-19 pandemic [had] been hamstrung by a White House whose decisions are driven by politics rather than science."

Vice President Mike Pence joined Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL) to dine, without masks, at a burger shop in the state.

White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow said, "The Congressional Budget Office has just redone its estimates. And after a rough -- a predictably rough pandemic contraction in the second quarter, they're looking for a 21 and a half percent growth rate, sir, in the third quarter. ... Which would actually, if it came true, would be the biggest growth quarter in American history, or since the data were compiled."

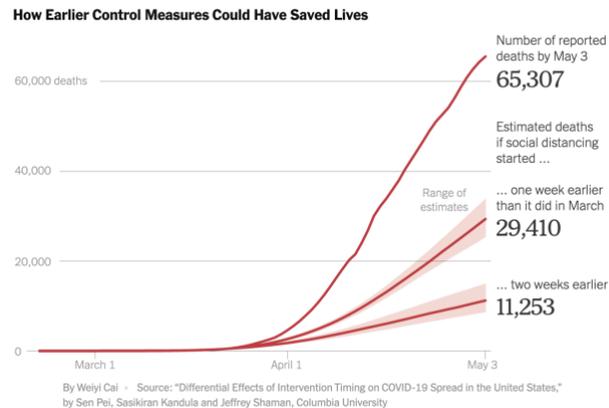
The Republican-led Senate, rather than focusing on COVID-19 relief, spent its time in session confirming extreme judges, investing Obama and Biden allies, confirming a controversial nominee for director of national intelligence, and ignoring Trump's purge of inspectors general.

May 21

2.4 million more Americans filed for unemployment benefits in the prior week, which brought the total since the start of the pandemic to over 38 million.

Cases of COVID-19 globally surpassed 5 million.

A study from Columbia University showed that if the U.S. had acted just one week earlier to keep Americans at home, 36,000 lives could have been saved. If the federal government had acted only two weeks earlier, 54,000 Americans would not have been lost. IN response, Trump said he would not have changed anything.



"I tested very positively in another sense. I tested positively toward negative. I tested perfectly this morning, meaning I tested negative."

Despite being one of the first states to reopen, jobs in Georgia did not come roaring back. The state led the country in the percentage of workers applying for unemployment assistance – at 40.3%.

A day after threatening to withhold federal funding from the state for its efforts to make voting safe and accessible, Trump visited Michigan in his attempt to travel in his official capacity to battleground states. Again, despite guidance from his own federal government and requirements of the Ford plant he toured, Trump refused to wear a mask, only donning it very briefly.

Federal scientist warned that the Atlantic hurricane season would be unusually busy, with as many as 19 storms and six major hurricane systems.

The top Democrats in the Congress, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, wrote a letter to Trump asking that all flags on government buildings be lowered to half-staff when the death toll reaches 100,000. Since the pandemic first hit, Trump has not offered any national mourning.

HHS reached its fourth and biggest deal with a pharmaceutical company to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. It awarded \$1.2 billion to AstraZeneca.

The president of the New York Fed said, "My own forecast would be a couple very difficult months ahead of us. And then I expect in the second half of the year to see a rebound."

May 22

The Trump administration asked local Planned Parenthood affiliates to return loans it received through the Paycheck Protection Program.

The TSA updated its guidelines to allow passengers to bring up to 12 ounces of hand sanitizer on flights, up from 3 ounces. Travel was expected to be way down ahead of Memorial Day weekend.

The Mayor of Montgomery, AL warned that there might be a shortage of ICU beds as his state opened up.

An early-stage trial in China had promising results for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Hydroxychloroquine, the anti-malaria drug that Trump repeatedly touted and even said he was taking as a prophylactic, was shown to be harmful in a new study. Those who received the drug were more likely to have abnormal heart rhythms and had an increased chance of death. The authors of the study urged that the drug only be used in controlled clinical trials.

Trump said that places of worship are “essential” and must reopen immediately around the country. He said he would override governors who kept them close to slow the spread of COVID-19.

A ProPublica [investigation](#) revealed that Zach Fuentes, a former Trump aide, secured a contract to produce masks for Navajo hospitals only days after registering his company. Many of the masks were unsuitable for medical use.

Vice President Mike Pence met with Governor Brian Kemp (R-GA) where the two dined in Atlanta without masks. He praised Georgia for “leading the way” in its reopening.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany appeared to reveal Donald Trump’s personal checking information in an attempt to show reporters that he would be donating his quarterly salary to the Small Business Administration.

One of the country’s largest car rental companies, Hertz, filed for bankruptcy.

After being publicly asked to honor COVID-19 victims by Democratic leaders in Congress, Trump agreed to fly U.S. flags at half-staff over Memorial Day weekend.

Several college football conferences voted to open their facilities in June for voluntary workouts and practices, despite the N.C.A.A.’s ban on on-campus sports.

May 23

An Imperial College London study showed that COVID-19 might still be spreading at epidemic levels in 24 states in the U.S., especially in the south and Midwest of the country.

As the death toll neared 100,000 Americans lost, Trump visited the Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia to play golf, -- his 265th visit to one of his golf properties since being in office.

In addition to golfing, Trump tweeted hundreds of times over the Memorial Day holiday, including name-calling and retweeting racist and sexist users.

May 24

When asked about the upcoming G-7 summit, Trump's National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien said, "I think we're getting very close to the peak, if we're not at the peak already in Washington and if the situation permits it and we think it will, we'd love to have the G-7 in- in person."

The New York Times honored COVID-19 victims by displaying the names of 1,000 lives lost on their front page.

Dr. Deborah Birx assured Americans that the federal government was preparing for a fall resurgence: "We're preparing for that potential fall issue, both in PPE, which is protective devices both in ventilators, stockpiles and ensuring that we're really pushing on therapeutics and vaccine developments so we can be ready if the virus does come back in a significant way."

Trump made a false claim on twitter about the state of COVID-19: "Cases, numbers and deaths are going down all over the Country!" In reality, hospitalizations had been increasing in states outside of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

May 25

Trump was late to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Ceremony, a Memorial Day tradition, and did not wear a mask for the occasion.

Trump on Twitter threatened to move the Republican National Convention out of North Carolina, where it had been planned under contract for two years, if Governor Roy Cooper (D-NC) implemented any safety restrictions due to COVID-19.

May 26

For the first time ever, Twitter flagged the President's tweets and began fact checking his posts. Trump had repeatedly tweeted about "fraudulent" mail-in ballots and called the 2020 election "Rigged" should states allow vote by mail. Twitter provided a link on his tweets so users could fact-check his false claims.

Trump responded to Twitter's fact-check of his tweets: "Twitter is now interfering in the 2020 Presidential Election. They are saying my statement on Mail-In Ballots, which will lead to massive corruption and fraud, is incorrect, based on fact-checking by Fake News CNN and the Amazon Washington Post ... Twitter is completely stifling FREE SPEECH, and I, as President, will not allow it to happen!"

Several Democratic lawmakers wrote a letter to Trump urging that he not hold a major Fourth of July event in D.C. due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Governors Ron DeSantis (R-FL) and Brian Kemp (R-GA) publicly vied for being the host of the Republican National Convention in their states.

House Republicans sued Speaker Nancy Pelosi to try to ban remote voting in the chamber that was implemented to stem the spread of the virus among Congressional officials and staff.



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May 27

The U.S. economy had its worst drop ever in April according to a reading by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Trump visited Cape Canaveral, Florida for a SpaceX rocket launch. The launch was then delayed due to weather.

Dr. Anthony Fauci became the first Trump administration official to publicly rebuke the use of hydroxychloroquine: "The scientific data is really quite evident now about the lack of efficacy [of the drug]."

California became the fourth U.S. state with at least 100,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Donald Trump continued to hurl false claims about Joe Scarborough on Twitter. Republicans in the House urged him to focus on the pandemic and not on the unfounded attacks.

France was the first country to ban the use of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19.

Demonstrators took to the streets of Minneapolis to protest the murder of George Floyd, who was killed in police custody.

100,000 Americans perished due to COVID-19. One-third of the world's deaths to the disease occurred in the United States.

As the U.S. reached a death toll greater than every conflict since the Korean War combined, Trump tweeted: "The Radical Left Lamestream Media, together with their partner, the Do Nothing Democrats, are trying to spread a new narrative that President Trump was slow in reacting to Covid 19 . . . Wrong, I was very fast, even doing the Ban on China long before anybody thought necessary!"

In a primetime show, it took Fox News 50 minutes to cover the 100,000 death toll that had been reached in the United States.

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May 28

2.1 million more Americans filed for unemployment benefits, which brought the 10-week total to 40 million – or 1 in 4 Americans out of a job.

The White House broke with tradition of past administrations and said it would not release midyear economic projections. In February, they predicted that the economy would grow 3.1% over two years. Economic forecasts after the pandemic hit projected the economy would instead shrink over 5% in 2019. In the first quarter alone, the economy fell 5% at an annual rate.

Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, was found to own up to \$1.64 million of stocks in companies directly related to the federal government's response to COVID-19, including Abbott Labs, 3M, and CVS.

Senator Tim Kaine tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies, which made him the second senator with a confirmed case. In the Pennsylvania state legislature, Democrats said that House Republicans hid that one of their members tested positive for COVID-19 to not detract from their talking points downplaying the virus.

Trump put out a hastily written executive order meant to punish Twitter for fact-checking his false tweets about vote by mail.

May 29

Trump suggested that the protestors in Minneapolis speaking out against the death of George Floyd, a black man killed by police, should be shot. For the second time in the week, Twitter flagged his Tweet as violating their policies and for "glorifying violence." Elsewhere around the country, peaceful protests took place while those protesting made efforts to wear masks and social distance.

Millions of freelancers continued to wait for unemployment benefits related to COVID-19.

The jobs data showed that although 4 million Americans came off unemployment benefits in May, the unemployment rate would reach 20%.

The state of Washington reclaimed \$300 million in fraudulent unemployment claims.

Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) became the second U.S. Senator to test positive for COVID-19 antibodies.

The CDC released a new set of recommendations on how businesses can safely reopen and protect their employees. This came over a month after the President egged on protestors around the country to reopen state economies.

Despite cases and hospitalizations trending downward in the tristate area, new cases were on the rise in a dozen states across the country, including Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.

The CDC estimated that the COVID-19 death toll in the U.S. would reach 123,000 by June 20th. Their forecast did not include a model often cited by the White House from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, which predicted that there would be 132,000 deaths by August before heavy socializing on Memorial Day weekend.

Trump announced the end of the U.S. relationship with the World Health Organization, severing ties during the middle of the pandemic that hit the U.S. far greater than any other country.

As the protests against racism and police brutality escalated in major cities, including D.C., Trump retreated to an underground bunker.

May 30

Protests continued in major cities around the country, with some bad actors taking advantage of unrest and starting riots. Many of the peaceful protestors wore masks and attempted to socially distance, but health experts were worried that the protests could lead to a spike in new COVID-19 cases.

May 31

Protests continued in major cities around the country, with some bad actors taking advantage and continuing to riot. It was the sixth day of largely peaceful protests with another night of unrest and violence. President Trump blamed the antifascist movement and used his Twitter platform to further incite violence, especially on the part of police.

In addition to the racism and police brutality that protestors marched against, many noted the troubling racial disparities in COVID-19 cases, death, and job loss.

The White House went dark on another night of unrest.

June 2020**June 1**

The economy showed some signs of life according to several [indicators](#): Americans were driving and walking more; restaurant reservations increased; the hotel occupancy rate began to rebound; and home purchases went up in May.

Congress debated extending the \$600 per week unemployment bonus as the deadline approached at the end of July.

States around the country prepared for an unusually damaging hurricane season, and how to contain the spread of COVID-19 in concert with disaster preparedness and the reality that natural disasters might only further the spread of the illness.

As the world entered June, many countries lifted virus-related restrictions – most of Spain's beaches reopened, limited numbers of moviegoers could go to films in Thailand, and visitors could enter the Sistine Chapel and Colosseum in Italy again.

Due to the economic fallout of COVID-19, state governments were at risk of meeting spending markers for a program from the Obama administration that would allow states to put in place climate change protections.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said he was "very worried about the health impact" of protests against police brutality and urged protesters to stay home.

Confirmed new cases in the U.S. steadily declined to 21,000 per day country-wide, down from 30,000 per day at its April peak, but outbreaks persisted in the Midwest and South.

The Congressional Budget Office projected that the economic impacts of COVID-19 could reduce U.S. output by 3% over the next ten years, which would amount to a loss of \$8 trillion.



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Peaceful protestors, clergy members, and members of the media were indiscriminately tear gassed and sprayed with rubber bullets so Trump could have a photo op, holding a bible in front of a church he did not enter. The photo op was then spun into a political ad. Trump then threatened to use U.S. military force on American citizens in his first remarks since the protests had begun a week earlier.

June 2

Former Vice President and Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden gave an address to the nation on the unrest: "A country is crying out for leadership. Leadership that can unite us, leadership that brings us together, leadership that can recognize the pain and deep grief of communities that have had a knee on their neck for a long time."

New York officials warned that protests and unrest could lead to a resurgence in COVID-19 cases, as New York City looked to begin a phased reopening on June 8th. The city implemented an 8pm curfew for the remainder of the first week of June to quell riots.

Despite a week of protests and civil unrest, the stock market went up with investors not in touch with reality or bullish about an economic turnaround.

The state of Michigan lifted its stay-at-home orders. Other states around the country continued to ease restrictions, while major cities confronted unrest from the looters and rioters taking advantage of the protests against racism and police brutality.

The President deployed active military forces in Washington, D.C. as part of crowd control efforts. This came after his promise to "dominate" protestors against police brutality and racism.

Trump declared that he would move the Republican National Convention out of North Carolina after the state's governor, Roy Cooper, refused to ease restrictions on gatherings.

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June 3

The Atlanta Fed projected that GDP would fall 53% in the second quarter.

Epidemiologists and public health experts cautioned that protests would likely lead to new cases, as hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched together in close contact around the country. The use of tear gas by police might lead to increased transmission of COVID-19, as protestors are forced to cough when sprayed with the chemical weapon.

The Trump administration said it would block Chinese airlines from flying to or out of the United States beginning June 16th.

The *New York Times* [analyzed](#) the early failures within the CDC that led to a troubling pandemic response, including an outdated data system, mistakes in testing, an inability to provide accurate and timely information on infections and deaths, its slow realization of the asymptomatic carrier risk, and tension with the Trump White House.

The ADP national employment report found that 2.8 million private sector jobs were lost in the month of May.

Officials organizing the World Economic Forum said that the event would still be held in-person in Davos, Switzerland in January.

The White House selected five companies it believed would be best positioned to produce a vaccine.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 were on the rise in at least 16 states.

In the first large randomized controlled trial of its kind, researchers found that Trump's preferred drug hydroxychloroquine did not prevent COVID-19 in healthy patients.

June 4

1.9 million more Americans filed for unemployment benefits in the prior week – a slight dip from 2.1 million in the previous week. The total unemployed was over 42 million. 21.5 million Americans were able to actually receive benefits.

Despite the economic upheaval, global pandemic, and social unrest, the S&P 500 rallied 38% since its low point on March 23rd.

As lawmakers in Washington contended with the looming deadline of additional unemployment benefits, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), said additional funds were “a terrible idea [that] never should have passed in the first place.”

The Pentagon planned to spend billions in new spending on vaccine development and medical supplies to help fight COVID-19. The plan came as the pandemic entered its fifth month.

U.S. imports decreased 13.7% in the month of April, while exports fell 20.5% -- the largest month-over-month drops since records started in 1992.

Workers around the country reported being fired or losing unemployment benefits for staying home to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

The Congressional Budget Office said that extending additional unemployment benefits would begin to hurt the economy next year.

New cases globally grew at its fastest rate ever, with over 100,000 cases reported daily. New hot spots included Brazil and Egypt.

Dr. Robert Redfield, the CDC director, told the Congress that 100,000 contact tracers would be needed nationally by September. The CDC at that point had 600.

Two large studies on the effect of hydroxychloroquine on COVID-19 patients were retracted due to issues with the data registry the authors employed.

The Trump administration released new standards for states to meet when reporting demographic data, as the virus disproportionately impacted communities of color. For more on racial disparities and COVID-19, see a Future Majority analysis [here](#).

June 5

The unemployment rate fell from 14.7% in April to 13.3% in May, as the U.S. added 2.5 million jobs last month. Industries that made gains included leisure and hospitality, construction, education, and health services.

A study suggested that most students will fall behind where they would have otherwise been had they remained in classrooms, and racial and socioeconomic achievement disparities would only be exacerbated.

Trump held a press conference to celebrate the May jobs report. He did not mention that 29,955,415 Americans received unemployment benefits according to a May 16th survey, but the Labor Department unemployed number today was 20,985,000 – an almost 9 million gap that would bring the actual unemployment rate to 19%.

A judge ruled that Tennessee must give all registered voters the option to vote by mail amidst the pandemic.

Trump continued his tour of factories in states around the country, as he visited a manufacturer of medical swabs in Maine.

Trump's golf club in Palm Beach asked Palm Beach County to defer some of its \$88,338 monthly rent for public land due to hardships caused by COVID-19.

June 6

The White House acknowledged that it likely would not begin negotiations for additional COVID-19 relief until after the July 4th holiday.

Massive protests of hundreds of thousands transformed cities around the country, including Washington, D.C. President Trump further erected fencing around the White House compound.

The state of Florida recorded its highest single day rate of new cases of COVID-19, at 1,433 confirmed cases.

Trump said, "By the way, when you do more testing, you have more cases. We have more cases than anybody because we do more testing than anybody. It's pretty simple." But in fact, the rise in cases was due to the reopening of states.

June 7

Protests against police brutality continued across the country and in several countries around the world.

The global case count surpassed 7 million. It was the highest day of cases worldwide since the start of the pandemic.

June 8

New Zealand eradicated COVID-19 in the country with the recovery of its last case.

New York City, the epicenter of COVID-19 in the U.S. began its first phase of reopening with 400,000 residents returning to work as some businesses were permitted to open again.

Human trials for a COVID-19 vaccine were reported to be able to start as early as August 2020.

Two studies showed that shutdowns saved millions of lives and prevented hundreds of millions of infections. A University of California at Berkeley study estimated that the shutdown orders in the U.S. prevented about 60 million cases.

The National Bureau of Economic Research declared that the economy entered a recession in February -- the first since the Great Recession over a decade ago. Despite the troubling economic figures, the S&P 500 erased all of its 2020 losses in a several week-long rebound.

In the first 8 days of June, 6,000 Americans died from COVID-19 – more than the total deaths in March when the shutdowns began. Arizona, North Carolina and California experienced their highest numbers of confirmed cases.

June 9

The WHO clarified that it did not have a concrete answer on how frequently those with asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 could transmit the disease after previously saying that people without symptoms were unlikely to spread the illness.

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy lifted the state's stay-at-home order effective immediately.

President Trump intended to restart his campaign rallies in the next two weeks.

The Senate Finance Committee held hearings about the upcoming expiration of expanded unemployment benefits.

Five states held Primary elections after COVID-19-related delays, and long lines in Georgia made headlines as voters were forced to go home after in some cases waiting for eight hours.

Dr. Anthony Fauci in remarks said that the coronavirus pandemic was his "worst nightmare" that "isn't over yet."

June 10

New hospitalizations of patients with COVID-19 rose in at least eight states – just over two weeks after the Memorial Day holiday. New cases were on the rise in as many as 21 U.S. states and on its most dramatic upward trajectory globally as well.

The unemployment rate of Black Americans tripled from its low in February to 16.8%.

The Republican National Convention was tentatively moved from North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida after Gov. Roy Cooper (D-NC) said he would not relax COVID-19 social distancing efforts for the event.

The U.S. consumer price index dropped 0.1% in May, after dropping 0.8% in April and 0.4% in March. This was the first time the index dropped for three straight months ever.

\$130 billion remained in the Paycheck Protection program fund, despite thousands of small businesses reporting that they could not obtain a loan.

Dr. Fauci warned that although masks and being outdoors could slow the spread, the national protests might lead to a spike in cases as physical distance is key and the police use of chemical agents caused protestors to remove masks and cough. A group of over 1,000 public health and medical experts argued that the protests were critical to public health, as racial discrimination is in and of itself a public health crisis. 15 cases were linked to the protests.

The Federal Reserve projected that the U.S. economy would shrink by 6.5% in 2020. It also predicted that the unemployment rate would be 5.5% by 2022, still higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States surpassed 2 million.

June 11

1.5 million more Americans filed for state unemployment benefits last week, which brought the total to over 43 million. An additional 700,000 Americans not qualified for state unemployment filed for the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.

Despite cases spiking by over 30% in the previous two weeks, Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX) moved ahead with reopening the state. Only Utah halted its phased reopening after a two-week jump in cases.

Many NYPD officers refused to wear masks in public despite official department police and state Guidelines.

Businesses began asking customers and employees to sign liability waivers, protecting them from lawsuits, if individuals became infected with COVID-19.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said “we can’t shut down the economy again” if COVID-19 continues to come back at high levels.

June 12

The Trump administration said that it would not disclose the recipients of the \$500 billion taxpayer funded Paycheck Protection Program, a complete denial of transparency. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said it is “proprietary” and “confidential” information.

The ban on evictions for renters was set to end July 31st, and Congress did not seem poised to extend it.

The Trump administration considered prolonging temporary halts on legal immigration to stymie the virus permanently, including blocking asylum-seekers.

The Trump campaign asked attendees of Trump’s rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma to sign a waiver that said they “voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure of COVID-19 and agree not to hold Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. liable for any illness or injury.”

Researchers began to look toward polio immunization as a potentially effective COVID-19 vaccine.

June 13

Florida recorded its second-highest daily case increase to date.

In the midst of the pandemic, the Trump administration reversed Obama-era health protections for transgender individuals – rules that would prohibit discrimination in healthcare based on gender identity.

June 14

After being pressured to move his campaign rally in Tulsa, OK from Juneteenth to June 20th, Trump began to receive pushback from local and state officials who warned that a 19,000-person indoor rally could accelerate the spread of COVID-19. The campaign and Trump bragged about “a million people” requesting tickets to the event.

Public health experts warned that the virus was not close to slowing down and that new lockdowns might be coming. The established estimate was the 70% of the population would need to be infected with COVID-19 without a vaccine to develop herd immunity. Confirmed cases in the U.S. reached not even 1% of the population by the beginning of June (with countless more unconfirmed).

June 15

After a Friday rally, stocks slid on Monday as COVID-19 cases continued to increase in states around the country and globally, with seemingly no end in sight.

The FDA revoked its previous emergency use authorization approval on two malaria drugs, hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, that Trump repeatedly touted – without evidence – as being effective and called them “unlikely to be effective.”

About his ill-advised upcoming rally in Tulsa, Trump tweeted, “The Far Left Fake News Media, which had no Covid problem with the Rioters & looters destroying Democrat run cities, is trying to Covid Shame us on our big Rallies. Won't work!”

Reports of patients receiving inordinate hospital bills for COVID-19 treatment surfaced around the country. A Seattle man was met with a \$1.1 million bill.

Charter schools have been the beneficiaries of at least \$50 million in Paycheck Protection Program funds meant for small businesses.

Authorities in China locked down a section of Beijing to try to contain a new outbreak of COVID-19.

Public health experts expressed worry that the Trump administration would rush to approve the first vaccine that shows promise, even if it does not prove to be efficacious in rigorous trials.

At a roundtable discussion, Trump said, “If we stop testing right now, we'd have fewer cases, if any.”

The Oscars were delayed from February 28 to April 25, 2021.

House Democrats announced the start of an investigation into how Trump allocated the \$660 billion in small business loans from the CARES Act.

A Johns Hopkins University model projected that the U.S. would suffer from 200,000 COVID-19 deaths by October 2020.

Inspectors general asked Congress for help in monitoring \$1 trillion in COVID-19 relief dollars because the White House limited spending and reporting requirements.

Vice President Mike Pence told Governors to lie that recent spikes in cases were due to increased testing. In fact, the positive case rate was increasing faster than the increase in tests administered.

A federal judge order Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to distribute \$679 million in emergency relief funds to Native American tribes that were severely delayed in getting federal funds.

June 16

Deaths from in nursing homes and long-term care facilities in the U.S. alone surpassed 50,000.

Retail sales went up 17.7% in May compared to April, causing stocks to rise.

Several members of Congress were reported to have accepted small business loans from the Paycheck Protection Program for their or their relatives' businesses.

A UK study showed that dexamethasone, a common steroid, could reduce death in COVID-19 patients on ventilators by one-third.

The director of the Tulsa Health Department said Trump's campaign rally would be "the perfect storm of potential over-the-top disease transmission" as officials pleaded with the campaign to cancel the event.

Cases of COVID-19 skyrocketed in American prisons, surging to over 65,000.

The average COVID-19 test cost \$100. But reports around the country showed that insurers were paying labs as high as nearly \$7,000 for an individual test.

Jerome Powell testified to Congress that the United States economy faced "significant uncertainty."

At a press briefing, Trump falsely claimed there is an AIDS vaccine:

Florida, Texas, and Arizona all recorded their largest single-day new case count to date. Dr. Anthony Fauci warned of a resurgence and said, "people keep talking about a second wave. We're still in a first wave." He also rebuffed Vice President Pence's spin that increased cases were due to increased testing: the higher percent of positive tests "cannot be explained by increased testing."

June 17

Over \$2 trillion in federal stimulus money had been distributed to date, with effectively no independent oversight.

Officials worried that Trump was speeding up an already ambitious timeline to develop of a vaccine for COVID-19. Some even thought he might rush to issue an emergency authorization of a potentially unproven vaccine right before the elections on November 3.

Vice President Mike Pence authored a *Wall Street Journal* [op-ed](#) and suggested that the United States is "winning the fight against the invisible enemy" and concerns about a second wave were "overblown." His argument ignored the fact that new cases were rising in at least 22 states.

260 out of 500 workers tested positive for COVID-19 at Orlando International Airport.

A Tulsa judge denied a group of residents, businesses and nonprofits attempt to enforce social distance procedures for Trump's campaign rally in a large indoor arena in the city.

Governor Doug Ducey (R-AZ) admitted that "the trend is headed in the wrong direction" and reversed course by allowing mayors of localities to require residents wear masks.

June 18

1.5 million more Americans applied for unemployment benefits in the previous week. At least 32 million were out of a job.

Hundreds of medical professionals in Oklahoma demanded that Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa be canceled. The state experienced its single day record of new cases for the second day in a row they day prior.

800 Americans were dying each day due to COVID-19. On Fox News the previous night, Trump said the virus was "fading away."

Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said "uniform masking would go a long way" to curb the spread of the disease. The U.S. did not have formal masking requirements.

A *Wall Street Journal* [analysis](#) showed that Americans had punted on more than 100 million loans, including student, auto and other forms of loans.

Governor Gavin Newsom (D-CA) issued an executive order that required people wear face masks in most indoor and some outdoor settings. The order came as the state reported its highest single-day case increase on record the day prior (4,000 new confirmed cases).

The CDC said that the death toll could reach 145,000 by July 11th.

June 19

Millions of Americans honored Juneteenth, the day enforced African American slaves were finally set free in America in 1865. Protestors took to the streets for racial justice in a sustained massive civil uprising.

The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority said it would stop funding for the discovery of treatments for severe cases of COVID-19 that impacted the lungs.

Trump said that vote by mail, which many states attempted to expand so that elections could be held safely during the pandemic, was his "biggest risk" to his reelection.

Ahead of Trump's indoor campaign rally in a 19,000-person Tulsa stadium, Dr. Anthony Fauci said, "avoid crowds" and if not, "wear a mask at all times." He added, "It's very clear that the risk exists ... When you congregate, you increase it."

June 20

At his campaign rally in Tulsa Oklahoma, which far underperformed his campaign's expectations, Trump admitted that he did not want the country to increase testing. "When you do testing to that extent, you're going to find more people, you're going to find more cases. So I said to my people, slow the testing down, please." This is the opposite of what U.S. officials had been advising the administration.

June 21

The number of new cases globally, over 183,000, was the highest 24-hour increase to date.

Cases increased in nearly half of the country, 23 states, with 12 states setting single-day records.

As cases spiked for a second time, the Trump White House acknowledged that a fall wave was a possibility as well.

Health experts around the country refuted Trump's shocking remarks about reducing testing. Dr. Scott Gottlieb, former FDA commissioner said, "We're seeing the positivity rates go up. That's a clear indication there is now community spread underway, and this isn't just a function of testing more."

June 22

The United States, along with Brazil, were driving the rise in new cases globally. As cases reached 9,000,000 globally, the U.S. accounted for 25% of cases.

Trump again attacked vote by mail, tweeting several times to undermine the process that is getting support as a safe way to protect the right to vote amidst the pandemic:



Reports surfaced that Vice President Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence both voted by mail as recently as this April in the Indiana primary.

Trump extended limits on green cards for foreign workers that were put in place due to COVID-19.

Despite the rise in cases in Arizona, the state left it to localities to require residents wear masks, a solution that public health experts have said is one of the most effective ways to slow the spread.

Two members of Trump's campaign team who attended the June 20th rally in Tulsa tested positive for COVID-19.



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Democrats alleged that Trump had yet to spend \$14 billion meant to boost state's abilities to produce COVID-19 testing and conduct contact tracing.

June 23

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Robert Redfield, Dr. Stephen Hahn, and Admiral Brett Giroir, four of the nation's top health officials, testified to the House Energy and Commerce Committee about the national response to COVID-19. In a prepared statement, the CDC, said that "Covid-19 activity will likely continue for some time." Dr. Fauci said that the rise in new cases was a "distributing surge."

New York and Kentucky held their states' primaries after delays due to COVID-19. Polls were significantly reduced in Louisville and Lexington, where the majority of Black voters in Kentucky reside.

Cases spiked after Americans visited all types of venues – bars, churches, sport practices, casinos, and more.

Reports surfaced that Trump looked to shakeup the CDC as his administration placed blame on the agency for the bungled response to the pandemic.

Trump admitted he was not kidding about his comments on slowing down testing: "I don't kid, let me just tell you. Let me be clear. By having more tests we find more cases." Administration officials claimed that in practice there was no directive to slow down testing.

Trump returned to Arizona for a speech at a church in Phoenix. The city had a mask-wearing ordinance as cases spiked in the county. Trump again used racist language, referring to the virus as the "Kung Flu." He also attacked vote-by-mail, saying it was "a disaster for our country."

Over 100 members of Congress asked the Trump administration and the Fed to help businesses in the real-estate financing market struggling to make mortgage payments.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he expected the U.S. economy to be out of a recession by the end of the year.

The U.S. experienced its third-highest total of daily new infections, the highest since April.

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June 24

The New York City Marathon, typically held in November, was cancelled.

Lawmakers were up in arms as the Trump administration planned to end federal support for COVID-19 testing sites around the country by the end of June. Seven of those sites were in Texas, where city officials warned of “catastrophic cascading consequences” of ending federal funding.

The European Union was reported to consider banning travelers from the United States from entering its countries as they looked to reopen.

New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut announced it would quarantine visitors and travelers from COVID-19 hot spots (including AL, AZ, FL, TX, and others) for 14 days.

The International Monetary Fund updated its global economic projections and painted an even more grim picture, predicting the economy would shrink by almost 5% this year. More than 13,000 Homeland Security employees were warned that they could face extended furloughs beginning in August.

The U.S. economy shrank at an annualized rate of 5% in the first quarter of 2020, according to the Commerce Department.

Democrats announced they were downsizing their Milwaukee convention, and urged delegates not to attend to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Dozens of Secret Service agents were told to self-quarantine after Trump's Tulsa rally, in which several staffers tested positive to COVID-19.

June 25

For the 14th straight week, over 1 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits. In the past week, 1.5 million workers were out of a job.

The congressional watchdog found that as of April 30th, the Treasury department sent over 1 million stimulus checks totaling \$1.4 billion to dead people.

A study from the National Bureau of Economic Research on the country's 300 largest cities found no evidence that the protests against racism and police brutality caused a spike in virus cases.

Despite Trump's false claim that he inherited “no ventilators” from the Obama administration, Trump's administration revealed that there were 16,600 ventilators in the national stockpile. Trump had only distributed 10,760.

Businesses throughout the country that had reopened or planned to do so closed their doors again, or had their staff self-quarantine after outbreaks, due to the surge in cases.

Texas said it would halt its reopening and ban elective surgeries to make room for bed space as cases soared in the state.

CDC Director Robert Redfield estimated that for every confirmed case, there are likely 10 unconfirmed cases.

For a second straight day, the U.S. recorded its single highest daily new case count, with new cases reaching 40,000. Trump continued to tweet attacks on vote by mail and protestors against systemic racism.

The Trump administration formally asked the Supreme Court to invalidate the Affordable Care Act in its entirety, which would put tens of millions of Americans' healthcare at risk, despite the pandemic surging

June 26

Texas Governor Greg Abbott ordered the immediate closure of bars in the state.

Despite the rising case and hospitalization rate, the White House said it was business as usual and aides said there would be no change in the federal strategy to fight the pandemic.

Florida reported a staggering 8,900 new cases. Other states continued with their reopening plans, including New York and Michigan.

The World Health Organization said it needed \$27.9 billion over the next year to ramp up vaccine production – coming on the heels of Trump ending U.S. funding of the organization.

Vice President Mike Pence briefed the public for the first time in two months as part of the coronavirus task force. Despite the record-breaking rise in new cases, he said, “The reality is we are in a much better place. We were able to flatten the curve and we cared for the most vulnerable including seniors with underlying conditions. We created a solid foundation for the challenges that may be ahead.”

Trump tweeted, “Our Economy is roaring back and will NOT be shut down. ‘Embers’ or flare ups will be put out, as necessary!”

The European Union announced it would bar most travelers from the U.S. and Russia.

American Airlines and United announced it would book flights to 100% capacity as cases soared.

June 27

Trump canceled a planned trip to golf at his course in Bedminster, New Jersey, only to golf in nearby Virginia.

The U.S. recorded more than 42,000 new cases, the second straight day over 40,000.

June 28

Global cases of COVID-19 surpassed 10 million. Deaths to the virus surpassed 500,000. Americans made up a quarter of COVID-19 cases and deaths.

Former CDC Director Tom Frieden said “This is going to backfire. We’re moving too fast,” in reference to some localities and states continuing to reopen despite the rise in cases.

A senior adviser to a top HHS official accused the CDC of “undermining the President” in an email by releasing a report about the risks of COVID-19 to pregnant women.

June 29

The U.S. house passed legislation to lower the price of treatment related to COVID-19, mostly along party lines.

A leading economist said the U.S. economy might not return to normal until 2022. Fed Chair Jerome Powell said that the economy was “extraordinarily uncertain.”

Governor Doug Ducey (R-AZ) shut down bars, movie theaters, gyms and water parks as cases and hospitalizations in the state continued to rise.

The city of Jacksonville, Florida – the new site of the Republican National Convention in August – put a face-covering order into effect.

Gilead announced that its drug remdesivir would cost \$2,340 for a five-day course.

June 30

At least six senior Trump administration economic officials departed the administration, including an official who played a key role in oversight of the Payment Protection Program.

\$10 billion had been spent to date on Operation Warp Speed, a joint health-defense effort to discover and disseminate 300 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine by January.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said he would not be surprised to see 100,000 daily new cases in the U.S. if trends did not slow down.

South Dakota Governor said “we will not be social distancing” at Trump’s July 4th celebration at Mount Rushmore.

The FDA issued guidance on its approval process for a COVID-19 vaccine, including not approving a vaccine unless a company had “clearly demonstrated” its safety and efficacy through a clinical study.

The European Union reopened its borders to 15 countries, but barred travelers from the U.S. as well as Brazil and Russia.

The American Academy of Pediatrics released guidelines that said it “strongly advocates” for having students in person at school. This went against the CDC guidance, which said the safest approach was remote learning.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) announced that travelers from eight more states, including California and Georgia, would be required to quarantine for 14 days once in New York.

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) criticized President Trump for refusing to wear a mask: “The president has plenty of admirers ... They would follow his lead, it would help end this political debate. The stakes are too high for this political debate about pro-Trump, anti-Trump to continue.”

In a campaign speech, former Vice President Joe Biden said, “We need a president, not a cheerleader” in reference to Trump’s handling of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Paycheck Protection Program stopped accepting new applicants for its July 1st deadline with \$130 billion remaining. The Senate then voted to extend the program until August.



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By a margin of 6,648, voters in Oklahoma said they wanted Medicaid expanded in the state.

The U.S. broke its new daily case count record again, with 48,000 new COVID-19 cases.

July 2020

July 1

The White House remained divided on how to brief the public about the continued public health crisis according to reports.

Virginia revised its Phase 3 of reopening by ordering bars to remain closed. Similarly, Delaware ordered bars that were reopened in some beach communities to close. At least 19 states across the country paused or rolled back their reopening plans.

As cases soared in Georgia, Gov. Brian Kemp said there was no plan for a statewide mask policy.

U.S. consumer confidence rose to 98.1 in the month of June, up from 85.9 in May according to The Conference Board.

A market analysis at the University of Chicago showed that at least 4 million private-sector workers have had their salaries or wages cut since the start of the pandemic.

Pfizer released early results of a vaccine trial that showed that individuals who received the vaccine developed antibodies. The size of the study was 45 people.

New York City and New Jersey reversed plans to resume indoor dining. California closed indoor restaurant dining for over two-thirds of the state's population.

Health officials across the country urged Americans to "celebrate at home" for the Fourth of July.

In an interview with Fox Business, Trump again claimed that the virus would "just disappear." Despite almost never wearing a mask in public, Trump said that he was "all for masks" but did not believe the U.S. needed a national mandate.

The U.S. broke its new daily case count record and for the first time surpassed 50,000.

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July 2

The U.S. added 4.8 million jobs in the month of June, which brought the unemployment rate down to 11.1%. But another 1.4 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits in the previous week, a trend that had not slowed down.

CNN [reported](#) that there was a debate within the White House about whether to address the pandemic head-on or effectively ignore it in front of the public.

Trump planned to attend a \$580,600-per-couple fundraiser for his campaign in-person in Florida the following week.

Cases in the U.S. rose by 50% in June – with Florida, Arizona, Texas and California leading the way.

U.S. Health Secretary Alex Azar had traveled to nine key battleground states since the end of April, often touting the president's response to the virus.

In light of record cases in the U.S., Trump at a briefing to celebrate the June jobs report said, "The crisis is being handled. ... We are likewise getting under control."

The U.S. trade deficit climbed 9.7% in May to \$54.6 billion. Trump declared the economy was "roaring back."

Herman Cain, the former Presidential candidate, was hospitalized with COVID-19. He attended the Trump campaign rally in Tulsa, OK.

After previously prohibiting localities from issuing face mask mandates, Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX) issued a statewide mask wearing mandate.

July 3

New cases were on the rise in 36 states. The infection curve rose in 40 of the 50 states.

[News reports](#) surfaced that Trump-appointed ambassadors sold off stocks as they received word that the virus was spreading.

Members of Vice President Pence's Secret Service detail tested positive for COVID-19, which delayed his planned trip to Arizona.

Donald Trump Jr.'s girlfriend, Kimberly Guilfoyle, tested positive for COVID-19.

The United States tallied its largest single-day total of coronavirus infections Friday since the start of the pandemic, with 57,497 new confirmed cases.

7,500 attendees packed into an amphitheater at Mount Rushmore for President Trump's July 4th speech. There was no social distancing, masks were not required, and Trump did not wear a mask. Trump only mentioned the pandemic once at the very top of the speech.

July 4

It was a muted Independence Day in America, as the virus continued to spread. However, the virus did not stop thousands of beachgoers from gathering across the country.

Cases topped 200,000 in Florida and Texas.

July 5

A group of experts said that COVID-19 can be transmitted in the air and planned to ask the WHO and CDC to tell the public.

Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said the nation had enough supply of remdesivir – the only drug currently approved under emergency authorization for the treatment of COVID-19 – if the pandemic doesn't worsen.

July 6

Data obtained by the *New York Times* revealed that Blacks and Latinos were three times as likely as their white neighbors to contract COVID-19.

40 lobbyists with connections to Trump helped their clients obtain more than \$10 billion in federal COVID-19 aid. Five of them included former Trump administration officials – a violation of his own ethics policy.

Despite no signs of new cases slowing down, the stock market was off to a strong 3rd quarter.

Federal lawmakers were back after the Fourth of July holiday for a four-week session in which additional COVID-19 relief was sure to be debated.

13 U.S. states reported new record highs in their 7-day average case totals as the country set a record for the 27th straight day.

Officials in Austin, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio, Texas warned that their cities could be inundated with COVID-19 cases in ICUs and be over-capacity in just two weeks.

The American Health, Medical, and Nurses Associations published an open letter to Americans: "Covid-19 is not behind us and we must resist confusing reopening with returning to normalcy. Doing so will escalate this crisis and result in more suffering and death."

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows defended Trump's false claim that "99%" of COVID-19 cases are "totally harmless: " When you start to look at the stats and look at all the numbers that we have, the amount of testing that we have, the vast majority of people are safe from this."

The Trump administration released a list of companies that received \$150,000 or more from the Paycheck Protection Program. Gov. Jim Justice's family businesses (R-WV) received \$11.1 million in loans. Other loans went to private-equity funded chains and members of Congress.

July 7

As cases continued to surge, several indicators showed the economic recovery was slowing. Goldman Sachs revised their second quarter GDP outlook from +33% to +25%.

The federal government announced it would pay Novavax \$1.6 billion for the expedited development and production of 100 million doses of a vaccine by early 2021.

The Trump Administration and Senate Republicans agreed that the fourth phase of stimulus should be at or below \$1 trillion.

Despite Trump's promise of widespread testing, months into the pandemic many cities cited concerns that their testing inventories would not match the surge in cases.

The U.S. announced it would discontinue exceptions to visa requirements for foreign students if their classes were moved to online.

The President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, who like Trump had downplayed COVID-19 and refused to wear a mask, tested positive for the virus.

Two senior Republican members of the Senate – Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) announced they would not attend their party's convention in Florida.

Several nursing and doctors' associations warned that personal protective equipment for healthcare workers was running low again.

The WHO acknowledged that airborne transmission of the virus was possible indoors.

A coalition of 350 public health organizations wrote a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar urging him to shield the CDC from political inference.

The Trump administration formally withdrew the United States from the World Health Organization, effective 2021.

Trump admitted he would pressure public schools to reopen physically in the fall: "We are very much going to put pressure on governors and everybody else to open the schools to get them open."

Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) did not say whether he would lift a rule requiring indoor gatherings in Florida to be at 50% capacity – which would cap Trump's RNC at 7,500 people.

July 8

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpassed 3 million in the United States.

Brooks Brothers filed for bankruptcy.

Harvard and M.I.T. sued the Trump administration over its directive to end visas for international students if their courses were online.

The White House acknowledged it would release its own guidelines on reopening schools because it found the CDC's earlier guidelines too restrictive.

Trump increased the stakes of his pressure on states and localities to open schools: "In Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and many other countries, SCHOOLS ARE OPEN WITH NO PROBLEMS. The Dems think it would be bad for them politically if U.S. schools open before the November Election, but is important for the children & families. May cut off funding if not open!"

The Ivy League halted all sports until January. It became the first college football conference to cancel the fall season.

A shortage of PPE for healthcare workers began to impact the U.S. again.

The U.S. experienced another single-day record in new cases, and so did five states.

July 9

1.3 million more Americans filed for state unemployment claims in the previous week, which brought the continuous total 18.1 million Americans.

14 million Americans collected benefits through the federal relief program, a 53% surge from 9.37 million the month prior.

Cases surged in Tulsa, Oklahoma, which health officials linked to the Trump rally.

A new forecast projected that there would be 200,000 American deaths by election day.

Vice President Joe Biden released a \$700 economic revitalization plan to combat the crisis.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, said "As soon as the Senate gets back, we're going to sit down on a bipartisan basis with the Republicans and the Democrats and it will be our priority to make sure between the 20th and the end of the month that we pass the next [coronavirus aid] legislation."

The U.S. set another new daily record of nearly 60,000 virus cases. Despite the record cases, Trump said on Fox News, "We're going to defeat the invisible enemy, and we are well on our way."

Trump again falsely claimed that increased testing is responsible for the increase in cases.

On a party-line vote, the House Appropriations Committee approved a bill that would help send U.S. funds to the WHO.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said about charging forward with reopening schools in August, "'I'm confident if you can do Home Depot, if you can do Walmart, if you can do these things, we absolutely can do the schools."

July 10

An analysis by Goldman Sachs showed that a national mask-wearing order would reduce about \$1 trillion in GDP downturn – or \$3,000 in savings per person in the U.S.

States in the South and West that were the earliest to reopen their economies drove the surge in new cases.

COVID-19-related deaths began to increase again. Over 800 Americans died in the prior three days, which was a 60% higher total than during the same three days in the previous week.

Dr. Anthony Fauci acknowledged that he had not briefed the president for at least two months.

A German pharmaceutical company, BioNTech, said its vaccine would be ready by December.

Cases in the military more than doubled in a month, according to the Pentagon.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) said, "We still don't know" if kids can get COVID-19. His state reported 550 cases in children 9 years old and younger that day.

Global cases of COVID-19 reached a new record, while the U.S. set a single-day record for the seventh time in just 10 days.

July 11

After months of refusing to wear a mask in public, President Trump publicly wore a mask for the first time at Walter Reed hospital, finally acting in line with his own government's guidelines.

After months of declining, the daily death toll in the U.S. due to the virus increased.

Despite the raging virus in Florida, Disney World reopened its doors with limited capacity.

July 12

Florida recorded over 15,300 new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday alone, the greatest single-day case count of any state since the start of the pandemic – and more than many countries.

For the first time since the middle of March, New York City reported 0 COVID-19 deaths.

The White House began a smear campaign against Dr. Anthony Fauci, as they sent news outlets statements he made in the past in an attempt to scapegoat him for the failed federal response.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos continued her campaign to pressure schools to reopen, despite the risk of COVID-19 to children and their families. She called the CDC guidelines that Trump criticized as being too stringent, “common sense.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that Congress “must extend” the \$600 unemployment benefits expansion in the next COVID-19 relief package.

Texas reported a 25% increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations from the week prior.

Adm. Brett Giroir, a member of the coronavirus task force, said that he expected “deaths to go up” and, “It’s really essential to wear masks.” After Trump publicly wore a mask (before months of resistance), administration officials began changing their tune and urging the public to wear masks.

July 13

Cases of COVID-19 were increasing in 39 states. In Miami-Dade County, Florida, six hospitals were at capacity. Despite this, Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) just two days prior said, “We have a situation where you’ve got a lot of beds available. No major system, nobody that we’ve seen yet, has even gone to the surge level.”

The Director-General of the WHO said, “Yesterday, 230,000 cases of Covid-19 were reported to WHO. Almost 80% of those cases were reported from just 10 countries, and 50% come from just two countries.” Though he did not mention which countries, the U.S., India, and Brazil alone accounted for 112,000 new cases.

The FDA granted “fast track” status to two COVID-19 vaccine candidates from Pfizer and BioNTech.

17 states sued the Trump administration over its new rule to revoke the visas of international students who are forced to take classes entirely online in the fall. In a statement about the lawsuit, the attorney general of Massachusetts said, “The Trump administration didn’t even attempt to explain the basis for this senseless rule, which forces schools to choose between

keeping their international students enrolled and protecting the health and safety of their campuses.”

Former White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney spoke out about the testing crisis in America, “I know it isn’t popular to talk about in some Republican circles, but we still have a testing problem in this country. My son was tested recently; we had to wait 5 to 7 days for results. My daughter wanted to get tested before visiting her grandparents, but was told she didn’t qualify. That is simply inexcusable at this point in the pandemic.”

A Century Foundation [analysis](#) found that by the end of May, only 18.8 million of the 33 million unemployment claims had been paid nationwide – or 57%.

As cases surged in California, the nation’s second-largest school district, Los Angeles, said it would begin the academic year fully remote.

Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-CA) issued a comprehensive rollback of the state’s reopening – closing indoor restaurants and other sites, and closing bars altogether.

The U.S. budget deficit ballooned to a record \$864 billion in the month of June.

Trump again tried to blame the national testing failure on Obama: “Biden and Obama stopped their testing ... I’m sure you don’t want to report it.”

An analysis by Families USA estimated that 5.4 million Americans lost their health insurance from February to May.

July 14

Delta airlines lost \$5.7 billion in the second quarter, as passenger volume dropped 93 percent.

Trump continued to push for the Republican National Convention in Jacksonville, despite more and more Republican officials saying they would not attend. Florida’s own Sen. Marco Rubio did not commit to attending.

Despite advocating for local control of schools in nearly every other circumstance, Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos demanded that schools reopen in the fall and follow federal guidelines.

The 12-month U.S. deficit was 14% in June, compared with 10.1% in February 2010 after the last recession. The yearly deficit through June stretched to \$3 trillion.

An independent analysis found that the economic shutdown earlier this year saved between 900,000 and 2.7 million American lives.

Researchers reported the first known case of COVID-19 being transmitted during pregnancy from a woman to her baby in Paris.

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) wrote a letter to HHS urging for action on the impact of COVID-19 on minority communities.

Florida broke its daily record for most deaths due to COVID-19, as Republican officials announced they were considering moving their evening programming for their convention outdoors.

The Trump administration asked hospitals to skirt the CDC and report COVID-19 directly to an umbrella database out of HHS.

Trump walked back his policy to end foreign visas for students taking online courses due to the pandemic after a lawsuit and much pushback.

July 15

The WHO warned that dropping childhood vaccination rates could be a threat “greater than COVID-19 itself.”

Signs of the quick recovery Trump promised were dwindling. Delta announced it would cut back on its plans to add flights in August and later as consumer demand dropped. Large banks said they were putting aside billions of dollars to cover losses they anticipated having as consumers failed to pay loans.

As the Trump administration pushed local officials to reopen in-person schooling, a *New York Times* [analysis](#) showed that only two of the nation’s largest school districts (New York City and Chicago) achieved the recommended 5% positive daily infection rate.

Trump’s top trade adviser, Peter Navarro, published an op-ed in USA Today titled “Anthony Fauci has been wrong about everything I have interacted with him on.”

Walmart, the nation’s largest retailer, announced that it would begin requiring face masks at all of its U.S. stores.

A *Washington Post* [analysis](#) found major errors in the government’s PPP data under the Small Business Administration. The data showed that many companies reported to have retained more workers than they employ. 875,000 borrowers of loans show that zero jobs were supported. This brought scrutiny over the Trump administration’s claim that 51 million jobs were supported by PPP.

Gov. Kay Ivey (R-AL) issued a mandatory face mask order as the virus spread in the state.

Gov. Kevin Stitt (R-OK) announced he tested positive for COVID-19, the first governor in the U.S. known to contract the virus. Stitt attended Trump’s Tulsa rally.

Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine showed promising results in an early stage clinical trial.

The U.S. recorded its second-highest single-day new case count of COVID-19.

Gov. Brian Kemp (R-GA) barred local officials from putting in place mask-wearing orders, despite the surging virus in the state.

Cases of COVID-19 surpassed 3.5 million in the United States.

American Airlines said it might be forced to lay off 25,000 employees as travel continued to take a hit due to the virus.

July 16

1.3 million more Americans filed for unemployment benefits, the 17th straight week that the figure topped a million.

A Russian group backed the Kremlin was revealed to be hacking into U.S. and U.K. vaccine research.

Retail sales jumped 7.5 percent in the month of June.

The HHS inspector general issued a report that CMS chief Seema Verma violated agency rules by directing taxpayer dollars to contracts that benefited Republican-aligned consultants.

Target and CVS joined Walmart in requiring all customers wear masks at their stores.

The U.S. shattered its single-day new case record, with 75,600 new cases.

July 17

ICU capacity in Miami-Dade County, Florida was at 107% capacity. Hospitalizations in Georgia increased 39% in the past week.

Despite Trump's insistence that the death rate was going "way down," the average number of deaths per day began to rise again.

After suing the Mayor of Atlanta for her mask mandate in the city, Gov. Brian Kemp (R-GA), called mask orders "confusing and unenforceable."

An unpublished document for the White House coronavirus task force showed that 18 states should roll back their reopenings, including limiting social gatherings to 10 or fewer people and closing bars and gyms.

The U.S. economy shrank 37% in the second quarter and was on track to contract 6.6% in 2020.

July 18

The U.S. surpassed 140,000 deaths.

A *New York Times* [investigation](#) revealed that rather than the coronavirus task force, a small group of White House aides made key decisions on the national response to COVID-19, with the goal of "justify[ing] declaring victory in the fight against the virus." Most of them had no experience in pandemic emergencies, including Jared Kushner, Hope Hicks, and Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff.

The *Times* investigation showed that Dr. Debra Birx was a key figure in offering a too-rosy picture of the virus outbreak in America, asserting that the peak would be mid-April and go down from there, even if the very measures that caused the virus to slow were lifted.

The *Times* investigation also revealed that Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-CA) was explicitly told to ask President Trump and thank him publicly for federal assistance with increased testing kits for the state.

1,400 high school students showed up at testing sites to take the ACT college admissions exam, but the testing sites were closed.

July 19

In an interview with Fox News's Chris Wallace, Trump made several false claims about COVID-19. He insisted the U.S. mortality rate was one of the lowest in the world, he said every American is getting testing that needs it, and again repeated that the virus will "disappear."

Trump continued his attack on Dr. Anthony Fauci, calling him an "alarmist" in the Fox News interview.

More than 6 million Americans signed up for SNAP – the federal program that provides low-income families with food stamps -- in the first three months of the pandemic alone.

July 20

Lawmakers were back in Washington after the July 4th recess to debate additional relief for COVID-19. The House pushed for \$3 trillion in funding, while the Senate aimed for \$1 trillion. The White House said they would block funds for testing and tracing.

A study in The Lancet showed that two potential vaccines – one from Oxford and another from a Chinese company – triggered immune responses in hundreds of humans.

Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) criticized the Trump administration for its virus response and attacks on experts: "I want more briefings but, more importantly, I want the whole White House to start acting like a team on a mission to tackle a real problem."

Testing delays continued to hamper responses around the country with supply line shortages and increased demands. Private labs were reported to favor contracts with big employers, like the NBA, putting regular Americans in a holding pattern waiting for results.

Arizona reported a record number of deaths in the state – 147 who succumbed to the virus.

A group of teachers' unions sued Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) for his order that would require public schools to fully reopen in August. The state became the eighth state to surpass 5,000 known deaths on the same day.

President Trump said he would bring back his daily coronavirus briefings, including bragging about his ratings for the briefings from earlier this year.

July 21

Disagreements surfaced between the White House, Senate Republicans, and Democrats over COVID-19 relief negotiations. The administration pushed for a payroll tax cut, while Senators disagreed. Trump wanted to condition education funding on the reopening of schools, which lawmakers opposed.

Quest Diagnostics, the largest private lab company in the U.S., said it would be impossible to increase COVID-19 testing capacity to meet demands concurrent with the fall flu season.

Bankruptcies surged 26% through June 30th from the year prior.

The CDC announced that the number of infected individuals "far exceeded the number of reported cases" in parts of the U.S. with actual case counts anywhere from two to 13 times higher.

Trump held his first televised briefing on COVID-19 since April, and for the first time acknowledged that the virus would “get worse before it gets better.” He also did an about-face on masks and urged Americans to wear them, finally in-line with his own government’s guidelines. Trump, however, did not wear a mask.

Trump also repeated numerous false claims, including saying that he inherited “very empty cupboards” of supplies in the National Stockpile; saying he completed closed the U.S. border to China; touting the mortality rate, which is one of the highest in the world; and again repeating that the virus would “disappear.”

The U.S. surpassed 1,000 daily deaths for the first time in two weeks.

July 22

United Airlines expanded their mask policy, announcing they would require passengers wear masks in lounges, baggage claims areas, and at gates.

The U.S. announced a \$2 billion contract with Pfizer and BioNTech to produce 600 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, with the first 100 million doses available in December.

Insider reporting revealed that Republicans and Democrats were so far apart on COVID-19 relief legislation, that there would almost certainly not be a new package passed by the end of July.

It took 99 days for the U.S. to reach 1 million cases, and 43 days after that to reach 2 million. It took only 28 days to reach 3 million cases, and the U.S. was on track to reach 4 million cases after just 14 days.

White House adviser Kellyanne Conway shifted the blame from Trump, who for weeks implored states to reopen, to the states themselves: “I think what he added yesterday is him seeing that some of these states moved through our gated criteria, moved through some of our phases, and they opened up some of the industries a little too quickly like bars.”

Republicans began to consider a short-term extension to the unemployment benefit bonus that was set to expire on July 31st.

Trump again applauded his response to the virus at his second briefing in months: “As far as the coronavirus, as you say, I think we’ve done some amazing things. I think you’ll probably see that if you compare our statistics to other countries. If you look at the death rates ... you’re going to see some very, very impressive numbers.”

Trump also repeated that he wanted schools open “100” and said that school children “don’t catch [the virus] easily and they don’t bring it home easily.” Early evidence suggested the opposite, that children can contract and transmit COVID-19.

At the press conference, Trump blamed the rise in cases on peaceful protestors and immigrants from Mexico, despite evidence to the contrary.

Global confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpassed 15 million.

California, Missouri, North Dakota and West Virginia reported record single-day case counts. Alabama, Idaho and Texas reported record daily deaths.

July 23

1.4 million Americans filed for state unemployment benefits in the previous week, the first time this number increased in three months.

Senate Republicans released a draft summary of a \$1 trillion plan for additional COVID-19 relief, and it did not include the payroll tax cut Trump was pushing for. The package included \$105 billion to schools, additional aid for states to conduct testing and liability protections for schools and businesses.

U.S. hospitalizations due to COVID-19 neared their peak last reached in April.

Major League Baseball began its shortened season without fans at its stadiums.

President Trump canceled the Jacksonville, Florida portions of the Republican National Convention citing safety concerns due to COVID-19. He continued to push for the reopening of school

The U.S. surpassed 4 million cases of COVID-19.

July 24

Firings spiked around the country as loans from the Paycheck Protection Program began to expire.

55 hospitals in Florida experienced ICUs at capacity.

The CDC issued new guidelines on education, and strongly urged for the reopening of schools in the fall. They urged for social distancing, but not screening of students for the virus. Without full knowledge of how the virus impacts children due to prior school shutdowns, the CDC said that COVID-19 poses lower risks for children.

A Business Insider [report](#) revealed that, despite their previous public posture, Republican party officials at the RNC ordered masks and disguised them as “building maintenance” expenditures in federal disclosures.

McDonald's announced it would require all customers to wear facemasks in its U.S. restaurants.

July 25

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he hoped Republicans and Democrats could come together on a new relief package “in the next few weeks.”

Cities across the country grappled with the soon-expiring federal moratorium on evictions.

President Trump golfed with former NFL quarterback Brett Favre as deaths to the virus approached 150,000.

Corporate investors had netted \$1 billion in the race to develop a vaccine in the form of selling stock shares as positive developments were announced.

July 26

Larry Kudlow said that the White House would seek to extend the moratorium on evictions.

An [investigation](#) revealed that Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) made decisions about the virus not based on science but based on politics, as the state surpassed New York for the greatest number of cases in the country.

Dr. Deborah Birx urged states “to really make it possible to control the pandemic before it gets worse” with reinstated measures to control gatherings.

July 27

Trump’s national security adviser, Robert O’Brien, tested positive for COVID-19, the highest-ranking administration official known to be infected.

The National Institutes of Health and Moderna partnered to begin a Phase 3 clinical trial for a potential COVID-19 vaccine with 30,000 healthy adults around the country.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R-AR) issued a statewide mask order.

14 members of the Miami Marlins tested positive for COVID-19, which threw the recently started MLB season into question.

Google announced its employees would work from home until at least July 2021. The tech giant employs 200,000 people.

4,000 federal employees sought to obtain disability compensation for contracting COVID-19 at work.

Senate Republicans unveiled their new COVID-19 relief package, which included liability protections, education funding, unemployment benefits up to 70% of lost wages, but no funding for state and local governments. The bill also reduced the unemployment supplement from \$600-per-week to \$200-per-week.

Trump tweeted a video that contained false and misleading claims about hydroxychloroquine. Versions of the video had been removed by Facebook and YouTube.

As cases continued to rise, Trump urged states to reopen: “A lot of the governors should be opening up states that they’re not opening, and we’ll see what happens with them.”

July 28

Dr. Anthony Fauci warned that thousands more Americans would die if the U.S. did not change course: "If you look at the deaths as they're occurring right now -- about 1,000 per day -- unless we get our arms around this and get it suppressed, we are going to have further suffering and further death."

As the deadline neared for the \$600 weekly unemployment bonus, thousands of Americans never received them in the first place. Labor Department and Treasury data showed that over \$100 billion of benefits owed had not been paid out.

The Trump administration attempted to include \$1.75 billion for a new FBI building in a new COVID-19 relief package. Trump himself had been supportive of such building.

After much back and forth, Trump said he would accept the nomination from the Republican party for president in North Carolina.

U.S. consumer confidence fell to 92.6 in the month of July.

The U.S. granted a \$765 million loan to Kodak Company to produce ingredients for generic drugs, including hydroxychloroquine, which was unproven to show any preventative or positive treatment effects.

The American Federation of Teachers called for "safety strikes" if negotiations around reopening schools did not meet teachers' demands for keeping themselves and their families safe.

A federal report named 21 states as "red zones" because they had more than 100 new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people in the previous week. The report urged that more restrictions be put in place to slow the spread.

Trump defended the discredited doctors in the viral video he posted at his evening press conference. One such doctor had professed that alien DNA was used in medical treatments and vaccines were given to prevent people from being religious. He also questioned why Dr. Anthony Fauci had a high approval rating and if "nobody likes me."

The death toll of COVID-19 in the United States surpassed 150,000.

July 29

Negotiations on another round of economic relief stalled in the House and Senate. Trump said "we really don't care" about a major relief package and would rather focus on a narrow set of issues around evictions and unemployment.

U.S. officials said that Russian intelligence services were spreading disinformation about COVID-19 to exploit the crisis and sow mistrust before the 2020 elections.

At least 54 hospitals across the state of Florida reached ICU capacity. Only 16% of ICU beds remained available.

Evidence of new cases revealed that young people working outside of the home or socializing in bars and restaurants during periods of eased restrictions infected more vulnerable and older family members at home.

Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) tested positive for COVID-19 as part of a screening before a trip with President Trump. Gohmert had participated in multiple congressional hearings during the week. He blamed wearing a mask for his infection. Members of Congress were not required to be COVID tested before entering the Capitol.

Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC) accused the White House of suppressing federal reports on state-by-state virus data.

The Miami-Dade County, Florida public school system announced that it would push back the start of the academic year by a week and begin with online learning only. The goal would be reopening for in-person learning on October 5th if virus conditions were to improve.

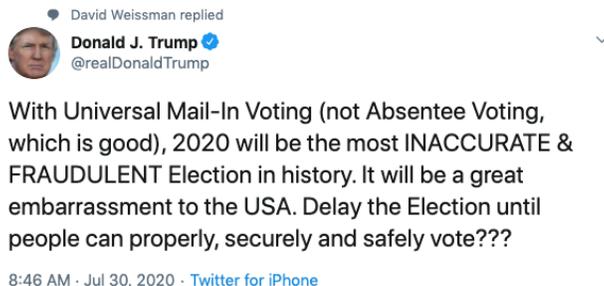
July 30

Global cases of COVID-19 surpassed 15 million. The U.S. made up a quarter of the world's cases.

The U.S. GDP dropped 9.5% in the second quarter alone – the worst quarter on record. On an annualized basis the drop was 32.9%.

1.43 million more Americans filed for unemployment benefits. It was the 19th week in a row that over a million Americans filed. An additional 830,000 filed for federal pandemic assistance.

Trump tweeted the idea of delaying the election (something he cannot do as president) and continued to spread misinformation about vote by mail:



Herman Cain – former Republican candidate for president in 2012 died due to COVID-19. He attended Trump's campaign rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma in June and was hospitalized thereafter.

Government officials in Congress and across federal agencies spoke on and off the record about feeling unsafe at work. Some members of Congress dissuaded against wearing masks and forced their entire staffs to work from the office, flying in the face of social distancing guidelines. Many felt that they could not wear a mask so as to not upset their bosses reporting to Trump.

Johnson & Johnson's vaccine elicited a "robust" immune response in animal testing.

The Senate failed to reach a deal on extending unemployment benefits and left the Capitol for a long weekend.

Trump suggested that keeping schools closed would cause "more death" than COVID-19 itself.

The U.S. reported over 1,400 deaths the previous 24 hours – the highest daily death toll in two months. Three states – California, North Carolina, and Idaho broke their single-day records.

July 31

The economic fallout from COVID-19 wiped out 5 years of economic growth.

Dr. Anthony Fauci and other top health officials testified before the House select subcommittee investigating the Trump administration's response to the pandemic. Fauci said he and Trump "were in agreement on virtually all" of the president's decisions in the early stages of the pandemic.

An [investigation](#) from *Vanity Fair* revealed that Jared Kushner assembled a team of novices, including his college roommate, to devise a national strategy to test and trace COVID-19 cases in the U.S. His plans were thwarted by the White House in favor of a 50-state, uncoordinated response because "the virus had hit blue states hardest, [and] a national plan was unnecessary and would not make sense politically."

The House Oversight Committee found that the Trump administration did not enforce an existing contract with a large medical manufacturer and delayed negotiations for over a month – which led them to overpay for ventilators by \$500 million.

Food insecurity for Americans reached its highest level with 30 million reporting they did not have enough to eat in the previous week.

Dr. Fauci said he expected a vaccine by early 2021.

The House canceled its August recess until a deal is reached on COVID-19 aid.

Trump said he would seek to ban the social media app TikTok in the United States.

August 2020**August 1**

Despite the worst GDP contraction on record, the S&P 500 gained 5.5% in the month of July.

Global health officials warned that the heightened attention and resources dedicated to COVID-19 might be part of the reason other infectious diseases were on the rise, including tuberculosis, H.I.V. and malaria.

August 2

Dr. Deborah Birx said individuals should consider wearing a mask at home if they have members of their households with co-morbidities. The White House coronavirus task force top doctor also said that the U.S. was in a new phase of COVID-19: "What we are seeing today is different from March and April. It is extraordinarily widespread." She added, "So everybody who lives in a rural area, you are not immune."

U.S. scientists expressed concerns that the vaccine initiative, Operation Warp Speed, might be under political pressure by Trump and his aides to deliver a vaccine in time for an "October surprise" before the election – even if it did not prove to be safe or effective yet.

Additionally, there was no plan in place to distribute the vaccine to racial and ethnic groups disproportionately impacted by the virus and skeptical of government intervention.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) became the 10th U.S. member of Congress to test positive for COVID-19.

A member of the Michigan State Senate who sponsored a bill to limit the emergency powers of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D-MI) during the height of the pandemic tested positive for COVID-19.

August 3

Trump tweeted a threat to challenge a new bill passed in Nevada to expand vote by mail during the pandemic: "In an illegal late night coup, Nevada's clubhouse Governor made it impossible for Republicans to win the state," Trump tweeted Monday morning. "Post Office could never handle the Traffic of Mail-In Votes without preparation. Using Covid to steal the state. See you in Court!"

Trump again falsely blamed the increase in cases around the country on testing: "Cases up because of BIG Testing! Much of our Country is doing very well. Open the Schools!"

Two more major retailers filed for bankruptcy – Lord & Taylor and Men's Warehouse.

The head of the WHO said that despite the push for a vaccine, "there's no silver bullet at the moment and there might never be."

Despite Congress shutting down his proposal, Trump continued to push for payroll tax cuts – which would not help the tens of millions of unemployed Americans.

Georgia's largest public school district said that at least 260 employees had either tested positive for COVID-19 or had confirmed exposure. The district was set to reopen online learning August 12th, though some parents protested demanding that students be allowed in-person.

A group of over 100 CEOs sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin urging for more aid to small businesses. They called for federal loans and warned, "By Labor Day, we foresee a wave of permanent closures if the right steps are not taken soon. Tens of millions of Americans have already lost their jobs in this pandemic. Allowing small businesses to fail will turn temporary job losses into permanent ones. By year end, the domino effect of lost jobs — as well as the lost services and lost products that small businesses provide — could be catastrophic."

Trump called Dr. Deborah Birx's appearance on television from the day prior when she warned the public about the growing virus "pathetic" and a "hit" against him.

The White House acknowledged it required random COVID-19 tests for all officials in the complex.

When asked about the U.S. leading the world in the death toll to COVID-19, Trump said he had done an "amazing" job against the virus and called CNN reporter Jim Acosta "fake news CNN."

In an interview with Axios's Jonathan Swan, Trump said of over 1,000 Americans dying per day of COVID-19, "it is what it is." He struggled to answer the question of why the U.S. has a high death rate per capita, telling Swan, "you can't do that," and referred to charts that showed the case fatality rate being "lower than the world" without being able to pinpoint what those charts showed.

August 4

Despite the ongoing pandemic and displacement of individuals, the Census Bureau said it would complete its survey a month ahead of schedule.

The head of the UN said the world faced a “generational catastrophe” as over a billion children were impacted by school closures.

Hurricane Isaias made landfall on the East coast, with COVID-19 adding complexity to sheltering.

Anti-abortion “crisis pregnancy centers” received between \$4 million and \$10 million in federal PPP loans.

New York City’s health commissioner resigned in protest over her disagreements with Mayor Bill de Blasio’s handling of COVID-19: “I leave my post today with deep disappointment that during the most critical public health crisis in our lifetime, that the Health Department’s incomparable disease control expertise was not used to the degree it could have been.” De Blasio had given the major task of contact tracing not to the health department, but to the public hospital system.

A Trump administration plan to provide free COVID-19 testing to nursing homes was falling short of its promise and only provided enough testing for a few initial rounds.

The Trump-appointed inspector general, Briand Miller, put in place to oversee \$500 billion from the Treasury for pandemic relief warned of companies “multiple dipping” and receiving funds from multiple programs, increasing the risk of fraud.

The Securities and Exchange Commission opened an investigation into the \$765 million federal loan to Kodak to produce drugs related to COVID-19 under suspicion of disclosure of material information about the loan that led to favorable stock-option grants.

A group of 6 governors from both parties formed a partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation to provide rapid testing with reduced wait times to their residents as a national testing strategy failed to be put in place.

As nearly 160,000 Americans had perished from the virus and over 50,000 people were newly infected on August 4th alone, President Trump said, “We’re seeing indications that our strong mitigation efforts are working. Very well, actually.” He adds, “The numbers are getting very good.”

After nine consecutive days of over 1,000 deaths in the U.S., Trump continued to push for schools to fully reopen.

August 5

Deaths due to COVID-19 surpassed 700,000 worldwide. The U.S. made up a quarter of those deaths.

A national survey showed that many respondents had to wait at least three days for results of a COVID-19 test, more than the recommended 24 to 48 hours. The surging virus, coupled with a shortage of chemicals needed to administer the test, led to delays.

President Trump and some Republicans considered using official government property – the White House South Lawn – as the venue for Trump’s Republican National Convention speech after cancelling in North Carolina and Florida.

The Chicago public school system announced it would open the school year online.

The unemployment rate was higher among Hispanic workers, particular women, than U.S. workers overall.

The cost of groceries rose at the fastest rate in decades as 30 million Americans struggled without the additional \$600 weekly unemployment benefit that expired July 31st. Republicans, who wanted to do away with the benefit or extend it very temporarily, were reported to move toward \$400 in benefits each week until the end of the year as negotiations in Congress continued.

Hiring in the U.S. dropped off dramatically in July as only 167,000 new private sector employees were hired. Economists had expected over a million.

Democrats announced that their national convention originally planned for Milwaukee, Wisconsin would be entirely virtual with no one traveling from out of state.

Officials in New York City announced that checkpoints would be set up to enforce quarantines for out-of-state travelers.

Kodak company spent \$870,000 on lobbying – more than it had ever spent in a quarter – ahead of the \$765 million loan announced by the Trump administration.

Johnson & Johnson announced it was set to receive \$1 billion from the federal government through Operation Warp Speed for 100 million doses of its in-progress vaccine.

With nearly 5 million cases, Trump again said the virus would just “go away.”

August 6

1.2 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits – the 20th week in a row that the number of newly unemployed workers was over a million.

More than 7 million students were set to begin their school year entirely online in 62 of the nation's largest school districts.

After refusing to hear the HEROES Act passed in the House in the middle of May, McConnell stayed out of negotiations between the White House, Senate Democrats, and House Democrats. President Trump was sidelined as well. The Senate and House both recessed for a week with no solution.

Instead, Trump tweeted that he instructed his staff to develop executive orders on a payroll tax cut, extending unemployment benefits, an eviction moratorium and student loan repayments.

Over the previous month, roughly 1.9 million Americans tested positive for COVID-19 – five times more than all of Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan and South Korea combined.

As a shortage of PCR tests caused severe delays in results, some experts suggested that the U.S. adopt a quantity over quality strategy by repeatedly testing individuals with less reliable but rapid antigen tests.

A survey from Gallup and Franklin Templeton found that 52% of Americans were uncomfortable flying during the pandemic. For adults 55 and older, 69% said they would not take a flight.



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine tested positive for COVID-19 ahead of Trump's visit to the state and a planned meeting. He then tested negative later in the day with the more reliable PCR test.

Trump said a COVID-19 vaccine might be available before the November 3rd elections, a much rosier prediction than his own White House health experts.

A school in Mississippi that reopened the week prior discovered six students with positive COVID-19 infections, forcing 116 students to quarantine. The district's superintendent said he had no plans to change course.

Facebook and Twitter removed videos from Trump's campaign falsely claiming that children were "immune" to the virus.

August 7

After 10 meetings and countless hours of negotiations, lawmakers and the White House could not reach an agreement on an additional relief package.

A group of companies, including Amazon and CVS Health launched an ad campaign to push support for funding the USPS.

1.8 million jobs were added to the U.S. economy in July, a drop from the 4.8 million added in June. The unemployment rate remained above 10%.

Black Americans were disproportionately impacted by the struggling economy, with unemployment at 14.6% versus 9.2% among white workers.

Governor Andrew Cuomo said New York schools would be allowed to reopen in the fall.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said that the USPS would not slow down election mail as millions of Americans were expected to vote by mail due to COVID-19.

Due to virus-related restrictions, many at-risk children lost in-person contacts with counselors, child services case workers, teachers, and doctors who would otherwise check in on vulnerable children.

Trump held a highly unusual press briefing at his private golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, in front of a crowd of club members who cheered him on and joined him in heckling reporters. Many of those members did not wear masks and the news conference turned rally was held inside. The president again made the false claim that COVID-19 was "disappearing" as deaths surpassed 160,000.

The new Postmaster General handpicked by President Trump issued sweeping changes on a Friday night, ousting two top executives. The agency under his leadership had begun implementing cost-cutting measures that slowed mail delivery and complicated ballot delivery in primaries as vote by mail increasingly was used during the pandemic.

August 8

As the Senate refused to hear the HEROES Act or a reach its own deal with the House and White House, Trump issued a series of executive orders meant to provide economic relief. However, the orders were largely unenforceable or fell short of what would be provided in the HEROES Act. For instance, the President issued action on extending supplemental unemployment benefits to \$400 per week (down from \$600 in the CARES Act) but those funds would only go into effect if states provided \$100 to the federal government's \$300 per recipient. Moreover, the federal funds allocated for the program was capped at \$44 billion – which would be enough for roughly five to six weeks of additional benefits.

Aside from the questionable extended unemployment benefits, the orders also revised when some payroll taxes would be due; extended the forbearance on federal student loans for three months; and directed federal agencies to see what they could do about evictions but did not provide immediate relief.

The United States surpassed five million confirmed cases of COVID-19. Over the previous two months, the number of infected Americans more than doubled.

The CDC found that Black and Hispanic children were at higher risk of hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

August 9

Lawmakers across the aisle criticized President Trump's executive actions, with some calling them "unconstitutional."

A national report showed that nearly 100,000 children in the U.S. contracted COVID-19 in the last two weeks of July alone – more than a quarter of the 338,000 confirmed cases among American children. The report came as school districts around the country grappled with reopening.

August 10

A school in Georgia that made national headlines for a viral photo of students packed in a hallway, few with masks, announced that nine people tested positive for COVID-19.

California's top public health official resigned as questions swirled about testing data in the state.

It remained unclear when lawmakers would resume negotiations for major economic relief. Relief was nowhere in sight as President Trump's executive orders lacked teeth and were resoundingly criticized.

Trump tweeted, "So now Schumer and Pelosi want to meet to make a deal. Amazing how it all works, isn't it." Senior Democratic officials said there had been no contact between the two top Democrats and the White House. House Democrats passed the HEROES Act on May 15th.

The Big Ten Conference voted to cancel its college football season, according to reports.

State guidelines in Arizona and Texas, for instance, brought into question policies that effectively rationed healthcare and prioritized less-sick patients who might have a better quality of life if they survived COVID-19.

The \$765 million federal loan to Kodak was put on hold over "recent allegations of wrongdoing."

Public health experts warned that the window of opportunity to contain COVID-19 ahead of the fall and winter cold and flu season was dwindling.

At a press briefing that abruptly ended due to a Secret Service emergency, Trump made numerous false statements about COVID-19 and even suggested that the 1918 flu pandemic, which he called "1917" ... "probably ended the Second World War."

August 11

Cases of COVID-19 around the world surpassed 20 million. The U.S. accounted for over 5 million of those cases. The country jumped from 4 million to 5 million in a span of only 16 days. Cases globally doubled in just 45 days.

The Trump administration considered implemented a rule that would bar U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents from reentering the country from abroad if they were suspected to have the virus or have come into contact with someone infected. The rule effectively ignored that massive community spread of COVID-19 within the U.S. borders.

Russia became the first country to approve a vaccine despite not conducting Phase III clinical trials. The WHO and experts were concerned that this was a political move on the part of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who said the vaccine, "works effectively enough."

Governors around the country expressed concerns with Trump's executive order on unemployment benefits, saying that the way it was designed would "wreck" state budgets.

The homicide rate in 20 major cities jumped 37% from May to June – up from only 6% over that same period in 2019.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who had been a vociferous proponent of sending children back to in-person schooling, worked remotely from her sprawling Michigan estate with security detail paid for by American taxpayers.

The Big Ten announced it in fact would be canceling its fall sports season until 2021. The Pac-12 followed suit. At a news conference, Trump made a baseless claim that college football players would not get seriously ill from COVID-19 because they are "fit."

A new national report showed that there was a 90% increase in COVID-19 cases among children in the previous month.

August 12

Trump held an event titled "Kids First: Getting America's Children Safely Back to School," part of his push to reopen schools in America under his false belief that children are "immune."

A Georgia school district that opened its schools without a mask requirement policy was forced to request over 900 students and staff members self-quarantine due to positive cases.

Countless restaurants that reopened their doors were forced to close after outbreaks – restaurants were one of the most prominent settings to infect people.

An analysis from the Center for American Progress found that Millennial mothers were three times more likely than Millennial fathers to be unable to work due to school and/or childcare closures.



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As millions of Americans continued to struggle, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said there was no progress in negotiations to provide economic relief, which were especially hampered after President Trump's hastily drafted and toothless executive orders.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) accused Democrats of not taking COVID-19 "as a serious issue." McConnell refused to even hear the HEROES Act that the Democrat-led House passed May 15th.

Former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA), Biden's running mate, launched their campaign together with a virtual grassroots fundraiser after announcing Harris would be on the ticket the day prior.

New York City school principals and a local teacher's union called on the Mayor to delay in-person schooling.

Dozens of federal health officials warned that the administration's new COVID-19 database that bypassed the CDC was placing an undue burden on hospitals and healthcare workers and would have "serious consequences on data integrity."

Pennsylvania State University released a waiver that it would require students to sign, absolving the university of liability should students contract COVID-19 on campus. Without signing the waiver, students were not able to sign up for classes.

The U.S. budget deficit for the fiscal year to date ballooned to a record \$2.8 trillion.

Dr. Fauci criticized Russia's surprise vaccine -- "Having a vaccine ... and proving that a vaccine is safe and effective are two different things."

Trump made clear he was openly defunding the United States Postal Service, announcing that he would not approve \$25 billion in emergency funding or \$3.5 billion in supplemental funding for election resources, as tens of millions of Americans would vote by mail due to the pandemic.

August 13

Nearly a million Americans filed for state unemployment benefits in the prior week, the first time this number was under 1 million since March. An additional 490,000 filed for the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.

A *New York Times* [analysis](#) found that the actual death toll due to COVID-19 might be over 200,000 due to excess death patterns around the country -- more than 60,000 greater than what was officially reported.

A \$675 million program to deliver face masks to various agencies, nonprofits, and companies was carried out in a haphazard way, with many companies receiving quantities well above their needs.

President Trump said in a Fox Business Network interview that he would not accept an economic relief bill with USPS funding, admitting that he was destroying the United States Postal Service deliberately to deny millions of Americans the opportunity to safely vote in the election in an effort to steal it: They want \$3.5 billion for the mail-in votes -- universal mail-in ballots. They want \$25 billion -- billion -- for the post office. Now they need that money in order to have the post office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots. ... But if they don't get [it], that means you can't have universal mail-in voting."

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The CDC said that face masks with valves or vents did not protect against the spread of COVID.

The federal government and large vaccine makers stepped up their efforts to vaccinate Americans against the flu as health officials worried that COVID-19 was not contained enough ahead of the fall flu season.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) formally adjourned the Senate until after Labor Day, despite not reaching a deal on an economic relief package for millions of Americans out of work and struggling to get by.

After much criticism, Gov. Brian Kemp (R-GA) let go of his lawsuit against officials in Atlanta over the city's mask ordinance. He suggested that he would likely issue a new executive action that would bar city governments from mandating that businesses require customers wear masks.

August 14

The postal service told state officials in Pennsylvania, a key battleground state, that it did not have the capacity to deliver the mail quickly enough to meet demands for vote by mail.

Retail sales in the U.S. jumped 1.2% from the level in June. But discretionary goods sales remained 43% down from 2019.

One estimate showed that state and local governments could face a \$555 billion budget gap through 2022, as lawmakers in Washington did not pass a bill to provide economic aid. House Democrats did so in the HEROES Act, passed May 15th.

President Trump said he would accept the Republican nomination for president at the White House Lawn – a major ethics violation as he was forced to cancel other convention plans due to COVID-19.

A poll from NPR/PBS/Maris found that 60% of Americans said they would get a vaccine when it became available – and those with college degrees were 19 points more likely to agree than those without.

An analysis found that wealthy Americans had recovered but working- and middle-class Americans had not – the highest earners were fully back to work, but fewer than half of jobs lost among those making \$20 per hour or less had come back.

The United States Postal Service warned that it could not guarantee all ballots cast by mail would arrive in time to be counted – in 46 states.

The chief of staff and deputy chief of staff at the CDC both resigned.

August 15

Newspapers around the country carried front page headlines about the sabotage of the USPS ahead of the November elections in which millions would be voting by mail.

A senior CDC official said the agency was blindsided when Trump said the administration would deploy teams to assist schools with safely reopening.

Trump said he disagreed with CDC Director Robert Redfield's assertion that if Americans don't take proper precautions, the country could have "the worst fall, from a public health perspective, we've ever had."

August 16

The death toll due to COVID-19 surpassed 170,000 in the United States.

Vaccine trials had been slow to recruit Black and Latino people, with only 10% of those registered for trials being Black or Latino, despite making up more than half of COVID-19 cases.

August 17

U.S. state exports dropped 29.8% in Q2 compared to 2019 levels.

Gov. Krisi Noem (R-SD) became the first governor to decline increased federal support in unemployment payments under President Trump's executive order.

Several state attorneys general discussed a potential lawsuit to prevent cuts to USPS operations.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) finalized plans for an upcoming vote to provide \$25 billion in emergency funding to the USPS.

An investigation found that states, territories and large cities and counties had spent only 25% of the \$150 billion allotted from Congress in the Coronavirus Relief Fund through June 30th.

Democrats began their all-virtual Convention, modified to meet the challenges caused by COVID-19.

August 18

The U.S. workforce comprised of 139.6 million Americans – still down from 152.5 million employed workers in February.

Trump's executive order on unemployment benefits would only provide enough payments for three weeks.

COVID-19 became the third leading cause of death in the United States, behind only cardiovascular disease and cancer.

The Postmaster General announced that no further changes to operations or cuts would be made until after the November elections.

The vast majority of ventilators manufactured for the pandemic went unused as treatment methods for COVID-19 changed.

The S&P 500 hit a record high despite tens of millions of Americans out of work and the country in an economic recession.

Pooled testing was rendered effectively useless in many cases, as too many tests came back positive in pooled samples.

A CDC study showed that American workers in factories, warehouses and on building sites were found to be most at-risk of COVID-19 while on the job.

The Trump campaign and Republican National Committee sued the state of New Jersey over Gov. Phil Murphy's (D-NJ) executive order to mail registered voters ballots to give them the option of voting by mail during COVID-19.

August 19

Fewer than half of the states had taken up the Trump administration on its executive order to extend unemployment benefits to \$300 per week.

A national survey found that one in seven parents said that their children would be returning to in-person schooling in the fall but four in five parents said they would have no in-person help to educate and care for their children.

Senate Republicans circulated a draft bill to provide economic relief – notably missing was direct payments to low- and middle-income Americans and student loan relief, but included were liability protections for businesses and \$105 billion in funding for schools.

Dr. Anthony Fauci and other top health officials intervened to prevent an emergency authorization for the use of blood plasma as a treatment for COVID-19, citing weak data that it was efficacious.

30 industry groups said they would decline to implement the deferral in payroll taxes issues by Trump's executive order because it would present technical and logistical challenges that would make it impossible for businesses to pass extra income on to their employees.

Experts feared that young people would drive up cases in the U.S., especially as schools and colleges reopened, in line with a WHO warning from the prior day that young people were the main spreaders of COVID-19.

A report found that groups and pages that spread misinformation about COVID-19 and health news gained 3.8 billion views on Facebook in the past year alone. Only 16% of the content was labeled as misinformation by Facebook.

An assessment from U.S. intelligence agencies found that officials in Wuhan and Hubei Province, China, the origin of the COVID-19 outbreak, tried to hide information from China's central leadership in Beijing.

The Detroit Federation of Teachers voted to authorize a strike among its members over the reopening of schools. Arizona teachers launched a sick-out over concerns about returning to class in-person. And several prominent universities that opened their doors to students had to shift to online learning after clusters of outbreaks, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Notre Dame.

August 20

1.1 million Americans filed for state unemployment benefits in the previous week – an uptick from the week prior.

A Trump administration official said that a vaccine would be widely available by Spring 2021.

Dangerous wildfires impacted California and evacuations were complicated by COVID-19.

A new CDC report found that Native Americans were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 – their infection rate was 3.5 times higher than white people and though Native Americans made up 0.7% of the U.S. population they accounted for 1.4% of the deaths.

The union representing public school teachers in New York City said that its members would not return to classrooms after Labor Day unless the city met their requirements for health and safety.

A new study found that children had significantly higher levels of COVID-19 in their airways than severely ill adults. Another study showed that young, immunocompromised adults were at much higher risk of severe illness.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said that the politicization of the public health crisis, including wearing masks, made an effective response “very difficult and problematic.”

At the final night of the Democratic National Convention, Democratic nominee former Vice President Joe Biden addressed Trump’s response to COVID-19, saying “...After all this time the president still does not have a plan.” ... “Well, I do.”

August 21

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy testified to the Senate that mail ballots would be delivered “fully and on time.”

Outbreaks from college campuses were reported in at least 15 states as students headed back to colleges and universities. School administrators warned students to take the virus seriously and follow safety and community standard guidelines.

Vice President Mike Pence said a vaccine would be available by the end of 2020.

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) became the latest member of Congress to test positive for COVID-19.

Dallas public schools made the decision to start their academic year fully online.

A CDC forecast found that there could be up to nearly 205,000 American deaths by September 12th.

August 22

The U.S. House passed a \$25 billion emergency funding bill for the USPS, with 26 Republicans joining House Democrats.

President Trump golfed at one of his golf clubs or elsewhere for the 288th time in his presidency.

August 23

In a press conference on the eve of the Republican National Convention, and after a teased announcement by the Press Secretary a day prior, President Trump announced that the FDA had approved for emergency use blood plasma rich with COVID antibodies for treatment – a method that had been performed in 70,000 cases and under data that health officials warned was nonconclusive due to the lack of randomized clinical trials. Trump had complained that there was a politically motivated “deep state” putting up bureaucratic roadblocks to approving the treatment.

FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn cited misleading statistics about one study on convalescent plasma, including misrepresenting what the data showed the declined in mortality rate really meant.

August 24

Hong Kong researchers reported the first known case of reinfection of COVID-19.

Only one state, Arizona, had begun paying out benefits from Trump's executive order two weeks prior, while barely half had taken the administration up on its offer of \$300 additional dollars to unemployed workers per week should the state match with \$100. Few evictions had been halted and several top employers said they would not benefit from the payroll tax deferral, the other executive orders he issued.

Zoom experienced outages in some parts of the country, complicating efforts for the first day of remotely learning for many schools in the U.S.

336 Republican delegates gathered in Charlotte, North Carolina to nominate President Trump for the party's choice for president. It was the only in-person event for either national convention, and delegates were socially distanced and required to undergo tests and temperature checks.

The House Oversight Committee held a hearing featuring Postmaster General Louis DeJoy amid his dismantling of the post office. He again said that he would not be replacing removed sorting machines and offered no explanation why.

New cases of COVID-19 fell to their lowest level in over two months after the ninth straight day of fewer than 50,000 new cases. The country still represented more than 25% of the world's cases but only 4% of the global population.

A judge in Florida ruled that the state's order requiring that public schools reopen for in-person schooling was a violation of the state constitution because it disregarded safety and denied local schools board from making their own decisions.

The Biden campaign confirmed that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris would be regularly tested for COVID-19 as they increased their in-person campaigning together.

At the first night of the Republican National Convention, President Trump and other key speakers rewrote history on their failed response to COVID-19. Trump suggested that the virus was going away, despite tens of thousands of new daily cases and hundreds of deaths each day. In a violation of ethics norms and what some legal experts called illegal in the face of the Hatch Act, Trump delivered remarks from the White House.

The president's son, Donald Trump Jr., misleadingly said that "the president quickly took action and shut down travel from China." In fact, many of the early outbreaks in the U.S. were traced back to Europe, not march. And Trump was one of the last countries to block travelers from China.

August 25

The national debt was on pace to surpass World War II levels.

The slowing of the USPS began to impact women seeking reproductive health, with reports of birth control delivery times doubling.

Growing concern among scientists mounted that FDA commissioner Stephen Hahn mischaracterized data about the effectiveness of blood plasma treatments. He suggested that 35 out of 100 patients would be saved by the treatment based on a relative mortality drop of 11.9% to 8.7% among a very small group of hospitalized patients that received treatment within three

days of diagnosis versus four or more days. The night prior, he issued a series of Tweets apologizing for mischaracterizing the data and said the criticism was “entirely justified.”

The University of Alabama said that in less than a week of resuming classes, 566 students, faculty and staff had contracted COVID-19.

Public health experts worried about flu-season testing needs to further delay testing for COVID-19 as the two infections present with similar symptoms.

American Airlines said it would cut 19,000 jobs if federal payroll aid expired as planned October 1st.

Two more cases of reinfection of COVID-19 were found in Europe after researchers discovered that patients were not carrying left over remnants of the dead virus from their first infection.

At the second night of the RNC, First Lady Melania Trump became effectively the first speaker to express grief for those lost or impacted by COVID-19. Others tried to again rewrite history on the pandemic's severe toll on the country. A sleek video cast Trump as the hero despite nearly 180,000 American deaths and nearly 6 million cases.

August 26

While cases fell in hard-hit Sun Belt states, they began to rise in the Midwest.

The CDC surprisingly issued new testing guidelines and said that those without symptoms but had come into contact with someone known to have the virus may not need to be tested. An official said that the agency was pressured “from the top down” to change its guidance. Top Trump administration officials insisted on the changes despite expert knowledge that testing would save lives. It was in line with Trump's rhetoric of slowing testing down.

A New York Times [survey](#) found that there were more than 26,000 cases of the virus at over 750 colleges and universities around the country since the beginning of the pandemic.

U.S. consumer confidence fell to a six-year low in August.

More than 500,000 Americans in California, Louisiana and Texas were under mandatory evacuation orders throughout the week due to natural disasters and extreme weather.

Moderna said that a small trial of 20 patients over 55 years old showed promising results for its vaccine under development.

The Census was poised to be a drastic undercount as the Bureau continued to keep its month earlier deadline and millions of households were still not counted.

A study in Nature found that men were more vulnerable to COVID-19 because they produced a weaker immune response to the virus than women.

The MTA warned that it would reduce its subway and bus services for New York City by 40% without federal aid.

The FBI said that there was no evidence supporting Trump's repeated claims that mail-in ballots were susceptible to widespread fraud.

At the third night of the Republican National Convention, speakers again tried to rewrite history on Trump's pandemic response, offering him praise in areas where he failed or misled. Vice President Mike Pence said that Trump "marshaled the full resources of our federal government from the outset" despite the long-drawn-out fight with Democratic-led states about much-needed federal aid for protective gear and medical supplies.

August 27

Hurricane Laura, a Category 4 storm, made landfall in Louisiana and Texas.

Over a million Americans filed for state unemployment benefits in the prior week in addition to 608,000 that applied for the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.

House Speaker Pelosi and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows planned to talk for the first time since negotiations stalled earlier in August about additional economic relief for Americans.

The Justice Department asked Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York for information regarding actions their governors took related to the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes in their states.

CDC Director Robert Redfield backtracked on the agency's heavily criticized revised guidelines on testing and said that "testing may be considered for all close contacts of confirmed or probably COVID-19 patients."

The Trump administration announced it would purchase 150 million rapid COVID-19 tests from Abbott for \$750 million. The company received emergency authorization from the FDA the day prior.

Employees at several companies warned that they were put under gag rules to not tell colleagues about COVID-19 symptoms or cases.

At the final night of the Republican National Convention, which was arguably illegally held at the White House, Trump exaggerated the effect of the travel restrictions from China, praised his administration's response and promised a vaccine by the end of the year if not sooner. Trump again lied and said, "the United States has among the lowest case fatality rates of any major country in the world." The U.S. was in the top third of countries with a case fatality rate of over 3 percent.

August 28

Two national organizations that represent local public health departments sent a letter to the CDC director and assistant secretary of health at HHS urging them to "pull the revised" guidance on testing and reinstate guidance that recommended those who were exposed be tested with or without symptoms.

Three weeks passed since Trump signed an executive order to extend additional unemployed benefits and only six states had begun paying out the \$300 weekly supplement.

India surpassed the United States' record for the greatest number of new cases reported in a single data at over 85,000.

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina announced that four people tested positive for COVID-19 at the RNC.

“Two senior public relations experts advising the Food and Drug Administration have been fired from their positions after President Trump and the head of the F.D.A. exaggerated the proven benefits of a blood plasma treatment for Covid-19.”

Mark Meadows indicated President Trump would be willing to sign a COVID-19 relief bill at \$1.3B – more than the Republican proposal and less than the Democratic proposal.

August 29

Trump's continued golf outings and campaign rallies were a source of COVID-19 infections and quarantines for members of the Secret Service.

The Director of National Intelligence informed Congress that the office would no longer provide in-person briefings on election security.

August 30

FDA Director Stephen Hahn said he would be willing to bypass normal approval processes to fast-track a vaccine for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Cases of COVID-19 surpassed 6 million in the United States. Deaths neared 183,000.

August 31

New Jersey announced it would reopen indoor dining and movie theaters at limited capacity.

Trump tweeted and retweeted fringe conspiracy theories, including a group that lied about the death toll – putting it at 9,000. Trump's own government data reported a death toll of 183,000.

The U.S. reported its first known case of a reinfection of COVID-19 after a man in Nevada was diagnosed for a second time.

Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota became new COVID hotspots. Despite downward trends across the U.S., the virus was still at high levels seen in June. About 900 Americans were dying from COVID-19 each day.

A top Trump medical adviser urged the White House to employ herd immunity as a strategy against COVID-19, to the concern of most public health and medical experts as it would mean the majority of the population would be infected, undoubtedly leading to more deaths. The strategy would require 2.13 million deaths at a 1% fatality rate to reach a 65% threshold of herd immunity.

The Department of Health and Human Services put out a \$250 million bid to a communications firm to “defeat despair and inspire hope” on COVID-19.

September 2020

September 1

1.3 million federal workers were told they would have their payroll taxes deferred as part of Trump's executive order and many feared they would not have a choice to partake in the deferral that would mean lower paychecks when the taxes due were to be paid off in 2021.

The stock market posted its biggest monthly increase in August since April.

A *Wall Street Journal* [report](#) revealed that Jared Kushner said in a meeting in mid-March at the height of the growing pandemic on helping states secure much-needed medical supplies, “We're an organization with 56 clients. It's not our job to secure supplies for them. It's our job to help

them.” Their approach “turned hospital systems and state governments into rivals” to obtain supplies.

FDA commissioner Stephen Hahn said “all options are on the table” when asked if he would resign if he received political pressure to authorize a vaccine for COVID-19 before it was ready.

New York City agreed to push the start date of its schools back 11 days to avoid a teacher strike.

The Trump administration declined to join a global effort led by the World Health Organization to develop and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine equitably. 170 other countries were in talks.

A report showed that children of color were disproportionately impacted by the virus. Of the fewer than 100 deaths among children, 41 were Hispanic, 24 were Black, 19 were white, three were Asian-American, and three were American Indian/Alaska Native.

Dr. Anthony Fauci forcefully rebuked conspiracy theories that Trump himself promoted regarding the death toll due to COVID-19: The numbers you’ve been hearing, the 180,000 plus deaths, are real deaths from COVID-19. Let there not be any confusion about that. It’s not 9,000 deaths from COVID-19. It’s 180,000 plus deaths.”

September 2

Corticosteroids proved to be promising treatments for critically ill COVID-19 patients, according to a new report based on international clinical trials.

The world’s largest hedge fund, Bridgewater Associates, said that the U.S. economy would need between \$1.3T and \$.17T to sustain recovery from the COVID-induced recession.

U.S. manufacturing increased to over 16-year highs in the month of August based on new orders.

Dr. Scott Atlas, Trump’s new adviser on coronavirus, became an increasingly controversial figure. He argued against the science of mask wearing, posited that children cannot transmit the virus despite significant evidence to the contrary, and pushed herd immunity without a vaccine. Dr. Atlas is not an epidemiologist or infectious disease expert, but Trump was taken to him thanks to his frequent appearances on Fox News and his libertarian ideology versus the more public health paternalism approach of Dr. Fauci.

In addition to continued discussions over COVID-19 economic relief, lawmakers in Washington began to contend with the September 30th deadline for government funding. Due to the Labor Day recess, Congress only had 11 session days upcoming to tackle both issues.

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) spread lies about the death counting, stating she was “so skeptical” of the government data and added, “They’re thinking there may be 10,000 or less deaths that were actually singularly Covid-19.”

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo defended Trump’s decision to not join the WHO and 170 other countries to develop and distribute a vaccine, accusing the organization of being politically influenced.

United Airlines announced it would likely furlough 16,370 employees October 1st when federal restrictions on job cuts as a condition of government aid were set to expire.

The CDC told state public health officials to prepare to distribute a vaccine to healthcare workers and high-risk populations as early as late October or early November. The document was initially sent to state agencies on August 27th, the same day Trump said a vaccine would be available before the end of the year in his RNC speech. The quick rollout raised concern that that administration was endeavoring to rush a vaccine by election day.

September 3

Over 830,000 Americans filed for new state unemployment benefits in the previous week – a sign that the economy was still in trouble.

The Congressional Budget Office found that the national debt would equal the size of the overall economy for the first time since World War II.

The CDC was planning for the distribution of two vaccines – but details were not yet known.

Lawmakers continued to disagree about additional economic relief ahead of returning back to Washington: Democrats wanted major relief while Republicans were pushing for narrow, targeted programs.

President Trump directed federal officials to cut funding from Democratic-led cities as retaliation for social unrest – a move that immediately received legal pushback. Densely populated cities like New York were hit incredibly hard by the virus and cuts in funding would be disastrous.

Prescriptions of Trump's favorite anti-malaria drug, hydroxychloroquine, jumped from 819,000 in March and April of 2019 to over 1.3 million during the same period in 2020.

The CEO of Pfizer said that the company expected to know whether its vaccine in progress was effective by the end of October – and would immediately apply for approval from the FDA if shown effective.

For the second time, Trump urged people to illegally vote twice, further sowing mistrust in vote by mail.

September 4

The U.S. economy added 1.4 million jobs in the month of August, bringing the unemployment rate to below double digits at 8.4%. However, the recover had slowed from the 1.7 million jobs added in July and the 4.8 million added in June.

The WHO said it did not expect a widespread vaccine until the middle of 2021. Trump's top vaccine adviser said there was a "very, very low chance" that a vaccine would be ready for distribution in the U.S. by the end of October.

A University of Washington model often cited by the White House projected 410,451 deaths due to COVID-19 in the U.S. by January 1, 2021.

The Department of Homeland Security warned that Russia was working to undermine U.S. elections by spreading false claims about vote by mail.

September 5

Despite modest economic gains, 13.6 million workers remained unemployed.

As students already were back on college campuses and many more planned to return after Labor Day, colleges and universities continued to struggle with the best plan for reopening.

September 6

Despite downward trends in the number of new cases, the level in the 40,000s was still above where it was in May and June when new daily cases were in the 20,000s.

While millions of Americans struggled, the rich got richer, highlighting the divide in the economic downturn and recovery.

September 7

Trump again indicated that he was hoping a vaccine would be available before Election Day: "[It's] going to be done in a very short period of time -- could even have it during the month of October" ... "We'll have the vaccine soon, maybe before a special date. You know what date I'm talking about."

September 8

The Senate returned to Washington after the summer recess. The Republican leadership moved forward with a narrow COVID-19 relief package, including \$300-per-week enhanced unemployment benefits – half as much as in the CARES Act. Democrats said they would support a bill no lower than \$2.2 trillion.

The CEOs of nine pharmaceutical companies issued a joint pledge on vaccine safety and quality standards and to not seek government approval until their vaccines have proven safe and efficacious.

Cases of COVID-19 more than quadrupled over the summer to Labor Day.

Wildfires continued to rage across California with evacuation efforts complicated by COVID-19.

Not many test sites around the country agreed to test children due to age policies – despite any good reason to not do so. The lack of testing in children as schools reopened or partially reopened created a blind spot in testing and cases among the group.

USAID was set to shut down its COVID-19 task force.

Millions of students returned to school for the 2020-2021 academic year – most did so remotely.

AstraZeneca announced it was halting its clinical trial for a vaccine after a patient experienced a serious adverse effect that was unexplained.

A study tied the Sturgis bike rally in August to the proliferation of 260,000 cases and \$12.2 billion in costs.

September 9

The Director of the NIH and the Surgeon General testified to the Senate health committee regarding concerns that President Trump was applying political pressure to fast track a vaccine by the November election.

The OECD said that school closures could result in 1.5% lower economic growth for the world for the rest of the century. The economic loss in the U.S. could be as high as \$15.3 trillion.

A Senate report found that patients had faced “significant delays” since the spring in receiving medication deliveries via USPS.

A report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that wearing face masks could be a form of variolation that would both slow the spread of COVID-19 and help reduce the severity of the disease while generating immunity.

The death rate among Black Americans and Latinos rose in August on a per-capita basis – by twice as much as among white Americans.

Previews of journalist Bob Woodward’s book *Fear* indicated that President Trump knew that COVID-19 was deadly and misled the country about it anyway. He told Woodward that COVID-19 was “deadly stuff” in February, while at the same time telling Americans that the virus was not worse than the seasonal flu and predicting that it would “disappear.” Trump later added that he “always wanted to play [the virus] down.”

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin did not express confidence about additional economic relief for the rest of the year: “I don’t know. We’ll see. I hope there is. It’s important to a lot of people out there.”

A survey from NPR found that in the nation’s four largest cities, half of Americans said they had experienced the loss of a job or a reduction in wages or hours since the start of the pandemic.

To date, the Justice Department had brought more than 40 cases involving fraudulent applications to the Paycheck Protection Program and another federal lending program – totaling \$175 million.

September 10

The global death toll surpassed 900,000.

More than 800,000 Americans filed for new state unemployment claims in the previous week.

A Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that 62% of Americans were worried that political pressure from the Trump administration would lead the FDA to rush to approve a vaccine for COVID-19.

Senate Republicans forced a bill on their “skinny” relief package – without stimulus checks for Americans or aid to state and local governments. It did not pass the chamber with only 52 votes (all Republicans voted yes except for Sen. Rand Paul – KY).

The chief economist at the Milken Institute said that the U.S. would need \$3 trillion in fiscal stimulus to support the ailing economy.

Emails obtained by [Politico](#) showed that senior officials at HHS were attempting to silence Dr. Anthony Fauci and dictate what the top infectious disease expert could say during media appearances.

The White House ordered an end to enhanced COVID-19 screening for international travelers from high-risk countries.

Career scientists at the FDA penned an op-ed and promised Americans that their approval of a COVID-19 vaccine would be held to the highest scientific standards.

September 11

The commemoration for the September 11, 2001 attacks did not feature mourners at ground zero or speeches as in years past.

Wildfires continued to rage across the West, setting records for the worst year of fires in history. Hundreds of thousands were ordered to evacuate.

President Trump held six indoor rallies for his reelection campaign after admitting to journalist Bob Woodward in a February 7th call that the virus was airborne: "It goes through air, Bob. That's always tougher than the touch. You know, the touch, you don't have to touch things. Right? But the air, you just breathe the air and that's how it's passed

Data from the Health Care Cost Institute found that non-COVID related preventative healthcare services significantly dropped during the height of the pandemic and as of June had not recovered to normal levels.

A Harvard University study of 3,222 young adults hospitalized with COVID-19 found that 88 died (a death rate of 2.7%). The conclusion: "COVID-19 is a life-threatening disease in people of all ages."

Florida school districts defied an order from Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL) to not publicly report virus cases among students and staff.

Dr. Anthony Fauci called trends of COVID-19 in the U.S. "disturbing" in contrast to Trump's claim that the country was "rounding the corner."

September 12

Trump officials actively interfered with CDC reports on COVID-19, including political aides demanding to review and change weekly scientific reports and complaints that reports would undermine Trump's downplaying of the virus.

Several large employers, including CVS, the USPS and Wells Fargo said they would not be implementing Trump's payroll tax deferral.

September 13

The NFL held its first Sunday gameday of the season with limited fans and new COVID-19 related guidelines.

Michael Caputo, a top Trump aide at HHS, attacked scientists – accusing them of "sedition" – in their handling of the pandemic.

Trump and his campaign defied federal and state guidelines as he held an indoor rally attended by thousands (many mask-less) of supporters outside of Las Vegas, Nevada.

September 14

Los Angeles County began its school testing program. Of the 5,400 children and adults screened, 5 tested positive.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that the White House had “no conditions” around further economic relief in Congress. The HEROES Act was passed May 15th.

Tropical Storm Sally began to thrash Louisiana and Mississippi – the latest extreme weather event.

Experts worried that pharmaceutical companies were keeping key elements of their clinical trials secret.

Journalist Bob Woodward shared that President Trump received a briefing on January 28th about the risk of COVID-19 coming to the United States. At his State of the Union address on February 4th in which 40 million people tuned in, Trump did not mention it.

Woodward also revealed that Trump said to him, “[COVID-19 is] so easily transmissible, you wouldn’t even believe it,” in an April 13th call. This was around the same time he was calling on states to “liberate” and reverse stay-at-home orders.

A federal judge ruled that several of Gov. Tom Wolf’s (D-PA) restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 were unconstitutional. The ruling struck down stay-at-home orders and the closure of some businesses – orders that the Governor issued in March but were since suspended.

The WHO reported the highest single-day increase of new COVID-19 cases globally to date.

September 15

A bipartisan group of House lawmakers, the Problem Solvers Caucus, released a \$1.5 trillion economic relief package – four months to the day after the HEROES Act passed the house.

A report from leading economists found that the loss of academic learning due to school closures could cost the U.S. economy between \$14 trillion and \$28 trillion.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was reported to tell her caucus that the House would vote on another economic relief plan before the November 3rd election. She later said that members would not be leaving until another round was passed.

An average of 120 patients per day were infected with COVID-19 during hospital stays in the spring and summer according to federal data.

Several states experienced its worst trends of the virus on record in the prior week, including Kansas, Missouri, North Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

In a town hall presented by ABC News, Trump said he did “a great job” in responding to the virus, as the death toll approached 200,000. He blamed his opponent Joe Biden for not implementing a national mask mandate, despite being the one in office with the power to do so. He said, without evidence, that waiters did not like wearing masks. And despite tape recordings and real-life evidence to the contrary, Trump said he did not downplay the virus but rather “up-played it.”

Shortly after, he downplayed the virus again, insisting that it would “disappear” and that the United States was “rounding the corner.”

September 16

The Big Ten Conference reversed its decision and said football would be played as soon as October 24th after pressure from coaches, parents and President Trump.

Retail sales grew at a modest rate of 0.6 percent in the month of August.

A Kaiser Family Foundation and Epic Health Research Network study found that people of color had higher rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization and death over the course of the pandemic than white people.

The Trump administration had not yet paid the United States Postal Service for postcards on COVID-19 guidelines sent to 138 million residential addresses that prominently featured Trump's name.

White workers were hire back to their jobs twice as fast as Black workers. The unemployment rate among white Americans was 7.3% compared to 13% among Black Americans.

The director of the CDC testified to Congress that he was ordered by the White House to transfer \$300 million from the agency's budget for a public relations campaign urging Americans to get back to work.

Officials from the federal government's vaccine plan Operation Warp Speed outlined their plans to distribute a COVID-19 vaccine to Americans, noting that they would begin distribution within 24 hours of any approval of a vaccine, with a goal that no one “has to pay a single dime” out of pocket.

The Federal Reserve revised their economic output forecast and predicted it would fall 3.7% this year instead of 6.5% as projected in June.

The CDC Director Robert Redfield also predicted that a COVID-19 vaccine would not be widely available for distribution until the middle of 2021.

Trump contradicted his own CDC director and said a vaccine would be available before the mid-2021 timeline the director mentioned. Trump said a vaccine would go “to the general public immediately.” The WHO then called for “consistent messaging” after the contradiction. Former Vice President Joe Biden said that while he trusts vaccines and scientists, “I don't trust Donald Trump.”

Moreover, Trump questioned the proven science of masks, saying, “The mask is not as important as the vaccine” and admonished his top health officials for urging Americans to wear them.

At a news conference, Trump again praised his administration's COVID-19 response and lauded the almost 200,000 deaths as being below worst-case scenario models without any public health measures put in place to curb the virus. He added, “If you take the blue states out, we're at a level I don't think anybody in the world would be at.”

September 17

790,000 Americans and an additional 660,000 filed for state unemployment claims and the federal pandemic protection program, respectively, in the prior week. The Labor Department said 12.6 million Americans were collecting unemployment benefits.

New York City schools again pushed back their in-person reopening date.

Attorney General Bill Barr said that other than slavery, stay-at-home orders to slow the spread of COVID-19 were the "greatest intrusion on civil liberties in American history."

Trump's private business charged the Secret Service \$1.1 million in taxpayer funds for stays at Trump's properties, some of which were closed due to COVID-19.

Global confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpassed 30 million.

At a town hall hosted by CNN, former Vice President Joe Biden criticized President Trump for his response to COVID-19: "You lost your freedom because he didn't act."

A federal judge ruled to temporarily block operational changes to the USPS.

September 18

A new report showed that the White House nixed a USPS plan to send 5 masks to every household in the United States.

Widely criticized guidance from the CDC to not test those who were asymptomatic but in contact with COVID-19 was written to the objections of career scientists at the agency and instead was pushed from the top down at HHS. The CDC then reversed the guidance amid public outcry.

The seven-day average of new daily cases was nearly 40,000 – a 13% increase from the prior week.

President Trump said the U.S. was on track to have 100 million doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine by the end of the year.

The CDC updated its guidance to say that COVID-19 could spread "through respiratory droplets or small particles, such as those in aerosols." The website further added, "Airborne viruses, including COVID-19, are among the most contagious and easily spread." Previously, the CDC website said that the virus spread mainly between people in close contact through respiratory droplets when a person coughs, sneezes or talks.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a trailblazer for gender equality, passed away.

September 19

Average daily tests dropped by about 100,000 from late July according to the Covid Tracking Project. The percentage of tests that back positive remained around 5 percent (the recommended threshold for testing capacity).

September 20

After modest improvements toward the end of the summer, 31 states saw new cases increase by 10% or more in the previous week, while 15 states held steady. Only four states had decreases of more than 10%. The test positivity rate was on the rise in 25 states.

September 21

Global markets plummeted as new COVID-19 cases were on the rise in at least 73 countries, creating new restrictions and more unknowns ahead of the flu season and cold weather.

Schools in New York City reopened for the first time since March. Widely criticized budget cuts led to issues with ventilation systems and lack of PPE and supplies for educators.

The CDC removed its guidance that had been updated only three days prior around how COVID-19 was airborne and easily transmissible. The agency restored earlier guidance that the disease was spread via large droplets.

New evidence showed that mail delivery times slowed significantly since Louis DeJoy was installed, with on-time rates in some places dropping as low as 63%.

The Government Accountability Office reported that 8.7 million or more individuals eligible for the \$1,200 stimulus payments had yet to receive those payments because of inadequate IRS and Treasury Department records.

Trump falsely claimed at a campaign rally that the virus “affects virtually nobody” below the age of 18.

September 22

A fund for \$1 billion appropriated by Congress for the Department of Defense in March to produce medical equipment was largely funneled to defense contractors for things like jet engine parts and body armor.

The availability of a COVID-19 vaccine for children was reported to be later than that used for adults due to the status of clinical trials. No clinical trials had begun for children in the United States – meaning that a vaccine may not be available before the fall of 2021.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin testified to Congress that the economy was recovering faster than ever before despite acknowledging that over half of the jobs lost during the pandemic had not been restored. Fed Chair Jerome Powell said that the economic games were based in fiscal support from Congress – much of which had run out or expired.

A federal advisory panel to the CDC delayed a vote on recommendations for who should get limited initial doses of a vaccine until members learned more about the potential vaccines.

Shortages in chemical reagents led to testing deficiencies in some parts of the country, with 67% of labs having issues getting reagents and test kits according to a national survey.

A study found that an estimated extra 3,200 new cases per day occurred in the U.S. that would not have happened if in-person instruction did not happen for many colleges and universities.

The FDA issued stricter standards for emergency authorization of a vaccine.

Deaths due to COVID-19 surpassed 200,000 in the United States. The country, with less than 5% of the world's population made up more than 20% of the global deaths.

September 23

Johnson & Johnson began a Phase 3 clinical trial for its vaccine with 60,000 participants.

In testimony to the Senate, FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn said that the agency would not “permit any pressure from anyone” to not be guided by science.

After months of back-and-forth negotiations, Congress essentially stalled relief talks as the Senate turned toward replacing the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s Supreme Court seat.

The economic recovery was uneven based on geography. Some states, like Nebraska, recovered the unemployment rate back to pre-pandemic levels while other states, like New York, were worse off than the Great Recession.

At least 9 states had already finished sending out the \$300 additional unemployment benefits indicated in Trump’s executive order.

Gov. Mike Parson (R-MO) tested positive for COVID-19. Missouri was experiencing the fifth highest rate of cases per capita in the country. The governor had refused to issue a mask order.

President Trump undercut the FDA and said the White House might not approve its new, stricter guidelines for emergency approval of any COVID-19 vaccine, accusing the agency of being “political.”

September 24

870,000 Americans filed for first-time unemployment benefits in the prior week, an increase from the previous week’s total. It suggested that the recovery was slowing down. An additional 630,000 Americans filed for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.

U.S. business activity slowed down in September, as gains at factories were offset by losses in the services industry.

100 school buildings and early childhood centers in New York City reported at least one positive case of COVID-19 between when teachers returned to classrooms on September 8th and students returned to schools earlier in the week.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D- NY) said the state would conduct its own review of COVID-19 vaccines.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that as much as \$380 billion had not been tapped yet from the first economic relief packaged passed in March.

September 25

A federal judge ruled that the Trump administration could not end the census count a month early as they planned, despite delays due to COVID-19. The judge also ruled that the Census Bureau could not deliver population data to the White House on December 31st instead of the previously determined timeline of April 2021.

House Democrats discussed a new economic relief package of \$2.4 trillion. Republicans had said that their upper limit for a bill was \$1.5 trillion.

Tens of thousands of airline workers were at risk of losing their jobs if Congress did not extend federal airline relief by October 1st.

California became the first U.S. state to surpass 800,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Gov. Ralph Northam (D-VA) and his wife tested positive for COVID-19.

The United States surpassed 7 million confirmed cases. It took less than a month to rise from 6 million to 7 million.

September 26

Top health experts warned that the pandemic would not end solely with a vaccine, but with a steady decline in cases due to a vaccine and continued social distancing as well as advances in treatment and prevention.

September 27

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi admonished Republicans for not coming up from their economic relief proposal while she had come down from \$3.4 trillion to \$2.4 trillion. She did, however, say she was hopeful for a deal being reached.

The Paycheck Protection Program, which doled out \$525 billion in loans to 5.2 million recipients, ran into delays and complications that put borrowers at risk of being on the hook for loans that were meant to be forgiven.

A third U.S. federal judge ordered the USPS to halt operational changes that delayed mail delivery ahead of the November elections.

September 28

Deaths in the United States surpassed 5,000 in the previous seven days – the second most in the world behind India. It led the world in total deaths at over 204,000 Americans lost.

Tens of millions of Americans who received health insurance through their employers were at risk of losing coverage as businesses cut expenses, including health coverage.

Reports indicated that CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield grew increasingly concerned about the influence of Trump's new coronavirus task force adviser Dr. Scott Atlas, who Redfield believed was giving the president misleading data on a range of issues: "Everything he says is false."

An internal document from Operation Warp Speed showed that 60 military officials with no health care or vaccine development experience were involved in the leadership of the program.

An analysis by the CDC showed that COVID-19 was more common in teenagers than young children.

The FDA delayed a vaccine trial from Inovio Pharmaceuticals until it answered questions before the agency.

Global deaths from COVID-19 surpassed one million.

September 29

New reporting showed that top officials at the White House pressured the CDC over the summer to downplay the risk of sending children back to school. The White House appeared to have circumvented the CDC in search of more flattering data for their political agenda that the virus was slowing down and posed little threat to children.

House Democrats released a new \$2.2 trillion economic relief bill after months of no movement on the HEROES Act that passed in May. It signaled that a negotiation might be reachable for much-needed economic relief. Their measure would revive the \$600 per week enhanced unemployment benefits, provide aid for airlines and restaurants, and send a second round of \$1,200 checks to Americans.

Epidemiological experts found that 85% - 90% of the U.S. population was still susceptible to contracting COVID-19 from analyses of antibody testing and population modeling. This ran counter to the Trump administration and some Republican governors' push for herd immunity and the abandonment of social distancing guidelines. Experts warned that herd immunity at 10-20% of the population was dangerous and not possible.

A preliminary study in South Korea found a staggering 90% of COVID-19 patients that had recovered from the disease reported experiencing an array of side effects, including fatigue, psychological after-effects and loss of smell and taste.

COVID-19 was on the rise New York state and New York City, where the city's test positivity rate climbed over 3% for the first time in several months. Clusters of the virus were spreading in nine neighborhoods in Brooklyn and in Queens only days after schools in the nation's largest public-school district reopened.

Disney announced it would be laying off 28,000 park workers in the United States.

Florida reported its largest increasing in COVID-19 cases over a week after Gov. Ron DeSantis allowed bars and restaurants to reopen at 100% capacity.

A group of seven former FDA commissioners took the rare step of publicly rebuking the Trump administration and warning of political interference around the vaccine: "If the FDA makes available a safe and effective vaccine that people trust, we could expect to meaningfully reduce covid-19 risk as soon as next spring or summer. Without that trust, our health and economy could lag for years."

At the first presidential debate, President Trump defended his administration's response to COVID-19, saying that the "China plague" was "China's fault." Trump openly disagreed with the federal government's own scientists, and said "we have [a vaccine] a lot sooner" that next summer.

During the debate, Trump falsely claimed that Biden "wants to shut down this country and I want to keep it open." That is false -- Biden never advocated for shutting down the entire economy.

September 30

Dr. Fauci fired back at President Trump after his comments at the debate around mask guidance, and said, "Anybody who has been listening to me over the last several months knows that a conversation does not go by where I do not strongly recommend that people wear masks."

A national survey found that over 86% of Latino households and 66% of Black households reported serious financial problems, compared to 50% of white households.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin continued their talks in hopes of finding a negotiation on additional economic relief. The two sides were between \$700 billion an \$1 trillion apart on their proposals.

The U.S. economy dropped 31.4% in the second quarter of 2020 from April to June, according to the Commerce Department.

Trump planned to hold large campaign rallies in Wisconsin despite the White House coronavirus task force calling for “maximal” social distancing in the state, which had the third-highest rate of new COVID-19 cases in the country.

A survey from NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that 60% of households with children had lost jobs, businesses or had wages reduced during the pandemic.

The CEO of Pfizer continued to float the idea that the company’s vaccine would be ready in October, despite the fact that their clinical trials would not have enough data by then to prove efficacy and safety with statistical significance.

The government ended its control of the distribution of remdesivir, a drug manufactured by Gilead that had shown some promising results as a potential treatment for COVID-19. Advocates questioned whether the \$3,120 price tag per treatment was justified.

The White House blocked an order from the CDC to keep cruise ships docked until the middle of February and instead sided with the cruise ship industry to allow ships to sail after October 31st.

The National Football League postponed a game for the first time after an outbreak of COVID-19 occurred among the Tennessee Titans.

October 2020

October 1

787,000 Americans newly filed for state unemployment benefits in the previous week, a slight downtick from the week prior, though California was not counted due to backlogs. Another 650,000 applied for the federal pandemic unemployment assistance program.

A *Washington Post* [analysis](#) found that one of every 1,600 Americans alive at the beginning of 2020 had died due to COVID-19, a toll that was likely underreported as many cases were not confirmed to have been caused by the virus though inferred from the elevated death tolls.

4 million more Americans enrolled in Medicaid over the spring – a 5.7% increase as millions lost their jobs and their employer-based health insurance.

A study from Cornell University of 38 million articles about COVID-19 in English-language media around the world found that President Trump made up the largest share of misinformation at 38% and was the single biggest driver of the “infodemic,” or falsehoods about the pandemic.

After abruptly delaying a vote on their \$2.2 billion bill the day prior, House Democrats hoped to reach a compromise with the White House on economic relief before leaving Washington until after the November 3rd elections. The two sides remained apart on K-12 education funding, state and local funding, and some tax provisions.

Tens of thousands of airlines workers were furloughed after the condition that layoffs would not ensue to receive \$25 billion in payroll funding from the CARES Act expired.

179 million Americans were at risk of losing power and other utilities as 29 states let bans on utility shutoffs lapse for lack of payment.

Top aide to Trump, Hope Hicks, who traveled with the president on Marine One and Air Force One multiple times in the week, tested positive for COVID-19. Hicks was also part of the President's team at the debate. Reports indicated that the test was in fact positive the night prior, though the public was not made aware until the evening of October 1st, nor did White House Press Secretary let reporters know in her press briefing earlier that day.

House Democrats passed a \$2.2 trillion economic relief package as part of their ongoing negotiations with the White House to provide economic aid to millions of Americans and businesses. This came several months after their larger bill, the HEROES Act, was passed in the House but never heard in the Senate as it was held up by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

October 2

President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump announced they had tested positive for COVID-19. The White House confirmed that the president was experiencing mild cold-like symptoms.

The news shocked the nation with only 32 days remaining until the presidential election. Trump had tested positive after attending a rally in Minnesota and a campaign fundraiser in New Jersey, both without masks and after learning of Hope Hicks's positive case. His case came after months of downplaying the virus and even mocking Joe Biden for wearing a mask at the first presidential debate three days prior. He had recently stated that the U.S. was rounding the corner on the virus.

Global markets dropped as investors reacted to the news of Trump's illness. The S&P 500 fell 1.7% in early trading. World leaders expressed their wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Pentagon said that there were no changes to alert levels for American servicemembers worldwide.

The U.S. added 661,000 jobs in September and the unemployment rate fell to 7.9%, but gains were modest and slower from the months prior.

RNC chairwoman Ronna McDaniel tested positive for COVID-19 two days prior, though reports surfaced today. The President of Notre Dame, who attended the Supreme Court nomination announcement six days prior, unmasked, tested positive. Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) also tested positive. Leaders in government were swiftly tested, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as well as Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett.

Vice President Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence tested negative and former Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden announced he tested negative for COVID-19.

Health Secretary Alex Azar defended the Trump family's refusal to wear a mask at the debate once seated because they are "in a different situation than the rest of us" in a protective bubble. However, the president managed to contract COVID-19.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said a deal on economic relief was more likely in light of Trump's contraction of COVID-19: "This kind of changes the dynamic, because here they see the reality of what we have been saying all along: This is a vicious virus."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Congress must implement a testing program: [Trump's positive case] demonstrates that the Senate needs a testing and contact tracing

program for Senators, staff, and all who work in the Capitol complex. We simply cannot allow the administration's cavalier attitude to adversely affect this branch of government."

President Trump was taken to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and began receiving aggressive treatment, including an experimental polyclonal antibody cocktail and remdesivir, an antiviral. Earlier in the day, he had received supplemental oxygen.

October 3

President Trump's medical team briefed the nation for the first time and gave a very optimistic outlook, though Dr. Sean Conley dodged key questions about the president's condition. His blood oxygen level dropped into the low 90's but Dr. Conley would not answer directly if he received supplemental oxygen.

President Trump was administered dexamethasone, a powerful steroid that early studies showed reduced deaths of COVID-19 patients on oxygen. White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows gave a more sobering description of the president's health, only to be rebuked by the president and his doctors.

Senators Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) also tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the current Senate total to three, complicating Mitch McConnell's plans to hold hearings on Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett. At least seven prominent Republicans had tested positive for the virus who attended Coney Barrett's nomination ceremony a week prior.

Trump's campaign manager, Bill Stepien, tested positive for COVID-19.s

Former N.J. Governor Chris Christie became the latest Rose Garden attendee to test positive for the virus. He then "checked himself in" to the hospital as a "precaution."

Trump tweeted from the hospital, "OUR GREAT USA WANTS & NEEDS STIMULUS. WORK TOGETHER AND GET IT DONE. Thank you!"

Trump sent out a video to supporters and said he was "starting to feel good."

October 4

Trump's doctors again held a press conference, and Dr. Conley evaded questions about the president's chest x-rays and admitted that the day prior he was painting a rosy picture to not impact the disease course – in other words likely to not upset President Trump. His doctors said that the president could be discharged from the hospital as early as the following day.

Trump made the highly criticized decision to take a joy ride in his motorcade to wave to supporters outside of Walter Reed, which endangered the Secret Service officers staffed to be with him in the vehicle. Trump wore only a cloth mask.

President Trump said he "learned a lot" about the virus since becoming infected, despite being the head of the federal government and privy to all of the research and information about the virus since January, as 210,000 Americans had died from COVID-19. Many noted how regular Americans were often denied hospital entry and/or treatments, while the President received every treatment available – or not yet available – at the taxpayers' expense.

October 5

New Jersey officials struggled to contact trace the 206 people who attended Trump's campaign fundraiser at Bedminster the previous Thursday as the RNC did not provide their phone numbers or addresses.

Former Vice President Joe Biden again tested negative for COVID-19 after being exposed to Trump six days prior.

Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany announced she tested positive for COVID-19. She emphasized that this was her first positive test after repeated negative tests in the days prior, but did not self-quarantine before this despite federal guidance to do so after known exposure and did not wear a mask with reporters the day prior. Several White House reporters had tested positive for the disease.

COVID-19 continued to spread rapidly around the U.S., as 23 states experienced increases in new daily case counts over a seven-day average. Low-populated states, such as North and South Dakota and Wyoming were hit particularly hard.

After previously taking new guidance down, the CDC updated its website again to say that COVID-19 could spread between people beyond six feet indoors: "These transmissions occurred within enclosed spaces that had inadequate ventilation. Sometimes the infected person was breathing heavily, for example while singing or exercising." The guidance did not use the word "airborne," which would require hospitals to treat infected patients in specialized rooms. However, the language was updated to say that COVID-19 could spread by both larger droplets and smaller aerosols.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) preempted part of Mayor Bill DeBlasio's (D-New York City) ruling to close businesses and schools in nine zip codes across the city where COVID-19 was surging. The governor allowed school closures to move forward but said that nonessential businesses could remain open.

Trump announced he would depart Walter Reed Medical Center to return to the White House. He tweeted, "I will be leaving the great Walter Reed Medical Center today at 6:30 P.M. Feeling really good! Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life. We have developed, under the Trump Administration, some really great drugs & knowledge. I feel better than I did 20 years ago!" Reports had indicated he had been demanding to leave.

The World Health Organization said its best estimates indicate that roughly 1 in 10 people around the world may have been infected with COVID-19 – 20 times greater the number of confirmed cases.

The White House decided to not contact trace the guests and staff at the September 26th Rose Garden ceremony where 8 individuals who attended the event had already tested positive.

Top officials at the White House blocked federal FDA guidelines for the emergency authorization of a COVID-19 vaccine in objection of a provision that would have made it virtually impossible for a vaccine to be approved by November 3rd, election day.

President Trump, still infected with COVID-19, left Walter Reed Medical Center and returned to the White House. Immediately before entering the White House he took off his facemask and appeared to be gasping for air after walking up the White House steps. He did not answer

questions from reporters, but continued to tweet vociferously all day. Dr. Conley, his personal physician, refused to answer earlier in the day when the president's last negative test was.

October 6

The U.S. trade deficit rose to a 14-year low to \$67.1 billion.

Experts warned that COVID-19 would further surge in the U.S. in the fall and winter as some states rolled back restrictions, people eager to get back to normal, the cold weather and the holidays approaching, all exacerbated by Trump's downplaying of the virus even while he was infected.

The U.S. labor force had 142 million workers, down 7% compared to pre-pandemic levels. Among the leisure and hospitality industries, the drop was 23%.

Miami-Dade County began in-person instruction for all students as schools in nine New York City zip codes were closed.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi continued negotiations on an economic relief package with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, though the window to reach a was closing as the Senate was out until October 19th to account for positive COVID-19 cases in the chamber and the House would be returning to their districts soon to close out the election.

President Trump likened COVID-19 to the seasonal flu on twitter, despite evidence that COVID-19 was far more deadly. He also tweeted that he was "FEEING GREAT!" and "...looking forward to the debate on the evening of Thursday, October 15th in Miami." His campaign confirmed he planned to attend the next debate against former Vice President Joe Biden.

White House employees were kept largely in the dark about who among them was infected and what their next steps would be. It was the latest example in a series of recklessness and mishandling of the virus by the administration. Reports indicated that Trump told an aide infected in the days prior to not tell anyone they had tested positive.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, and several other top Pentagon leaders self-quarantined due to possible exposure to COVID-19. A top Coast Guard official tested positive the previous day.

Trump's doctor said that the president "report[ed] no symptoms" after his first night back at the White House.

Facebook took the drastic step of removing Trump's post on their platform comparing COVID-19 to the seasonal flu, citing misinformation. Twitter added a flag to the same post on their platform, also citing false or misleading information about the virus.

A *Wall Street Journal* [analysis](#) of Paycheck Protection Program borrowers found that borrowers in zip codes in Washington D.C.'s central business district received loans much faster and more readily compared to their counterparts east of the Anacostia River, where there are more commercial businesses, Black-owned businesses and nonprofit organizations. A similar pattern ensued across the country.

President Trump tweeted that he would reject any additional negotiated offer from House Democrats and direct his representatives to stop negotiating an economic relief bill "until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major Stimulus Bill." He said he asked

Senate Majority Leader to instead “focus full time on approving” his nominee to the Supreme Court, whose nomination event was likely a super-spreader event of COVID-19. He falsely stated that the U.S. economy was leading the world in economic recovery.

Stocks tumbled after Trump announced he was pulling out of economic relief negotiations. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1.34%. His abrupt announcement came not long after Fed Chair Jerome Powell said that a new stimulus was urgently needed to prevent weakening the economic recovery.

The FDA ultimately issued its stringent guidelines for vaccine developers despite two weeks of blocking on the part of the White House. The guidelines recommended that companies gather additional data about the safety of their vaccines in the final stage of clinical trials, a step that would likely negate the possibility of an approved vaccine by the elections on November 3rd.

Senior officials said that Trump would address the nation, but the address never panned out.

Dr. William Foege, a former Director of the CDC, authored a letter that was published in [USA Today](#) to the current CDC director calling on him to make public the Trump administration's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

October 7

17 members of the President's close inner circle had tested positive for COVID-19, with others unknown. Dozens more junior White House staff, White House workers, and other workers at locations the President had been in the previous week had also contracted the virus. The previous day, Democratic leaders in the Senate said that the White House had been “opaque and secretive” in providing up-to-date information about the COVID-19 outbreak in the federal government.

A national survey by The Hill found that a whopping 74% of registered voters wanted the U.S. Senate to deal with COVID-19 relief over confirming Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett.

After a barrage of Tweets, Trump seemingly reversed his position from the day prior and was more open to reaching a deal on COVID-19 economic relief. He said he would be willing to approve stimulus checks to Americans, reviving the Paycheck Protection Program, and providing funding for airlines. Stocks rose in response.

A Harvard economist and Treasury Department official under President Obama warned that not moving forward on a fresh round of stimulus might bring the U.S. economy to a “tipping point.”

The White House continued to refuse to let the public know when the president's last negative COVID-19 was before he tested positive. It remained a possibility that the president was infectious at the first debate against Joe Biden.

Eli Lilly asked the FDA to grant emergency use authorization for its experimental antibody treatment for those with mild-to-moderate cases of COVID-19.

Trump's personal physician released a statement that the president had been free of COVID-19-related symptoms for 24 hours and fever-free for over four days, adding that the president said, “I feel great!”

Despite having an active COVID-19 infection, Trump left the private residence in the White House and worked in the Oval Office with some of his key staff.

The White House released a pre-recorded video of President Trump in which he said contracting COVID-19 was “a blessing from God,” and called the experimental drugs he was administered a “cure” and that he would provide hundreds of thousands of doses of unapproved drugs to Americans free of charge. Estimates showed that Trump’s three-day hospital stay would have cost a regular American over \$100,000. The full quote from the video:

“I think this was a blessing from God that I caught it. This was a blessing in disguise. I caught it. I heard about this [Regeneron] drug. I said, ‘Let me take it.’ It was my suggestion. I said, ‘Let me take it,’ and it was incredible the way it worked. Incredible. I think if I didn’t catch it, we’d be looking at that like a number of other drugs, but it really did a fantastic job.”

Regeneron submitted an application to the FDA for emergency use authorization of the experimental antibody cocktail that President Trump was administered and called a “cure” for the virus. The company said initial access would top out at 50,000 patients.

Vice President Mike Pence shirked his own government’s guidelines about quarantining to participate in the Vice-Presidential debate. The Debate Commission put up small plexiglass dividers that many experts criticized as doing little to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 through tiny air particles.

At the debate, the administration’s response to COVID-19 was a central focus. Senator Harris said, “On Jan. 28, the vice president and the president were informed about the nature of this pandemic. They were informed that it’s lethal in consequence, that it is airborne, that it will affect young people, and that it would be contracted because it is airborne. And they knew what was happening, and they didn’t tell you.”

Vice President Pence defended the Trump administration’s record on COVID-19 by falsely stating that they banned “all travel” from China.

An internal memo from FEMA showed that 34 White House staffers and other contacts had contracted COVID-19 – more than was previously known.

October 8

840,000 Americans newly filed for unemployment benefits in the previous week, a slight increase from the week prior and another sign that the economic recovery was not moving forward.

The Commission on Presidential Debates announced that the second presidential debate would be held virtually on October 15th. President Trump immediately said he would not participate and call it a waste of his time.

With the likelihood of a stimulus deal waning, economists warned that the economic growth in the third quarter would be followed by little to no growth in the fourth quarter and potentially first quarter of 2021.

Nine states experienced seven-day records for new infections over the entire course of the pandemic. 39 states reported more COVID-19 cases in the previous week than the week before that.

Crede Bailey, the head of White House security, was reported to have contracted COVID-19 in September and was hospitalized with a severe case in critically ill condition. His case was not thought to be connected to the September 26th Rose Garden event for Judge Amy Coney Barrett that likely led to the outbreak in the West Wing.

A federal appeals court ruled that the census count must continue through the end of October despite the Trump administration's repeated efforts to end it early.

Trump blamed Gold Star families for his contracting of COVID-19: "Sometimes, I'd be in groups of, for instance, Gold Star families. I met with Gold Star families. I didn't want to cancel that," he said. "But they all came in, and they all talk about their son and daughter and father. And, you know, they all came up to me, and they tell me a story."

News [reports](#) surfaced that White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows hosted a 70-person indoor wedding for his daughter in Atlanta in May, flouting a statewide order and guidelines from the city of Atlanta that barred gatherings of 10 or more people.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said he had been avoiding going to the White House for several months over concerns with the administration and West Wing officials not taking precautions against COVID-19: "My impression was that their approach to how to handle this was different from mine and what I insisted that we do in the Senate, which is to wear a mask and practice social distancing."

Trump released another video, this one directed to seniors, and again called the experimental antibody treatment from Regeneron a "cure." The treatment was developed with cells from fetal tissue – a practice Trump and many anti-choice Republicans were against. The Trump administration suspended federal funding for new scientific research using fetal tissue derived from abortions in June of 2019.

Trump's White House physician, Dr. Conley, released a letter that said the president could safely return to public activities as soon as two days later. Dr. Conley said the president completed his course of therapy for COVID-19 and "remained stable and devoid of any indications to suggest progression of illness."

Experts questioned whether Trump's go ahead to return to public activities was safe and met his own CDC guidelines for isolation after a positive infection. The Trump campaign reversed its position and asked the Commission on Presidential Debates to again move forward with the October 15th debate, but in person and not virtually. The White House still refused to say when the president's last negative test was.

October 9

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the UN's World Food Programme for its work to fight hunger globally, especially during the pandemic.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced legislation to create a commission to decide whether a president was mentally and physical fit to serve to "help ensure effective and uninterrupted leadership."

Trump's campaign and surrogates continued to storm the campaign trail with few to no precautions against COVID-19. State and local officials had reported in some cases no notice from the campaign about their events, which many times drew large, unmasked crowds.

A *Wall Street Journal* [analysis](#) found that COVID-19 was likely spreading in the U.S. months before any federal or state actions.

The U.S. national debt was projected to grow larger than the U.S. economy.

A *New York Times* [survey](#) found more than 178,000 COVID-19 cases and 70 deaths on college campuses since the start of the pandemic.

After Trump's halt to negotiations and then subsequent about-face, confusion surrounded talks to reach a deal on an economic relief package for millions of struggling Americans and businesses.

The Broadway League, which represents producers and theater owners, said it would suspend ticket sales on Broadway through at least May 30, 2021.

The White House released a \$1.8 trillion economic relief plan and suggested that President Trump was now ready to make a deal. Many details remained up in the air and time was limited to turn a proposal into law before November 3rd. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) called a deal "unlikely."

One teacher and two high school students from the school in which some of Judge Amy Coney Barrett's children attend tested positive for COVID-19. The September 26th nomination event for Coney Barrett had been linked to several positive cases in the highest levels of the federal government.

President Trump's plans changed, and aides said it would be more likely he resumed a normal schedule two days later than he wanted to. Instead, Trump planned to host hundreds of people on the South Lawn of the White House and he would address supporters from a balcony of the White House.

October 10

President Trump held a political rally at the White House – his first in-person event since contracting COVID-19. He made a speech from the balcony.

The White House physician released a letter that cleared the president to return to his public schedule and stated that he was "no longer considered a transmission risk to others." The letter also stated that Trump was "at day 10 from symptom onset."

The U.S. recorded its third consecutive day of more than 50,000 new daily cases.

October 11

Dr. Fauci took issue with the Trump campaign using his words and image without his consent and for taking his comments out of context for a campaign ad.

The CEO of Regeneron said that the company's antibody cocktail that Trump wrongly called a "cure" would have to be rationed.

Twitter added warning labels to another of President Trump's tweet in which he claimed, without evidence, that he was immune to COVID-19 after Dr. Conley gave him the all clear to resume public activities. There was no evidence that people were immune if infected with the virus once.

The White House called on the Commission on Presidential Debates to reschedule the second debate between Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden after it was canceled because Trump refused to participate in a virtual event.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows sent a letter to lawmakers asking them to pass a bill to allow the administration to use the \$134 billion in leftover funds from the Paycheck Protection Program. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that “until serious issues are resolved, we remain at an impasse.” She and House Democrats strongly oppose piecemeal efforts.

October 12

The Senate Judiciary Committee began confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court, with several senators joining by video due to active COVID-19 infections of two members on the committee. One of those members, Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) was in the hearing room in person and did not wear a mask. Judge Barrett’s nomination ceremony in September was linked to dozens of positive cases.

President Trump’s concerning tweets and erratic behavior since the onset of his COVID-19 infection and subsequent treatments raised questions about nuclear authority in the United States.

An estimate \$8 billion in unemployment relief aid had been hacked and fraudulently stolen by cybercriminals around the world.

New York City issued over 60 summonses to those in violation of restrictions in COVID-19 hot spots in the city.

A federal circuit court judge denied a lawsuit against Governor Tony Evers (D-WI) to overturn the state’s mask mandate.

A new study published in JAMA found that the U.S. experienced a high death rate due to COVID-19 when compared with other countries with high mortality rates.

31 states experienced more new cases of COVID-19 in the last week compared to the week prior.

Scientists confirmed that a 25-year-old Nevada man was infected with COVID-19 twice – the first known reinfection case in the U.S. and fifth in the world. The patient’s second case was symptomatically more severe than the first.

At his first campaign rally on the road since his COVID-19 diagnosis, President Trump again falsely claimed that he was immune to the virus since he claimed to have recovered. Hundreds of people packed in to see him speak in Orlando, many of whom were seniors and many without masks. Trump said he would “kiss everyone in the audience” because he was so sure he was not infected. The White House physician released a statement that the president had tested negative “on consecutive days” using a rapid test known to show false negatives and not intended for testing known infections.

At the rally, Trump also claimed that vaccines were “going to be distributed very shortly.” Earlier in the day Johnson & Johnson halted its Phase 3 clinical trial due to an unexplained illness in one volunteer.

Several major publications refused to send reporters traveling with President Trump because they did not believe the campaign had proper protections against COVID-19.

In a debate for the U.S. Senate, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) laughed when his challenger Amy McGrath confronted him on the Senate's inaction over COVID-19.

October 13

A growing number of employers pushed their return to office dates back from January to the summer of 2021 as the virus continued to spread. Microsoft, Target, Ford and The New York Times all in the prior week announced their corporate offices would not reopen until the following summer.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told colleagues that she was far from an agreement with the Trump administration on economic relief and outlined eight key areas where the two sides were apart.

State officials increasingly warned about a rise in new cases and hospitalizations, as cases rose in 33 states and the country was on the brink of a potential fall surge.

The International Monetary Fund projected that the global economy would shrink 4.4% in 2020 – the worst annual drop since the Great Depression almost 100 years ago.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced that the Senate would vote on “targeted relief for American workers, including new funding for the PPP.”

Days after 13 men were arrested for a domestic terrorism plot against Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D-MI), the FBI said that Gov. Ralph Northam (D-VA) was also a potential target because of his approach to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the state.

Dr. Anthony Fauci again asked the Trump campaign to remove ads that included his words that he said were taken “completely out of context.”

Eli Lilly halted its clinical trial for a monoclonal antibody treatment over safety concerns.

A woman in The Netherlands became the first known patient to die from a reinfection.

The Supreme Court ruled that the Trump administration could end the census count early despite delays due to the pandemic.

At a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, Trump repeated his false claim that the pandemic was “rounding the turn” in the United States.

October 14

16 states set a record for new daily cases over the previous seven-day period.

NBC announced that it would hold a town hall style meeting for President Trump the following day, directly competing with a similar program on ABC with former Vice President Joe Biden. The news came after the debate commission canceled the debate for the following day after Trump refused to participate in a virtual event.

Global confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpassed 38 million. The U.S., India and Brazil accounted for more than half of all infections.

Several preliminary studies showed that COVID-19 immunity could last for months.

A new independent dataset showed that the true unemployment rate in the U.S. – if you include every American looking for a full-time job but can't find one – was a staggering 26.1%.

Dr. Anthony Fauci reviewed President Trump's testing data and said he was past the point of infectiousness: "...we feel confident that we can say with a high degree of confidence that he is not transmissible."

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that he did not expect an additional economic relief package to be passed before the November 3rd election.

Barron Trump was also reported to have had COVID-19 as the First Lady announced she and Barron tested negative for the virus.

The SEC postponed two games in the week due to COVID-19 outbreaks. The University of Florida was one such school impacted, and the coach had stated that the football program was "a model of safety." The head coach of the University of Alabama, Nick Saban, also tested positive.

Dr. Fauci pushed back on Trump's various claims that a vaccine would be ready by the end of 2020: "For a vaccine that is proven safe and effective, it's not going to be 100 million doses."

The USPS agreed to reverse service changes that slowed mail service after settling a lawsuit filed by Gov. Steve Bullock (D-MT).

New [reporting](#) showed that On Feb. 24, Trump's economic team privately addressed the Hoover Institution and implied that a COVID outbreak could prove worse than advisers were signaling to the public. Aides appeared to be giving wealthy party donors an early warning, and a major stock sell-off ensued. That same day, Trump tweeted that the virus was "very much under control" in the U.S. and the "[s]tock market is starting to look very good to me!"

October 15

898,000 more Americans filed for state unemployment benefits in the previous week. It was the highest weekly tally since August 22nd.

Health officials in Minnesota connected two dozen COVID-19 cases to Trump campaign events.

Cases grew rapidly in the U.S. and after a late summer dip were marching toward a third peak.

An aide to Sen. Kamala Harris tested positive for COVID-19, and the vice-presidential candidate halted her campaign travel plans. The campaign released a detailed statement on their testing protocol and history.

The Trump campaign's concerted effort to sue states for ramping up mail-in voting to give voters a safe option during the pandemic had been successful in a variety of states, including Georgia, New Hampshire and Wisconsin.

In an interview with Fox Business, President Trump said he was tested "not every day, but I'm tested a lot." He again called the Regeneron treatment a "cure."

Trump and Mnuchin conceded on accepting Speaker Pelosi's language around testing and contact tracing, but Trump admitted he would not accept the House \$2.2 trillion dollar bill because

he was against aid to state and local governments – specifically those run by Democratic leaders: She wants to bail out badly run Democrat states and cities. She wants money for things that you would never -- you just couldn't -- just your pride couldn't let it happen.”

Researchers at Columbia University found that 8 million more Americans have fallen into poverty since May.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) and Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R-AR) sent a letter to President Trump on behalf of the National Governors Association requesting additional guidance from the administration on expectations for the distribution and implementation of COVID-19 vaccines.

Data from insurance claims and Medicare billings showed a pattern that the U.S. shut down in the early stages of the pandemic led to delayed cancer screenings and diagnoses.

Undergraduate enrollment declined by 4% in the fall semester and first-year student bodies dropped by 16.1%.

The U.S. recorded more than 62,000 new cases of COVID-19, the highest since July as the virus spread rapidly around the country.

At a town hall, President Trump falsely said that the U.S. was “coming around the corner” in terms of the spread of COVID-19. Trump also said, “vaccines are coming soon and our economy is strong” despite devastating unemployment numbers.

Trump falsely cited a CDC study and said that 85% of people who wear masks get COVID-19. The study did not say this, it said that among patients who are already showing symptoms that prompted them to get tested that there was no statistic difference in masking wearing behavior between those who tested positive and those who tested negative.

Former Vice President Joe Biden said that Trump “missed enormous opportunities and kept saying things that weren't true” regarding his response to the pandemic.

October 16

Deaths from the virus in the U.S. were higher on a per-capita basis than 18 other high-income countries analyzed in a new *Journal of the American Medical Association* study.

Retail sales rose 1.9% in the month of September, a surprising jump greater than economists projected.

The CEO of Pfizer said the company would not apply for emergency authorization of its COVID-19 vaccine under development until the end of November.

Banking data showed that while the median checking account balance grew over the early summer with the receipt of stimulus checks, that had all but depleted by August as the supplemental unemployment benefits also expired.

The Indianapolis Colts became the latest NFL team to announce an outbreak of COVID-19 cases among its players and staff. They later announced that several tests were false positives, another indication of the struggling testing system.

A study of over 11,000 patients sponsored by the World Health Organization found that remdesivir, the only antiviral treatment authorized for COVID-19 in the U.S., did not reduce mortality rates.

Former Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ) received special access to Eli Lilly's monoclonal antibody treatment directly from the manufacturer while hospitalized with COVID-19 – despite the drug not being approved by the FDA for emergency use and thus not available to regular Americans. Christie admitted he was “wrong” for not wearing a mask at the Rose Garden event in which dozens who attended later contracted the virus.

The White House installed two political operatives at the CDC – neither with a public health background – to try to control the information the agency released about the pandemic to the public.

The U.S. surpassed 8 million cases of COVID-19.

The federal government's budget deficit reached a record \$3.1 trillion – the biggest one-year gap in American history.

1,000 current and former “disease detectives” called out the CDC for its politicization under the Trump administration in an open letter.

The Trump administration announced that it would contract with CVS and Walgreens to provide free COVID-19 vaccines once available to distribute to long-term care centers.

October 17

President Trump held large rallies with hundreds of people – many without masks – in Michigan and Wisconsin. Both states set new records for daily cases the day prior.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said he would consider an economic relief package if the House reached a “bipartisan agreement with the administration.”

October 18

A federal judge struck down a Trump administration plan to end food stamp benefits for 700,000 unemployed people.

Economists warned that consumers' credit quality could begin to worsen if an economic relief package was not reached.

Only two states – Missouri and Vermont – trended in the right direction and recorded more than a 10% improvement in new cases.

October 19

More than 6 million households missed their rent or mortgage payments in the month of September.

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) led a letter demanding access to free COVID-19 tests for all staff and members who work in the Capitol complex.

On a campaign call, President Trump called Dr. Anthony Fauci and other public health officials in the federal government “idiots” and said, “people are tired of COVID. People are saying, ‘Whatever, just leave us alone.’”

New [reporting](#) showed that Dr. Scott Atlas, Trump's newest adviser on coronavirus who he recruited from watching his commentary on Fox News, dashed efforts to expand testing, promoted conspiracy theories that suggested mask-wearing and social distancing were meaningless, and advocated for herd immunity to let the virus spread uncontrollably before a vaccine.

Out of 10,676 random tests in the New York City public school system since its reopening, only 18 were found to be positive.

The CDC newly issued guidelines that strongly recommended all passengers and workers on public transportation, planes, trains and buses wear masks to control the spread of COVID-19.

Global confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpassed 40,000,000 as countries around the world and several states began to impose or reimpose more stringent social distancing restrictions.

October 20

Stocks rose as investors expressed optimism that an economic relief deal would be reached on the final day of Speaker Pelosi's deadline before the November 3rd election. A deal seemed more likely than before as Secretary Steven Mnuchin conceded to many of Speaker Pelosi's terms, but it remained unlikely that legislative language could be put together in only two weeks.

Democrats and Republicans still remained divided on two key issues: funding for state and local governments and liability protections for schools, universities and businesses.

Cases were rising in more than half of the states, though some of that was explained by a rise in testing compared to the summer peak with a similar test positivity rate.

A CDC study found that the COVID-19 pandemic was responsible for 299,000 more deaths in the United States than a typical year, suggesting that the true death toll was higher than what was officially reported.

Reporting indicated that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) told his members in the Senate that he told the White House not to agree to a deal with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) on additional economic relief for COVID-19. He did so because he believed his members would not vote for a negotiated deal, despite tens of millions of Americans struggling.

Meanwhile, Speaker Pelosi sent a letter to colleagues indicating that progress had been made with Secretary Mnuchin and that she was sending over technical details to House committees.

The CDC issued a report that said COVID-19 patients had far worse disease progressions than severe flu patients.

October 21

The CDC found that the excess death rate was highest among 25-44-year-olds over the course of the pandemic – their rate was up 26.5% compared to previous years.

The Trump administration had yet to spend \$9 billion earmarked by Congress for testing because of the influence of Dr. Scott Atlas who was in the president's ear and was vehemently against expanding testing, which was counter to the advice of infectious disease experts.

A third surge of COVID-19 begun taking hold in many parts of the country. 16 states had more new daily cases in the prior week than in any other week stretch over the course of the pandemic.

The Trump White House was considering cutting millions of funds from the Department of Health and Human Services for everything from COVID-19 relief to HIV treatment to newborn screenings in Democratic-led cities that Trump deemed “anarchist jurisdictions.”

When asked by a Sinclair reporter if he could have done anything differently or had a do-over on handling the pandemic, President Trump said, “Not much. Look, it’s all over the world. You have a lot of great leaders, a lot of smart people. It’s all over the world. It came out of China. China should have stopped it.”

Lawmakers in the House and Senate began to hypothesize that major economic relief would most likely be passed after Election Day.

Disease transmission experts and state officials continued to push back against President Trump for holding large rallies in states in which COVID-19 cases were dangerously on the rise.

At a rally in North Carolina, Trump complained about news coverage of COVID-19: “All you hear is Covid, Covid. That’s all they put on, because they want to scare the hell out of everyone.”

Trump also repeated his false claim that the pandemic was “rounding the corner.” 62,000 Americans were newly infected with COVID-19 on this day alone.

October 22

A member of the White House coronavirus task force said it had been “quite some time” since Trump attended a meeting.

787,000 Americans newly filed for state unemployment benefits in the previous week, a slight drop from the week before that. 8.4 million Americans continued to collect unemployment benefits from the states.

Reports indicated that HHS Secretary Alex Azar was “infuriated” at the FDA and its commissioner Stephen Hahn for standing up to the White House in a debate over how to approve potential COVID-19 vaccines.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told reporters she and Secretary Steven Mnuchin were “almost there” on reaching a nearly \$2 trillion deal for economic relief – but the two sides remained divided on state and local funding and liability protections.

An analysis found that 21,000 Election Day polling locations had been closed ahead of the 2020 elections, a 20% drop across the country from four years prior, and a trend accelerated by the pandemic.

At the final presidential debate, President Trump repeated false claims that the experimental therapeutic he was given was a “cure” and that he was “immune.” He again lied that the pandemic was “going away,” blamed the U.S. response on China, and seemed to mock former Vice President Joe Biden as he expressed sympathy for the families of 223,000 lives lost. Trump also admitted that he did not want to engage in economic relief negotiations because doing so would bail out “Democrat” run states and localities.

With over 77,000 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, the U.S. reached a daily case record, topping the previous tally at the end of July.

October 23

More than 35,000 cases of COVID-19 had been identified at colleges and universities since the beginning of October.

The leading economic index rose 0.7% in September, after rising 1.4% in August and 2% in July – a sign of slowed down growth.

More than two dozen states reported increases in COVID-19 cases, and several states reported highest seven-day averages of new cases and highest single-day new case counts to date.

A deal still was not reached to provide economic relief for millions of Americans and businesses.

A new study found that universal mask wearing could prevent a staggering 130,000 lives lost between the time it was published and March 2021. On the flip side, the study estimated that there would be 500,000 U.S. deaths by that time with current social distancing measures in place.

Nearly 41,000 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 in the U.S., a 40% increase over the past month. 38 states saw increases in hospitalizations over the prior week.

Only two-thirds of Americans were working for the same employer in the month of September as they were in February, as the pandemic's economic toll took a big hit on the job market.

AstraZeneca resumed its clinical trial for a vaccine after halting due to safety concerns.

Experts said that though inequality had been surging for decades, the pandemic exacerbated it, and Black Americans, Hispanics, millennials, mothers and low-wage service industry workers were all disproportionately impacted.

The Department of Health and Human Services scrapped a Trump administration plan to provide early access to a COVID-19 vaccine to Santa Claus impersonators in exchange for promoting the benefits of such vaccine to the public. The agency also halted its entire \$250 million taxpayer-funded advertising campaign and was now under review.

October 24

At least five members of Vice President Mike Pence's inner circle contracted COVID-19, and the administration was reluctant to release such information if not for reporters surfacing these cases. Despite Pence's exposure, he continued to travel for the presidential campaign. His office said, "While Vice President Pence is considered a close contact with Mr. Short, in consultation with the White House Medical Unit, the vice president will maintain his schedule in accordance with the C.D.C. guidelines for essential personnel."

At a campaign rally, President Trump accused doctors, nurses and frontline healthcare workers of fabricating the death count and severity of COVID-19 to make money.

October 25

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said that the U.S. was "not going to control" the COVID-19 pandemic, but instead would focus on developing and distributing a vaccine as the virus spread.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the two sides still were not in agreement on a national testing plan, but she said she would work with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and President

Trump in the lame duck session even if Democrats lost the presidential election and failed to control the Senate.

On 60 Minutes, President Trump insisted again that the country was “rounding the corner” on the spread of the virus, despite record new daily cases this week. He said his administration had “done a very, very good job” and falsely stated that the increase in cases was because “we’re doing so much testing.”

The U.S. reached its highest 7-day average of COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, at 68,767. It topped the previous record in July.

October 26

President Trump tweeted “The Fake News Media is riding COVID, COVID, COVID, all the way to the Election. Losers!” Over 225,000 Americans had died from the virus.

The president of Fox News and several of the network’s leading anchors were advised to quarantine due to possible exposure to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19. The group were on a chartered flight to the debate in Nashville on October 22nd.

Colleges and universities slashed budgets as the American Council on Education said that the pandemic would cost an estimated \$120 billion in increased student, the implementation of containment measures, technology for virtual learning, and lost earnings from student housing and sports revenue.

The CDC found that 6% of all hospitalized patients with COVID-19 were health care workers and the majority were nurses. More than 4% of health care worker who were hospitalized died between March 1st and May 31st.

Stocks plummeted more than 2.5% over the course of the day as the pandemic raged on and economic relief negotiations still had not reached a deal. It was the worst day for the markets in a month.

The cities of Newark, New Jersey and El Paso, Texas implemented curfews for businesses and residents, respectively, to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Eli Lilly said it would stop testing one of its experimental monoclonal antibody treatments in hospitalized patients after a review of data showed it was not helping them.

The Senate confirmed Amy Coney Barret to the United States Supreme Court, just 8 days before the presidential and senate elections and after 60 million Americans had already cast their ballot. They had yet to hold a vote on the HEROES Act, and McConnell was largely absent from negotiations on COVID-19 relief.

The White House held an outdoor event for the swearing in of Amy Coney Barrett – despite the previous Rose Garden event for her nomination that lead to dozens of COVID-19 cases, including the president himself. This time guests were required to wear masks.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell adjourned the Senate for two weeks after the Supreme Court confirmation vote – effectively ending hopes of an economic relief package before the election.

October 27

The Trump administration was planning a rule to cover out-of-pocket costs for COVID-19 vaccines for millions of Americans who received healthcare coverage through Medicare or Medicaid.

Nearly 500,000 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in just the prior week. The seven-day average of new cases was at its highest level since the beginning of the pandemic.

A CNN [analysis](#) found that Trump had made a variation of the false claim that the virus would “disappear” or was disappearing at least 38 times in public.

With still a week remaining before Election Day, 47% of the entire 2016 electorate had already voted, with millions more Americans using vote-by-mail and early voting options due to the pandemic.

Experts warned that increased restrictions in nursing homes might hinder residents' ability to vote.

The CEO of Pfizer said it would not deliver results of its vaccine by the end of October, effectively ruling out the possibility that an announcement would be made before the November 3rd election.

Only three counties in the entire country had not yet reported a case of COVID-19.

The U.S. confirmed more than 500,000 new cases of COVID-19 in the last week alone, a record. It took nearly 3 months to confirm the first 500,000 cases.

The White House issued a press release regarding its first-term accomplishments in science and technology and included was a line item, “ENDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.”

At the final game of the World Series, a player on the Dodgers was pulled from the game after seven innings after a positive COVID-19 result was reported during the game.

October 28

COVID-19 cases surged 46% and hospitals began to be strained as many in the Northeast were in the beginning months of the pandemic.

GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi pledged to provide 200 million doses of a potential vaccine to an international coalition set up to give countries equal access to vaccines. The pharmaceutical companies hope to produce one billion doses in 2021.

A federal judge gave the deadline of today for Postmaster General Louis DeJoy to immediately reverse changes to the USPS that limited mail collection ahead of the November 3rd election.

Despite Trump's repeated false claims on the campaign trail, the U.S. had more cases and deaths per capita than any other major country in Europe outside of Spain and Belgium.

As the COVID-19 outbreak worsened in Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin was forced to cancel a college football game due to an outbreak in their program.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said the U.S. was “not in a good place” as a country with COVID-19. He added that the country was “going in the wrong direction.”

October 29

The economy grew 7.4% in the third quarter, or 33.1% on an annualized basis. GDP was still below pre-pandemic levels and over 750,000 Americans newly filed for state unemployment benefits in the previous week. The stock market continued to plummet for the fifth straight day.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin that detailed all of the areas that the two sides were apart on in relief negotiations, including testing and tracing, treatment, state and local funding, schools, child care, earned income and child tax credits, unemployment insurance, and more. Both the House and the Senate were out of session until after the November 3rd election.

Further reporting indicated that \$300 million in taxpayer funds at HHS was politically motivated, with one HHS staffer proposing that the ad campaign be under the theme, "Helping the President will Help the Country."

Researchers at NYU Langone Health found that the death rate of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 dropped from 30% in March to 3% by the end of June in their hospital system as doctors and scientists learned much more about potential effective treatments.

United Airlines announced a pilot to test passengers on select flights from Newark Liberty International Airport to Heathrow Airport in London as part of a study to convince regulators that international travel might be safe to reopen.

Law enforcement officials warned that Russian hackers were targeting hundreds of American hospitals in cyberattacks with the goal of holding data hostage in exchange for ransom payments.

The U.S. again surpassed a daily new case record as 90,000 new cases were reported.

October 30

Reports indicated that Vice President Mike Pence, who was still the head of the White House coronavirus task force, had not attended planning calls for addressing COVID-19 for over a month.

New cases were on the rise in 42 states as the virus surpassed 9 million cases in the United States.

U.S. stocks were on track to close at their worst weekly decline since March.

The Congressional Oversight [report](#) of the Trump administration's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic said it was "among the worst failures of leadership in American history." The panel found that 9 million Americans had yet to receive their Economic Impact payments that Congress approved. The lack of a testing regiment was cited as a major reason for the spread of the virus in the U.S. as well as Trump's continued downplaying of the pandemic.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 hit Democratic-leaning places harder than Republican-leaning ones in terms of unemployment according to a new analysis.

At a campaign rally in Michigan, President Trump again repeated his baseless lie that "our doctors get more money if someone dies from COVID" to suggest that health care workers were overcounting deaths from the virus.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell defied Speaker Nancy Pelosi's plan to pass economic relief during the lame duck session, instead saying, "I think that'll be something we'll need to do right at the beginning of the year."

The U.S. again reached a new record of virus cases with over 99,000 infections on this day alone – a global record for any country.

October 31

COVID-19 was infecting the populations of the remote Dakotas worse than it had the densely populated Northeastern states at the beginning of the pandemic in the spring. Gov. Kristi Noem (R-SD) said that "those who don't want to wear a mask shouldn't be shamed into wearing one."

A Stanford study found that 18 Trump campaign rallies, which often flew in the face of CDC and local guidelines, led to 30,000 cases of COVID-19 around the country and 700 deaths.

The death toll of the virus surpassed 230,000 in the United States.

November 2020

November 1

Trump's top adviser on the pandemic and advocate for herd immunity, Dr. Scott Atlas, did an interview with Russia Today (RT) – a registered foreign agent and state media arm of the Kremlin – and claimed to not know the misguided nature of taking that interview a U.S. government official.

At a campaign rally, Trump egged the crowd on and suggested he might fire Dr. Anthony Fauci. Dr. Fauci said that the United States "could not possibly be positioned more poorly" as it headed toward the winter months.

Senior campaign adviser to Trump, Jason Miller, refused to walk back Trump's false claims that doctors were overstating COVID-19 cases and deaths to profit.

November 2

There was little hope for a post-election deal on economic relief as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) seemed unwilling to negotiate in the forthcoming lame duck session.

Health officials warned the nation of a significant undercount of cases as states were varied in how they reported out rapid antigen tests that were less able than PCR tests to detect low levels of the virus.

Nearly 50,000 Americans were hospitalized with COVID-19. Countries in Europe began new shutdowns to curb the rapidly spreading virus overseas.

Scientists began to understand the often-reported long-term effects in patients who recovered from COVID-19.

The White House was reported to be planning an indoor election party on the State floor with several hundred people, though there would be a testing requirement put in place.

A new [report](#) found that HHS relaxed its oversight during the early months of the pandemic of an inaccurate test despite being warned of concerns.

A CDC study found that pregnant women infected with COVID-19 were more likely to need intensive care and be subject to severe illness.

Dr. Deborah Birx sent a private memo to the Trump White House and said that the nation was entering the most concerning and most deadly phase of this pandemic” and that the administration’s response should focus less on preventing lockdowns and more on “an aggressive balanced approach” which she deemed was “not being implemented.”

November 3

A study found that the end of the \$600-per-week enhanced unemployment benefits at the end of July pushed more households to the brink of financial ruin as 50% to 100% more Americans reported an increase in “financial fragility.”

Despite the major obstacle of the COVID-19 pandemic and legal assault by the Trump campaign and Republicans to cast doubt on mail-in ballots, close polling places and reduce the number of secure drop boxes, the United States 2020 elections saw record turnout with XXX million Americans voting.

As the grim backdrop of the presidential and other elections, the U.S. faced a death toll of over 231,000 from COVID-19, over 9 million confirmed cases and an 8% unemployment rate. Political analysts and polling largely concluded that the pandemic was top-of-mind for most voters. For many, the election was a referendum on Trump’s handling of the crisis that upended life in America.

On Election Day and throughout the early voting period, state and local election officials took various precautions to keep polling locations safe, including asking voters to bring their own pens, wiping down voting machines before and after each use, requiring masks and placing social distance markers for voters.

The CDC said that people who tested positive for COVID-19 may vote in person so long as they wear a mask, stay at least six feet away from others and sanitize their hands before and after voting. It was also recommended that those infected let their poll workers know when arriving to vote.

When asked by reporters his thoughts on COVID-19, President Trump repeated his false claim: “I say it and I say it proudly: we are rounding the corner.”

Reports indicates that hospitals were competing for nurses as the virus surged and some experience nurses, tired and frustrated at the lack of public adherence to precautions, were dropping out of the field.

Early exit polls showed that voters who named the COVID-19 pandemic as the most pressing issue favored Joe Biden for president significantly over Donald Trump, while those who named the economy and jobs as the most important issue broke to Trump overwhelmingly.

November 4

With President Trump still at the helm until January 20th, though it remained uncertain if he would be elected to a second term, health experts feared the worst as winter approached and Trump’s volatility as well as undermining of health professionals on guidelines to keep Americans safe. Early Wednesday morning, Trump prematurely declared victory in the presidential race despite millions of outstanding mail ballots to be counted as his legal team continued its assault on counting those legal votes.

Trump had largely shuttered the White House coronavirus task Force and doubled down on anti-science conspiracy theories and lies that the virus was “rounding the corner” as the death toll soared to close to 250,000.

Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota and Oklahoma all reported record high hospitalizations in the past week.

After being hit hard in the beginning months of the pandemic and staving off peaks over the summer, several Northeastern states were seeing surges in the virus. Connecticut, Maine and Rhode Island all reported new daily case records in the past week.

The U.S. private sector added 365,000 jobs in the month of October, a slower pace of hiring than September and below expectations.

After months of stalling and outright refusing negotiations, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he would like to get an economic relief done by the end of the year.

107,000 Americans contracted COVID-19 on this day alone, smashing the previous daily record and for the first time surpassing 100,000 on a single day.

November 5

750,000 Americans newly filed for state unemployment benefits in the previous week, virtually no change from the week prior. Another 363,000 filed for federal unemployment benefits.

More than 50,000 Americans were hospitalized with COVID-19 as new daily cases continued to hit records in several states – this was a 64% increase in a month.

A *New York Times* [analysis](#) found that many healthcare providers in unrelated fields were charging patients surprise “COVID fees” to make up for costs associated with personal protective equipment or even lost revenue.

An apartment company owned partly by senior White House adviser Jared Kushner, Westminster Management, submitted hundreds of eviction filings in court against tenants with past due rent during the COVID-19 pandemic, despite protections from evictions in state and federal moratoriums.

The U.S. surpassed another record of new daily cases with 121,000 infections on this day alone.

November 6

The U.S. economy added 638,000 jobs in the month of October and the unemployment rate fell from 7.9% to 6.9%. It was a slight downtick from the 672,000 jobs added in September.

There were still over 11 million unemployed Americans despite the modest job gains, and 3.6 million Americans were out of work for 27 weeks or more.

The Federal Reserve warned that the ongoing coronavirus pandemic posed major considerable risks for the U.S. economy despite the modest job gains and urged lawmakers to move forward with an additional economic relief bill.

In only the first week of November, at least 20 states reported record highs of new daily cases.

As former Vice President Joe Biden neared officially claiming 270 Electoral Votes and becoming President-Elect of the United States, the approach to tackling COVID-19 from the top of the federal government was expected to change dramatically with a new administration in January. Experts warned of further destruction from the Trump administration in the potential lame duck period.

A CDC review found that the agency knew early COVID-19 test kits in produced in February were flawed but released them to public labs anyway.

November 7

After clinching the state of Pennsylvania, former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris were announced the winners of the 2020 election. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, a record number of Americans voted, as most states expanded voting options and tens of millions voted absentee by mail – with a heavy skew to Biden/Harris. By many accounts, Trump's handling of the virus was a key factor in his failed reelection effort.

In major cities, hundreds of thousands of Americans flooded the streets to celebrate the Biden/Harris victory. The vast majority were wearing masks, though social distancing was difficult to come by.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and several other White House officials tested positive for COVID-19. It was the latest virus outbreak in the White House, and again the administration attempted to conceal it from the public. Meadows had attended the Trump campaign Election Night party at the White House on November 3rd and was spotted not wearing a mask.

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), a top Trump ally, also announced he had contracted COVID-19.

At his acceptance speech, President-elect Biden made clear his top priority was fighting the virus: "We cannot repair the economy, restore our vitality, or relish life's most precious moments — hugging a grandchild, birthdays, weddings, graduations, all the moments that matter most to us — until we get this virus under control. ... On Monday, I will name a group of leading scientists and experts as transition advisers to help take the Biden-Harris Covid plan and convert it into an action blueprint that starts on Jan. 20, 2021."

The U.S. again broke a single-day record of new cases with over 126,000 reported.

November 8

The Trump administration made no indication that they would cooperate with the incoming Biden administration to smoothly transition the response to COVID-19.

The Biden/Harris transition team made public its transition website, including its day-1 priorities to [address COVID-19](#).

Global cases of COVID-19 surpassed 50 million.

Gov. Gary Herbert (R-UT) announced a new state of emergency for "the alarming rate of COVID infections" in Utah, including a statewide mask mandate and a limit on social gatherings to "household-only" for two weeks.

November 9

President-elect Biden began appointing experts to his coronavirus advisory panel, including Dr. Rick Bright, a former top vaccine official in the Trump administration who warned the current administration was not doing enough to procure equipment and control the disease. Biden pledged to rebuild supplies of protective gear, increase testing and contact tracing, rapidly distribute vaccines that are made free to the public, and reengage with the World Health Organization on a global effort to fight the virus.

The co-chairs of Biden's advisory board on COVID-19, David Kessler, Vivek Murthy and Macella Nunez-Smith briefed the President-elect and Vice President-elect on the virus.

The drug company Pfizer announced that its COVID-19 vaccine trial along with German company BioNTech had shown early results that their vaccine was over 90% effective in preventing contraction of the virus in trial volunteers who had no prior infection, and no safety concerns had been observed. Pfizer said it could prepare 15 to 20 million doses by the end of the year and planned to ask the FDA for emergency authorization by the third week of November, when half of the individuals in their study had been observed for any safety issues for at least two months after their second dose.

A top Pfizer official distanced the company from the Trump administration's Operation Warp Speed, saying they were never a part of it and had not taken any federal money for research and development.

Stocks soared with the news of Pfizer announcement and optimism about the Biden/Harris administration and its plans to control the virus. The S&P 500 was on track for record gains.

The U.S. was on track to hit nearly 1 million new cases per week by the end of the year. For the first time, the U.S. averaged 100,000 daily new cases as the virus spread out of control.

Congress renewed its focus on much-needed economic relief for the virus. The Biden transition team was set to discuss plans with Democrats in Congress.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson tested positive for COVID-19. He also attended the Election Night party at the White House.

The United States surpassed 10 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 – the greatest number in the world and 1.5 million more than the second-highest countrywide case count in India.

For the sixth day in a row, the U.S. reported more than 100,000 new daily cases.

The FDA granted emergency authorization to Eli Lilly for its antibody treatment meant to prevent serious illness in newly infected patients before hospitalization. The treatment was used on former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

November 10

Public health experts warned Americans to stay home and not travel to avoid a post-Thanksgiving Day spike in the virus. Any gatherings should be limited in scale and held outdoors.

President-elect Biden called on all Americans to wear masks as outlined by CDC guidelines. He said he would work with governors to issue mask mandates as well as local officials around the country.



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Several states and localities announced new virus-related restrictions as cases soared, including closing restaurant and bar services after hours and implementing curfews.

State health officials said they were “daunted” and “overwhelmed” according to [reporting](#) at the prospect of distributing the promising COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer. The vaccine necessitated strict storing requirements at temperatures much colder than freezers in doctors’ offices, pharmacies and clinics.

Oral arguments began before the Supreme Court in *Texas v. California*, a constitutional challenge to the Affordable Care Act that would strip at least 20 million Americans of their health care during a pandemic if ruled in the Republicans’ favor. Early indications showed that key Justices were in favor of keeping the law intact.

A new study in *Nature* using cellphone mobility data from major cities in the spring showed that indoor venues, including restaurants, gyms and cafes accounted for 8 in 10 new COVID-19 infections at that time.

For the seventh straight day, there were over 100,000 new COVID-19 cases across the United States. The country set another record, with 139,000 confirmed cases.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) continued to dampen the need for economic relief, dashing hopes of a deal in the lame duck session: “We need to think about, if we’re going to come up with a bipartisan package here, about what size is appropriate. It seems to me that snag that hung us up for months is still there. I don’t think the current situation demands a multitrillion-dollar package. So I think it should be highly targeted, very similar to what I put on the floor both in October and September.”

The CDC said that wearing masks benefits those who wear them in addition to its previous guidance that it protects others around them: “Individual benefit increases with increasing community mask use.”

November 11

With over 61,000 hospitalizations, the U.S. had a record number of patients in the hospital with COVID-19. State and local officials began to warn of critical shortages of staff and supplies to treat patients.

Cities across the country modified their typical Veterans Day commemorations with virtual and limited in-person events.

Over 1 million people in the U.S. were infected with COVID-19 since Halloween alone.

Experts warned that while a safe and effective vaccine is crucial, it would take many months to set up the infrastructure to deliver it to enough people to be able to lift virus-related restrictions.

President Trump made his first public appearance in six days to commemorate Veterans Day. He said little about the virus in the previous days, other than to express outrage that the Pfizer vaccine news was not announced until after the election.

The Strategic National Stockpile – which the administration said they hoped to stock with 300 million N95 masks by winter – had only 115 million.

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Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) who took a highly public role in combating COVID-19 in the early months of the pandemic, became the latest governor to announce new restrictions in their state. New York would limit private indoor and outdoor gatherings to 10 people and bars, restaurants and gyms would have a curfew to close.

Brian Jack, the White House political director, became the fourth top official to test positive for COVID-19 after attending the Trump campaign's election night party indoors with a few hundred people at the White House.

The U.S. again surpassed a new daily record case count with over 140,000 new infections. Current hospitalizations broke the previous day's record by 3,400.

Texas became the first state to surpass 1 million COVID-19 cases – more than almost every other country besides the top 10 most impacted countries.

November 12

It took a month to double hospitalizations in the U.S. It took only a week to jump from 100,000 new daily cases to 145,000. More than 1,000 Americans were dying from the virus each day.

723,000 Americans filed for state unemployment benefits in the prior week and an additional 298,000 filed for federal pandemic unemployment benefits. While the levels were slightly down from the week prior, joblessness remained well above pre-pandemic levels and more sustained than previous economic recessions.

Because of the Trump administration's refusal to begin the transition, as indicated by federal statutes, the Biden transition team legally could not speak to officials at the FDA, CDC and NIH to be prepared to tackle COVID-19 in the new administration.

The White House and congressional Republicans looked to rush through rules and legislation in the lame duck session, including a potential executive order that would give COVID-19 relief money to parents in public school districts to use for private or parochial schools. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell again rebuffed a comprehensive economic relief package and instead said he would push for "a highly targeted" bill.

Trump campaign adviser Corey Lewandowski, who also attended the White House election night party, tested positive for COVID-19.

For the fourth straight day, the U.S. set a new daily case record. 160,000 Americans were infected with COVID-19 and hospitalizations were on the rise.

California became the second state after Texas to surpass 1 million confirmed cases.

November 13

The New York Fed President, John Williams, said the economy was still in a "deep hole" and the rise in cases could ultimately slow economic growth.

COVID-19 cases were on the rise in 46 states around the country. Governors continued to take stronger stances, and many urged their residents to stay home and avoid nonessential travel.

At least 30 members of the Secret Service tested positive for COVID-19, an outbreak among its uniformed officer division. Another 100 were in quarantine for possible exposure due to Trump's campaign travel.

Dr. Fauci said that since the baseline number of infections never fell to a controllable level around the U.S., the virus was able to spread rapidly as the weather cooled and people moved work, business and life indoors. He urged Americans to be incredibly cautious if planning to gather for Thanksgiving, including by wearing masks, or ideally getting tested and receiving a negative result before gathering.

School systems around the country, including Indianapolis, Philadelphia and the suburbs of Minneapolis abandoned in-person classes as the virus spread. New York City said it would close schools if the case positivity rate went above 3%.

Microsoft announced that Russia and North Korean hackers backed by those governments had attempted to breach seven high-profile companies that were working to develop vaccines.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that COVID-19 relief was “a red alert” and “an emergency of the highest magnitude.”

The head of the Trump administration’s vaccine program said that 20 million people could be vaccinated against COVID-19 in December. At a press conference that included multiple false claims, President Trump said, “this administration will not be going to a lockdown.”

November 14

President Trump threatened to withhold a vaccine from New York state for political reasons.

North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum (R-ND) announced a month-long mask mandate for indoor businesses and public settings and said that “the era of ‘individualistic responsibility’ has ended.”

November 15

According to one senior administration official, President Trump had not attended a coronavirus task force meeting for his own administration in at least five months.

Admiral Brett Giroir, when asked about the many Americans who refuse to wear masks said, “We all have to communicate very clearly that the science is clear, the evidence is overwhelming, whether you want to look at microbiological data or you want to look at epidemiology, city by city, state by state, country by country, that masks do work. They’re highly protective against you spreading it to someone else, and we also know that it provides you protection from getting it from someone else.”

The United States surpassed 11 million confirmed cases of COVID-19. It took only 6 days to surge from 10 million to 11 million. The growth of the virus was exponential.

November 16

Moderna announced that early data from its clinical trial demonstrated that its vaccine was 94.5% effective – another dose of good news that buoyed the stock market. But health experts again warned that a vaccine would not be widely available until at least the spring of 2021. Moderna had a \$1.5B contract with the U.S. to produce 100 million doses of its vaccine once approved.

Dr. Fauci warned that the Trump administration's refusal to acknowledge election defeat and began the transition of power to the incoming Biden administration would hurt the country's pandemic response and even potentially slow the rollout of vaccines: "The vaccines are effective. We want to get it approved as quickly as we possibly can. We want to get doses to people starting in December, and then we want to really get the ball rolling as we get into" the first few months of next year ... "We want a smooth process for that. And the way you do that is by essentially having the two groups speak to each other and exchange information."

President-elect Joe Biden echoed Fauci's sentiment and warned that "more people may die" if President Trump did not come to the table to coordinate planning for the distribution of vaccines when they become available.

Congress returned to session after the November 3rd elections and again COVID-19 relief was on the table as millions of Americans faced the potential loss of unemployment benefits and evictions as key programs were set to expire January 1st.

New data showed that virus cases surged after provisions from the CARES Act, including small business loans, expired or were exhausted.

Tourism in New York City, the largest city in the U.S. by GDP, was on track to potentially not recover by 2025.

Airlines and other businesses began making cuts to operations as the virus rapidly spread. American Airlines cut several flight paths, grocery store chains began to limit the sale of high-demand items to individuals, and Costco removed its exemption for medical reasons to not wear a mask by requiring all shoppers and employees at all locations to wear masks in-store.

More states initiated virus-related restrictions, including Gov. Kim Reynolds (R-IA) who reversed her stance and announced a mask mandate and Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-CA), who said that the state was "pulling the emergency brake" on its reopening.

November 17

The following programs were set to expire in by the end of the calendar year, and the White House and Congress were largely silent on passing another round of economic relief: the additional unemployed compensation, the federal pandemic unemployment assistance, the eviction moratorium, state and local funding, 2020 rebate checks, student loan forbearance, small business debt relief, charitable deduction limits, the exclusion of employer payments of student loans, the refundable tax credit for required paid sick leave, the tax credit for family and sick leave for self-employed individuals, the payment delay for employer payroll taxes, and other provisions.

Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) announced he would participate in a clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine as an effort to increase public trust in the safety of a potential vaccine.

U.S. retail sales increased moderately in the month of October by 0.3%, the sixth straight month of positive gains but below expectations.

Pfizer announced that it would work with four states (New Mexico, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Texas) to develop plans around distributing and administering its vaccine before it is authorized.

A new [analysis](#) found that 300 companies that received loans from the Paycheck Protection Program had filed for bankruptcy, indicating that the government funds were not enough. Those companies employ 23,400 workers.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said that the U.S. needed “a uniform approach” to tackling the pandemic instead of the “disjointed” response in the states that was underway for months under the Trump administration.

Gov. Mike DeWine (R-OH) announced a statewide curfew from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. for three weeks beginning November 19th.

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), the oldest Republican member of the Senate at 87 years old and third in line for the presidency as President pro tempore of the Senate tested positive for COVID-19. At least 80 members of Congress had been infected or come into contact with a known infection since the outset of the pandemic.

Vice President Mike Pence assured governors that the federal government had enough hospital beds and equipment on reserve to deploy for the surge in hospitalizations.

November 18

Pfizer announced its complete results – the first from a late-stage clinical trial – and demonstrated that its vaccine was 95% effective and safe with no serious side effects. It was protective against mild and severe forms of COVID-19 and 94% effective in older adults. The company said it would apply for FDA emergency authorization “within days.”

The FDA authorized for emergency use the first rapid COVID-19 test that can be conducted and produce results at home. The at-home tested developed by Lucira required a prescription from a health care provider.

A new report from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association warned that children were on pace to miss nine million doses of vaccines for measles, polio and other infectious diseases as routine visits dropped off during the pandemic.

The Trump administration canceled its plans to launch an ad campaign around COVID-19 with celebrities as part of a \$300 million taxpayer-funded communications program at HHS.

State and local health officials expressed concern about their logistical capacity to distribute a vaccine by the end of the year.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said that the administration would take a backseat on a potential economic relief bill during the lame duck session and leave it to the House and Senate.

New York City, home to the nation’s largest school system, closed in-person learning after eight weeks.

The death toll due to COVID-19 in the United States surpassed 250,000. President Donald Trump remained silent.

November 19

743,000 Americans newly filed for state unemployment benefits in the prior week, an uptick from the week before that.

As new daily cases soared to nearly 200,000, hospitals and healthcare workers were completely overwhelmed. 77,000 Americans were hospitalized with the virus and ICUs around the country were at capacity.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that he hoped Congress would reallocate \$580 billion of federal funds into the economy. He, however, said he would let key Federal Reserve Bank lending programs expire by the end of the year.

A top Pentagon official tested positive for COVID-19, and the Department of Defense said it would deploy contact tracing for any individuals retired Brigadier Gen. Anthony Tata had come into contact with.

The CDC urged Americans to not travel and visit family for Thanksgiving in an effort to slow the spread of the virus.

The White House coronavirus taskforce made a public appearance for the first time in months. Dr. Deborah Birx urged Americans to “be vigilant in this moment” while Vice President Mike Pence said that the country “had never been more prepared to combat this virus than we are today” and that “the American people know what to do.” The Vice President did not wear a mask.

Cases soared to over 187,000 on this day alone as they rose in 47 states – a single-day record.

November 20

Pfizer and BioNTech officially applied for emergency-use authorization from the FDA for its vaccine that had demonstrated 95% effectiveness in a late-stage clinical trial.

80,000 Americans were hospitalized with the virus – the highest number since the start of the pandemic. A study found that COVID-19 was the nation’s third-leading cause of death, behind only heart disease and cancer.

Congress ended the week no closer to an economic relief deal before a week-long Thanksgiving recess. More than 12 million Americans were still unemployed and would face a loss of benefits by the end of the year as two key programs from the CARES Act were set to expire.

Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL) announced he tested positive for COVID-19. Special assistant to the president, Andrew Giuliani, also tested positive.

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany, in a combative press conference, said that the administration expected 40 million vaccine doses to be available by the end of the year for 20 million Americans.

JPMorgan Chase became the first bank to warn that the economy would shrink in the first quarter of 2021 as the pandemic would worsen and a vaccine would likely not be widely available yet.

Nearly 200,000 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in the United States – a record.

November 21

Donald Trump Jr., the president's oldest son was revealed to have tested positive for COVID-19. He said he was "totally asymptomatic." It was the latest positive case among the First Family.

Second Lady Karen Pence sent an invitation to Congressional Club members for a "Christmas Craft" in December despite CDC warnings to not gather for the holidays. The invitation made no mention of masks.

November 22

Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R – GA) who was on the ballot in a January runoff, tested positive – then tested negative – for COVID-19. She self-isolated after the positive test.

Dr. Anthony Fauci pleaded with Americans on the Sunday morning news shows to not travel for the Thanksgiving holiday. But AAA estimated that 50 million people would be traveling on the roads and through airports over the holiday this year.

84,000 people were in U.S. hospitals with COVID-19. Over 1,000 hospitals across all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico reported critical staff shortages as ICUs around the country turned into COVID-19 wards.

COVID-19 cases surpassed 12 million, taking only 6 days to jump from 11 million to 12 million. 47 states – all besides Hawaii, Maine and Vermont – were red zone risks for transmission of the disease.

Two more members of Congress tested positive for COVID-19, throwing in-person sessions for the remaining of the year into question.

More than 1 million travelers were screened at airports by the Transportation Security Administration – the highest total for any day since March.

November 23

AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford announced that their late-stage clinical trial showed that their COVID-19 vaccine under development was up to 90% effective – the third vaccine that showed promising efficacy and safety.

Weekly COVID-19 cases in Florida had tripled since the end of September when Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) signed an executive order, allowing bars and restaurants to operate at 100% capacity.

President-elect Joe Biden publicly threw his support behind House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) in negotiations with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) for an economic relief bill. Pelosi was pushing for a \$1 trillion package while McConnell was closer to \$500 billion.

The private sector backed a \$50 million campaign by The Ad Council, a nonprofit advertising group, to persuade skeptical Americans to eventually obtain a COVID-19 vaccine.

Emily Murphy, the administrator of the General Services Administration, issued a letter of ascertainment nearly three weeks after the election declaring Joe Biden and Kamala Harris the apparent winners, allowing the formal transition to take place. The incoming Biden-Harris administration made clear that tackling COVID-19 was their priority.

November 24

Though some of the hardest-hit states began to report slight downticks in the number of new daily cases, the potential for Thanksgiving travel and gatherings posed a threat to that trend. Any rise in cases would most likely overburden hospital systems and lead to an even greater spike in illness and death over the holidays.

New studies suggested that an early mutation in the virus at the beginning of the pandemic made it more difficult to stop the spread. The variant eventually displaced other variants around the world.

The seven-day average new daily case count was 173,000 – the highest since the beginning of the pandemic. Nine states from California to Vermont reported double the new cases they did the previous week.

Despite the raging pandemic, U.S. stocks rallied to record highs as the Dow reached 30,000 for the first time – buoyed by the Biden transition and retail sales.

In an effort to curb Thanksgiving gatherings, Gov. Tom Wolf (D-PA) implemented a one-night ban of alcohol sales at liquor stores, bars and restaurants in Pennsylvania.

The CDC issued new guidance for state and local health departments to focus mostly on contact tracing those who tested positive for the virus within the past six days and at the greatest risk of infecting others as new cases spiraled out of control.

The United States reported over 2,200 virus-related deaths – the highest single day total since the beginning of May.

November 25

The federal government said it planned to send out 6.4 million doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine by mid-December – primarily to front-line healthcare workers.

The CDC was reported to finalize recommendations to shorten the length of quarantines for those potentially exposed to the virus between seven and 10 days instead of 14.

827,000 Americans filed first-time claims for unemployment benefits in the prior week before seasonal adjustments, an uptick from the week before that. 312,000 Americans filed for the federal unemployment assistance program.

A nationwide survey found that 27% of Americans planned to dine with people outside of their household for Thanksgiving with a partisan skew toward Republicans.

Air and car travel was collectively expected to dip 10% on Thanksgiving compared with last year, the largest drop since the 2008 recession.

Another member of President Trump's campaign legal team, Boris Epshteyn, tested positive for COVID-19.

For the first time since the pandemic took hold of the U.S., the nation reported over one million new cases in each of the two previous weeks.

One in eight Americans reported that they sometimes or often didn't have enough food to eat in the past week – or nearly 26 million adults.

The Supreme Court handed down a 5-4 ruling to bar New York state from reinstating limits on religious gatherings to curb the spread of COVID-19.

November 26

With millions of Americans spending the holiday home alone or only with those who they lived with, Thanksgiving in 2020 looked unlike any other year. The death toll of the virus had already surpassed 260,000.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, an annual tradition since 1924, was pared down this year, featuring fewer balloons and floats and only covering a single block instead of the usual 2.5 mile stretch.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) criticized the Supreme Court's ruling: "You have a different court, and I think that was the statement that the court was making."

The food supply chain began to bend under the pressure of the spiraling pandemic as grocery stores began putting limits on what shoppers could purchase on high-demand items.

Delta Air Lines and Alitalia announced they would launch "quarantine free" flights between the U.S. and Italy, the first flight travel path between the U.S. and Europe since the start of the pandemic.

For the 24th straight day, new daily cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. surpassed 100,000.

November 27

COVID-19-related hospitalizations surpassed 90,000 for the first time.

Black Friday looked like no other previous in history, with the pandemic driving most Americans to shop online or earlier in the holiday season.

The reigning NFL MVP, Lamar Jackson of the Baltimore Ravens, tested positive for the virus after an outbreak within his team.

A *New York Times* analysis of federal and state health data found that 40% of all COVID-19 deaths in the country were among nursing home residents and staff.

Virus cases in the U.S. surpassed 13 million. It was the fourth time in November a million cases were added.

For that very reason, the numbers were artificially high on Friday, when many states reported two days' worth of data. That pushed the country past 200,000 cases in a single day for the first time, with more than 203,000 reported as of late Friday night, along with more than 1,400 deaths.

November 28

New data showed that public school enrollment dropped 4% from the prior years as parents with means made the choice to enroll their children in private schools that often were not subject to remote learning orders.

Amazon hired 427,300 employees in the 10 months of the pandemic to keep up with surge in online shopping.

November 29

Medicaid enrollment was projected to jump 8.2% for the fiscal year ending in 2021 as more Americans qualified based on income. State spending on the programs would jump 8.4%

Hospitalizations hit a record high again, with over 93,000 Americans in the hospital with COVID-19.

Officials urged Americans who traveled for Thanksgiving get tested after the holiday. Between 800,000 and 1 million passengers were screened by the TSA at airports in the days leading up to and following the holiday.

November 30

Moderna became the second pharmaceutical company to announce it would seek emergency use authorization from the FDA for its vaccine. New data found that its vaccine was 94.1% effective.

The Trump administration made clear they would leave the distribution of vaccines largely to states. While most agreed that the country's 21 million health care workers should receive a vaccine first, there was little consensus on how to build out distribution from there.

New data showed that the pandemic drove half as many people as 2019 to shop in stores on Black Friday while online sales grew 22% year-over-year.

In addition to COVID-19 economic relief, Congress grappled with government funding that was set to expire at the end of the year.

A bipartisan group of Senators revived talks on economic relief for the lame duck session.

Over 4.25 million cases of COVID-19 were added in the United States in the month of November alone. The next highest total – 1,940,522 in October.

Despite the raging pandemic, stocks closed their best month since April, buoyed by promising vaccine news and the stability of the incoming Biden administration.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) implemented emergency measures for hospitals in the state as hospitalizations tripled in the month of November. Cuomo's move came after New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio abruptly announced he would reopen public elementary schools.

Dr. Scott Atlas, President Trump's controversial adviser on COVID-19 resigned. He advocated for herd immunity without a vaccine.

December 2020

December 1

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows summoned FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn to the White House to inquire why the FDA had not provided emergency use authorization for Pfizer's vaccine. The agency said that they were in the process of reviewing "thousands of pages of technical information" and awaiting review from an outside advisory panel on December 11th.

From California to Rhode Island, states and localities across the country implemented new or brought back previous virus-related restrictions as cases, hospitalizations and deaths spiked.

A consensus began to emerge that in-person schooling for younger, elementary children was safer than for older high school children as more districts around the country made the shift. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin met for the first time since October 26th to discuss economic relief. Members of a bipartisan groups of lawmakers met to unveil their own \$1 trillion bill.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said that there would not be a substantive discussion about an additional COVID-19 relief package until the following Congress “depending on what the new administration wants to pursue.”

CDC advisers voted on who would be first to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. They formally voted 13-1 that health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities – about 24 million people – be prioritized across the country.

December 2

The U.K. became the first Western country to approve a COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech, beating the United States. The FDA was reviewing both the Pfizer vaccine and the candidate from Moderna.

CDC Director Robert Redfield issued a stark warning: “December and January and February are going to be rough times. I actually believe they’re going to be the most difficult time in the public health history of this nation. Largely because of the stress that it’s going to put on our health care system.”

A lawsuit in California said that the state had failed Black and Latino students by denying free and equal education with a lack of equipment, support and oversight for remote learning.

The CDC shortened its recommended quarantine period for those exposed to COVID-19 to 7-10 days down from 14 days.

As the NBA opened its season, 48 players were announced to have tested positive for COVID-19 among the 546 screened.

Moderna said it would soon begin to test its vaccine in children ages 12-17.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that President Trump would sign the proposal put forward by McConnell the previous day. The bill would need support from Democrats, but the two sides remained far apart on key issues.

Intelligence sources confirmed that North Korean hackers targeted companies in the U.S. as well as the U.K. and South Korea developing COVID-19 vaccines.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, over 100,000 Americans were hospitalized with COVID-19. The U.S. again surpassed 200,000 cases in a single day.

The death toll in the United States due to COVID-19 reached its highest daily total since the start of the pandemic. 2,760 people lost their lives.

December 3

712,000 Americans filed new state unemployment claims, a drop of 75,000 from the week prior. An additional 289,000 filed for the federal pandemic unemployment program.

Former Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama said they would be willing to take a COVID-19 vaccine publicly on television to demonstrate to Americans its safety and importance once priority populations had received a vaccine. Former President Jimmy Carter urged “everyone who is eligible to get immunized as soon as it becomes available in their communities.”

With over 192 million tests to date processed in the United States, lab scientists warned of burnout and attrition among their ranks.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said he saw “hopeful signs” for an economic relief bill, though Republicans still demanded extensive liability protections for businesses and denied state and local funding, two items that Democrats did not agree with.

The Senate Leader and House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) spoke on the phone about an omnibus government funding bill and COVID-19 relief.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said he spoke with President-elect Biden’s “landing team” for their first substantive discussion about COVID-19. Biden tapped Jeff Zients as the incoming White House COVID-19 coordinator and Vivek Murthy as surgeon general, a return to that role.

Facebook announced that it would remove misinformation surrounding COVID-19 vaccines – a step beyond how the tech giant has handled misinformation about other vaccines.

Governor Gavin Newsom (D-CA) implemented stay-at-home orders for regions in which ICU capacity dipped below 15%.

New findings from Moderna’s vaccine trial found that it was protective for as long as people had been in the study – three months.

President-elect Biden, in an interview with CNN, said he would urge Americans to wear masks for 100 days once he takes office. He said that “you don’t have to close down the economy” but that the federal and state governments need to issue clear guidance for the public.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpassed 14 million in the United States.

December 4

The U.S. added 245,000 jobs in November – a downturn from the adjusted 610,000 added in October. The official unemployment rate was 6.7%, though the real total was likely higher as this did not account for people not actively looking for work. Overall, America had 9.8 million fewer jobs than it did in February.

The labor force participation rate – the share of Americans age 16 and older working or looking for work – was down to 61.7% in October, near its lowest level since the 1970s when far fewer women were in the workforce in the United States.

Dr. Fauci confirmed that he would stay on in his role as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the Biden administration and would also serve as chief medical adviser to the President-elect.

A new study published in Nature showed that blood tests could indicate the effectiveness of a COVID-19 in monkeys, which had the potential to speed up clinical trials in humans by looking at blood markers instead of waiting for some volunteers to get the disease.

It continued to look more likely that a narrow COVID-19 relief bill would be achieved in Congress with an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program, unemployment benefits, restaurant assistance and other provisions.

A new national aggregate forecast projected that between 9,5000 and 19,500 people would die of COVID-19 over Christmas week.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) noted that “there [was] momentum” toward an economic relief bill and that it would be included in a government funding bill due December 11th. The tradeoff appeared to be coming down to liability protections for businesses (a Republican proposal) for state and local funding (a Democratic proposal).

State and local governments were on the brink of making massive budget cuts, including to public employee rolls, as tax revenue was slashed to the pandemic.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the CDC recommended “universal mask use” indoors when not at home.

The New York Young Republican Club had been exposed for holding a secret indoor gala with dozens of attendees not wearing masks despite state restrictions in New Jersey where the event was held.

New daily cases of COVID-19 surged past its record, with over 228,000 new infections on December 4th alone. Vice President Mike Pence said that the nation was in a “season of hope” as vaccines were developed.

Global deaths due to COVID-19 surpassed 1.5 million. Deaths in the United States surpassed 275,000.

December 5

The seven-day average for new deaths in the United States rose to more than 2,000 for the first time since April.

A national debate ensued about which groups should come after healthcare workers and the most vulnerable elderly Americans to receive approved vaccines.

Trump held a packed rally with hundreds of massless supporters in Georgia. Since the Election over a month prior, Trump had only mentioned COVID-19 four times, and mostly to assert that he was right, and experts were wrong.

December 6

HHS Secretary Alex Azar pinpointed what he believed was causing outbreaks but urged governors to not go farther: “We know that our workplaces, our universities, our K-12 schools, flying on airplanes are not major vectors of disease transmission -- it’s overcrowded indoor restaurants and bars. It is multi-household indoor gatherings where we let our guard down. These are the things we need to protect against if we go too far, and we defer to governors on the steps they need to take, it’s their call.

City officials warned of mass layoffs and closures of services to public and mass transit if the federal government could not provide immediate aid.

Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani contracted COVID-19. President Trump made the announcement on Twitter. Giuliani had attended several indoor hearings and events – without a mask – over the preceding days as part of his effort to undermine the will of the voters in the 2020 election.

Hospitalizations topped 100,000 for the fifth consecutive days. More states set single-day new case records as the U.S. neared 200,000 new daily cases on average for the previous seven-day stretch.

December 7

COVID-19 economic relief remained on the negotiating table in Congress as the government funding deadline neared at the end of the week. There was growing support for direct payments to Americans as in the CARES Act.

New York City public elementary schools reopened for in-person learning. Of the 75 largest public school districts in the country, 18 had reverted back to remote learning in the previous month.

12 million renters were set to owe an average of \$5,850 in rent and utilities by January of 2021, according to Moody's Analytics. In November 9 million renters said they were behind on rent, including 21% who were families with children.

With medical experts taking center stage, like Dr. Anthony Fauci, applicants to medical school jumped 18% over the previous year according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Early projections showed that 60% of U.S. colleges and universities planned to hold in-person classes with all or some of their students in the spring semester. Yet only roughly 8% were prepared to test the student body at least once per week.

December 8

The National Health Service in Britain became the first country to distribute the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The FDA said it found that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provided strong protection against COVID-19 after the first dose, indicating that emergency approval would be imminent.

The U.S. surpassed its record for the highest seven-day average of deaths since the start of the pandemic at 2,249.

New reporting showed that the Trump administration passed on a chance to lock in supply beyond the 100 million doses Pfizer agreed to sell the U.S. as part of a \$1.95 billion deal.

President-elect Joe Biden selected Xavier Becerra, the attorney general of California, as his nominee for secretary of Health and Human Services.

Another personal lawyer for President Trump, Jenna Ellis, was reported to have informed associates that she had COVID-19. Ellis had attended a White House Christmas party a few days prior.

The Trump administration said the CDC would require states to submit personal information against people vaccine against COVID-19, including names and addresses, which raised concerns about personal privacy.

At a White House event, President Trump boasted of the “monumental national achievement” regarding the development of vaccines. He signed an executive order that was meant to prioritize Americans receiving a vaccine over people in other nations. He added, “People that aren’t necessarily big fans of Donald Trump are saying whether you like him or not, this is one of the greatest miracles in the history of modern-day medicine or any other medicine, any other age of medicine.” The pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Moderna were invited to attend the event but declined for fear of politicizing the vaccine.

The chief scientist of Trump’s Operation Warp Speed, Moncef Slaoui, could not explain Trump’s recent executive order that aimed to prioritize shipment of vaccines to Americans over other countries: “I literally don’t know.”

The White House said it planned to begin vaccinations within the first 96 hours after FDA emergency approval and that most American adults could expect to be vaccinated by May. The incoming Biden administration said it had the goal of vaccinating 100 million Americans in the first 100 days.

Hospitalizations hit another record at 104,600. Data from across the country showed that more than a third of Americans lived in areas with hospitals that were running short of ICU beds.

The White House offered a \$916 billion economic relief package close to the \$908 billion package presented by a group of bipartisan lawmakers.

The State Department hosted a holiday party and tour of the premises for 200 guests despite COVID-19 concerns.

December 9

A new study of hospitalized COVID-19 patients found that infected Black and Hispanic patients were no more likely than white patients to be hospitalized. The disproportionate impact of the virus on Black and Hispanic communities was thus not due to innate differences but social environmental factors.

The U.S. was at risk of facing vaccine shortages as international competition ramped up for vaccines that were in scarce supply – and both leading contenders require two doses, which effectively cut the supply in half.

The Trump administration’s timeline for rolling out a vaccine was hamstrung by its early reliance on a candidate from AstraZeneca, which had indicated their vaccine would be ready in October but by December had not even completed enrolling volunteers in a clinical trial. The federal government put much of its weight behind the vaccine candidate because it was cheaper and easier to store than those from Pfizer and Moderna, but its trial was halted for seven weeks when the company struggled to provide the FDA with evidence that it was not associated with neurological symptoms in two trial volunteers.

The Trump administration continued to fall short of its goal to stockpile 300 million N95 respirator masks with only 142 million in the National Stockpile.

The Department of Health and Human Services began to doll out \$523 million in inventive payments to nursing homes that showed progress in slowing the spread of COVID-19. This was the first time CMS offered payments for infection-control measures.

An analysis found that 14 organizations designated as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center of Anti-Defamation League received funding from the Paycheck Protection Program, including the New Century Foundation, known for its white supremacist website.

The U.S. surpassed 3,000 daily deaths for the first time – a new record. It took only a week to surpass the previous record.

December 10

947,000 Americans filed for state unemployment benefits in the prior week (or 853,000 after seasonal adjustments) – an uptick of 229,000 from the week before that. Another 428,000 filed for the federal pandemic unemployment assistance program.

An advisory panel of outside experts to the Food and Drug Administration held a public meeting to analyze data for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine – the final step before FDA emergency approval. The panel voted 17-4 to with one abstention to green light the vaccine, putting it before the FDA for final emergency approval.

Lawmakers continued to come short of a deal on much-needed economic relief. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said she would not leave Washington for the holidays without a deal. There were signs that any relief would be attached to a government funding package due December 18th. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) indicated that a bipartisan Senate deal was dead on arrival for him.

An estimated 54 million Americans struggled with hunger in 2020, a 45% jump from 2019 according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Rep. Jim Clyburn, chair of the House Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, notified CDC Director Robert Redfield that his decision to tell staff to delete an August 8th email regarding public communications on the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report might have been a violation of federal record-keeping requirements.

December 11

Emergency approval for the Pfizer vaccine was expected from the FDA within a day, and distribution was set to begin days after that.

Most governors informed the Trump administration that they would exhaust their supply of the Pfizer vaccine with days of the first shipment.

Dr. Anthony Fauci warned that Americans would still need to take precautions even with a vaccine approval as the population would not be widely vaccinated until Summer or Fall 2021.

Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline delayed their clinical trial as their vaccine under development showed worrying signs in older adults.

The FDA issued emergency use authorization to the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech.

December 12

Thousands of Trump supporters, including the Proud Boys, held maskless protests – which turned violent – in Washington, D.C. to continue to contest the results of the 2020 Election.

The United States surpassed 16 million confirmed cases of COVID-19.

December 13

The first vaccines began to be delivered to states and hospitals around the country.

State officials warned the federal government that due to decreased tax revenue and budget shortfalls, they might have a difficult time affording vaccines to cover their entire populations.

Key federal lawmakers indicated that a deal on economic relief was close to be finalized.

FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn said his agency was committed to political independence and following all of the proper protocols to approve a vaccine.

The CDC gave the green light for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

A massive data breach was reported to have impacted numerous federal agencies. But National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien was traveling around Europe with his wife despite many COVID-19 related restrictions on Americans in countries he planned to visit.

White House staffers were reported to be fast-tracked to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, but President Trump then delayed the plan and said that White House staffers should receive the vaccine "somewhat later in the program, unless specifically necessary."

December 14

The first Americans received a COVID-19 vaccine as the mass vaccination campaign kicked off. The first known vaccination was given at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens, New York. Frontline healthcare workers and residents of nursing homes were first in line to receive the vaccine.

The CDC advised healthcare workers to assure patients that COVID-19 vaccines were safe and effective.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled the legislative text for their \$908 billion economic relief bill, which met Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's standards for a framework.

The Electoral College officially voted to certify Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as winners of the 2020 election, while President Trump continued to challenge and attempt to overturn the will of the voters. Importantly, his administration continued to stymie the transition.

The known death toll due to COVID-19 in the United State surpassed the grim milestone of 300,000. It took roughly three months of 100,000 more Americans to perish from the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, but experts warned that the next 100,000 lives to be lost might take only a month.

December 15

The FDA released data that showed the vaccine developed by Moderna was highly effective and indicated that emergency approval was imminent.

A new national survey found that 25% of Americans did not wish to get vaccinated, which skewed disproportionately toward Black Americans, rural Americans and Republicans.

Data showed that wealthy countries including the United States were reserving doses of vaccines that were larger than their populations, while poorer countries struggled to obtain the quantities they would need.

There were only three days left for Congress to pass a bill to extend the eviction moratorium, which would disproportionately impact Black and Latino renters.

The four House and Senate Leaders met to finalize government funding, which also was set to expire in three days, and COVID-19 relief. The major sticking points continued to be state and local funding and liability protections for businesses, but each of the leaders pointed toward progress on reaching a deal.

The toll of the pandemic on children was troubling: though juvenile arrest and incarcerations rates were down in 2020, emergency rooms saw a 24-31% increase in mental health-related visits from young and older children compared to 2019.

At a visit to the Children's National Hospital, First Lady Melania Trump broke the hospital's mask policy and removed her mask to read a book to children.

The FDA authorized the first rapid, over the counter COVID-19 tested designed to be used at home and produce immediate results.

December 16

The Trump administration and Pfizer were in talks for the federal government to obtain tens of millions additional vaccine doses for 2021. The news came as the company had previously warned that hundreds of millions of doses were already locked in with other countries.

Military bases around the country and nonprofit organizations that serve veterans and their families reported large increases in requests for groceries and supplies from food banks.

Two former staffers at the CDC under the Trump administration, detailed how the White House and Department of Health and Human Services politically meddle in the agency's activities, including by dismissing science, changing the CDC's public messages and diminishing its budget.

New data showed that nearly 8 million Americans were pushed into poverty since the summer, as the poverty rate jumped from 2.4% in June to 11.7% in November.

A member of the press corps surrounding the Biden-Harris transition tested positive for COVID-19.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was announced to be in quarantine after possible exposure to COVID-19.

Far right actors and social media accounts offered conflicting views on praising President Trump for the development of a vaccine while espousing conspiracy theories that vaccines were not safe and part of an effort for elites to control the world and track individuals.

Emails showed that a top Trump appointee and science adviser, Peter Alexander advocated for herd immunity within HHS: "There is no other way, we need to establish herd, and it only comes about allowing the non-high risk groups expose themselves to the virus. PERIOD." ... "Infants, kids, teens, young people, young adults, middle aged with no conditions etc. have zero to little risk....so we use them to develop herd...we want them infected..."

Members of Congress neared a \$900 billion deal on COVID-19 relief. The package included: \$600 stimulus checks to Americans; the extension of unemployment benefits with an enhanced \$300 per week for both gig economy workers and for pandemic relief generally; small business aid and renewed PPP loans; food assistance and other provisions.

Admiral Brett Giroir, the assistant secretary of Health and Human Services, urged Americans to continue wearing masks and avoid traveling over the holidays: "We are still at a dangerous and critical part of this pandemic, and tens of thousands of American lives are at stake, really, every week." ... "Until we get a few more months down the road, do your best," he said. "Save lives, save American lives, save global lives, just by doing these simple measures. If you do that, we're going to be in really good shape. But if you don't, we're going to have thousands of more casualties in this country that we can avoid."

The FDA indicated that Pfizer vaccine vials were able to hold one or two extra doses, which had the potential to expand supply by 40%. Pharmacists and hospitals had discovered the extra doses in their shipments of the vaccine and the FDA clarified that they could be used.

The day marked three new grim pandemic records: new daily cases (over 244,000); hospitalizations (over 113,000); and deaths (3,607).

December 17

On a seasonally adjusted basis, 885,000 Americans filed for state unemployment benefits in the previous week, an uptick of 23,000 from the week prior. 455,000 workers not covered by state programs filed for the federal unemployment assistance program. Two key unemployment programs were set to expire at the end of the month if Congress was not able to pass a relief bill.

Data showed a 1.1% drop in retail sales in the month of November, when typically, sales increase for the holiday season. Experts warned that the economy likely would not fully begin to recover until people were vaccinated and job growth began.

The White House announced that Vice President Mike Pence and Second Lady Karen Pence would be vaccinated the following day and recorded for the public to "promote the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and build confidence among the American people." Dr. Anthony Fauci urged that for security reasons, President Trump be vaccinated as well as President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris.

An independent advisory panel to the FDA met to publicly review data for the Moderna vaccine. The committee voted to send the vaccine for approval.

Congress worked to draft and finalize legislative text for the economic relief bill, with disagreements over the structure of some programs, but large agreement around the major provisions to be included. Leadership indicated that session would extend over the weekend to get a deal done.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States surpassed 17 million after taking only five days to rise an additional million. It marked a doubling of cases in just two months. There

continued to be no national plan from the Trump federal government to control the spread of the virus. The President largely remained out of the public eye, except for to contest the certified election results and lie about voter fraud.

December 18

As the deadline neared on rent relief and evictions ban, one-third of U.S. households reported being behind on rent or mortgage payments and at risk of facing eviction or foreclosure in the upcoming two months.

In a televised White House event, Vice President Mike Pence, Second Lady Karen Pence, and U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams received their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

President Trump nearly blew up negotiations on relief by suggesting \$2,000 stimulus checks, his preferred relief method because the checks could bear his name.

New data showed that Europe contracted with Pfizer to receive its vaccine at significantly lower prices than the U.S.

There was little national system in place to keep people from cutting in line to receive their COVID-19 vaccines based on the risk stratification set out by the CDC.

An analysis found that a staggering 1 in 5 prisoners in the U.S. had been infected with COVID-19 and 1,700 had died.

California, the largest state in the country, was under siege by the virus, with only 3% availability of ICU beds and a tragic two deaths on average every hour.

Members of Congress began receiving COVID-19 vaccines, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Most lawmakers and the public entirely had not yet seen what would become a probable deal on the second-largest economic relief package in American history, as Congress continued to hash out the details as well as address with the government funding deadline.

December 19

An advisory committee to the CDC voted to recommend the vaccine developed by Moderna for emergency use.

The FDA commissioner said that vials of the Moderna vaccine, like the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, might contain extra doses, and that they were safe for vaccine administrators to use.

The Surgeon General said that reports of allergic reactions to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine were "not abnormal or unexpected."

The chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed, Gen. Gustave Perna, said that the White House remained "on track" to allocate 20 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to states by the end of 2020.

December 20

Members of Congress continued to remain divided on an economic relief package, including provisions around private schools, direct stimulus payments and enhanced unemployment benefits. The House passed a one-day government funding bill to avoid a government shutdown.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the previous two days saw more than 1 million travelers pass through TSA security checkpoints at airports across the U.S.

December 21

Pfizer and Moderna began to test their vaccines for effectiveness against the more transmissible variant of COVID-19 that had been spreading in the United Kingdom.

The American Academy of Pediatrics reported that the number of children infected with the virus jumped 25% in the previous two weeks.

President-elect Joe Biden received the first dose of his COVID-19 vaccine in a live televised event.

The U.S. set a record for current COVID-19 hospitalizations, with 115,351 patients in hospitals around the country. It was the twentieth straight day that hospitalizations were above 100,000.

The United States surpassed 18 million confirmed cases of COVID-19. It took 284 days to reach 9 million cases and only 52 days to add another 9 million cases to reach this grim milestone.

After months of negotiations, the House passed a bipartisan omnibus appropriations bill, with a \$900 COVID-19 economic relief package attached to it. The Senate then swiftly approved the measure with a 92-6 vote. The bill included \$600 billion in direct stimulus payments for adults and children, an extension of enhanced unemployment benefits of \$300 per week, \$25 billion in rental assistance and a continued ban on evictions that was set to expire at the end of the month, \$13 billion to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, \$68 billion for vaccine distribution, \$300 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program and \$15 billion in grants for businesses that were closed due to the pandemic. The bill was sent to President Trump's desk and all signs indicated that he would sign it after remaining mostly out of negotiations.

December 22

In a surprise to Republican lawmakers as well as Democrats, President Trump railed against the passed COVID-19 relief bill, seemingly not understanding that it was attached to the omnibus spending bill: "It is called the Covid relief bill, but it has almost nothing to do with Covid." In a video statement, he said he would not sign the bill unless it was amended by Congress, including increasing direct payments from \$600 to \$2,000. The \$600 was in part negotiated by the Treasury Secretary who represented the White House, Steven Mnuchin.

The White House coronavirus taskforce coordinate, Dr. Deborah Birx, announced that she planned to retire ahead of the Biden administration.

The U.S. reported more than 3,000 virus-related deaths for the fifth time.

December 23

The CDC updated its ensemble forecast and predicted that there could be up to 419,000 COVID-19-related deaths by January 16, 2021. The death toll had surpassed 325,000.

Americans were outraged at President Trump's refusal to sign the spending and COVID-19 relief bill after months of stalled negotiations and the threat of critical programs ending at the close of the year.

Federal officials said that there was no evidence that the new, more transmissible strain of the virus had a different impact on the disease pathology or progression.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense announced a \$356 million agreement with Merck & Co. to obtain a drug under development to treat severely and critically ill COVID-19 patients.

According to the CDC, 9.5 million doses of the vaccine had been distributed but just over 1 million had been administered to date.

December 24

House Republicans blocked a bill that Democrats attempted to pass through unanimous consent to raise direct payments from \$600 to \$2,000.

House Majority Leader Rep. Steny Hoyer said that the Speaker and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were in continued talks over the COVID-19 relief bill as the House was adjourned until December 28th.

The CEO of Pfizer, Albert Bourla, said that he was "cautiously optimistic" that the vaccine would work against the new virus variant.

New Jersey became the first state to require that all United Airlines passengers with flights originating from the U.K. receive a negative COVID-19 test before arriving at Newark Liberty International Airport.

The CDC said that the safest way to celebrate the New Year was at home with those Americans lived with or virtually.

Public health experts warned of thousands of communities identified as "pharmacy deserts" in which residents had limited access to pharmacies, particularly in low-income communities with barriers to transportation.

December 25

In a Christmas unlike any other, millions across America stayed home and celebrated with those in their household. Still millions others traveled across states or to other homes, potentially accelerating the spread of COVID-19.

December 26

The CDC said negative tests would be requirement from passengers traveling to the U.S. from the U.K.

At risk with President Trump's continued refusal to sign the economic relief bill passed by Congress was expanded unemployment benefits for 12 million Americans, eviction protection for millions of renters, and \$150 billion in state and local funding for virus relief.

President-elect Joe Biden urged President Trump to sign the bill, calling his refusal to do so an "abdication of responsibility [with] devastating consequences."

Global confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpassed 80 million.

With the death toll in the U.S. surpassing 331,000, a staggering 1,000 Americans had perished due to COVID-19.

December 27

Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) said that President Trump would be remembered for “chaos and misery and erratic behavior” if he did not sign the COVID-19 relief bill and allowed it to expire.

December already was far and away the deadliest month of the pandemic in the U.S., with over 63,000 Americans lost to the virus in just 26 days.

The United States surpassed 19 million known cases of COVID-19.

After days of threats and delays, President Trump signed the \$2.3 trillion government funding and COVID-19 relief bill into law, avoiding a government shutdown and preventing the crisis of his own making. Because of his delay in signing the bill, unemployment assistance programs would likely not be able to doll out payments to struggling Americans in the last week of 2020.

December 28

The House passed a measure to increase direct payments to Americans from \$600 to \$2,000 in a 275-134 vote, supported mostly by Democrats with some Republican support. The bill was sent to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's desk.

Novavax became the latest company to start a late-stage clinical trial of its COVID-19 vaccine under development.

The U.S. reached a new record of current hospitalizations at over 121,000.

December 29

The first known case of the new, more transmissible strain of COVID-19 was confirmed in the United States in Colorado. The individual had no travel history, indicated that the strain was spreading through community spread.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) blocked Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer's (D-NY) request for the Senate to pass by unanimous consent the House-passed bill that increased stimulus payments to \$2,000. McConnell indicated that he would attach consideration of the payments to President Trump's unrelated priorities regarding Section 230 protections for technology firms and ballot security, as he continued to fight against his election loss.

Congressman-elect Luke Letlow (R-LA) died at the age of 41 due to COVID-19. He became the first member of Congress or elected member to die from the disease caused by the virus.

The U.S. experienced its highest single-day death toll to date, with over 3,700 Americans dying from the virus.

December 30

Cases and hospitalizations continued to soar after the holidays, including record-setting hospitalizations in Texas and California.

Johnson & Johnson appeared to be on track to apply for emergency use authorization in February, which would be monumental as it only requires one dose.

Admiral Brett Giroir admitted that the U.S. needed to “be doing a better job” of rolling out its vaccine distribution program, and said that 20 million doses would be administered by the first week of January.

December 31

787,000 Americans filed for state unemployment benefits over the previous week, including Christmas, after seasonal adjustments. Another 308,000 applied for federal unemployment assistance.

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) announced his support for a stand-alone vote in the new Congress on \$2,000 stimulus checks, which were blocked by his Republican colleague Senator Mitch McConnell, who called the bill “socialism for rich people.”

A CDC report found that its new guidance on reduced quarantine from 14 to seven to 10 days “carrie[d] a risk” to spread the virus.

New Year’s Eve celebrations across the country and world were drastically scaled down to account for virus precautions.

Only just over 3 million vaccine doses had been administered to Americans instead of the 20 million promised by the Trump administration by the end of 2020.

January 2021

January 1

On the first day of 2021, the U.S. surpassed 20 million confirmed cases of COVID-19.

State Senator Ben Chafin Jr. (R-VA) died from complications due to COVID-19 at the age of 60.

January 2

For the 31st straight day, hospitalizations for the virus remained above 100,000.

January 3

The TSA screened over 1.3 million travelers on January 3rd alone, the highest checkpoint volume at airports across the country since the start of the pandemic. It was the 11th of 16 days that travel topped 1 million.

President Trump again made the false claim that the CDC had “exaggerated” death toll numbers of what he called the “China Virus.” The Surgeon General said he had no reason to doubt the agency’s data: “From a public health perspective, I have no reason to doubt those numbers.”

January 4

Federal health officials were considered cutting Moderna vaccine doses in half due to promising data that showed identical levels of immunity for adults 18-55 years old, according to the White House Operation Warp Speed adviser Moncef Slaoui. The news came after the continued disappointing rollout of the two approved vaccines in the U.S.

More than 1 million Americans were still involved in pending appeals for state and federal unemployment aid.

The Food and Drug Administration quickly rebutted the White House's proposal to halve Moderna vaccine doses, calling the proposal "premature."

A Wisconsin pharmacist was arrested for allegedly intentionally damaging 500 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and was "an admitted conspiracy theorist" according to police.

The U.S. had administered more than 4.5 million vaccine doses, but still trailed behind other countries.

January 5

First responders in Los Angeles County were directed to not bring patients that had little or no chance of survival to emergency rooms due to a severe shortage of oxygen.

The U.S. again set a new record for current hospitalizations, with over 128,000 Americans in hospitals with the virus.

Scientists began to express concern that a new virus strain first identified in South Africa might affect protection given by some vaccines.

The FDA warned health care providers and patients that the Curative COVID-19 test posed a "risk of false results, particularly false negative results." The Congress had been using this test.

Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, indicated that despite rumors that President Trump would travel to his golf course in Scotland ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on January 20th, that Trump would not be allowed in due to the country's travel restrictions that barred everything but essential activities.

The Trump administration said that it would accelerate its plan to provide COVID-19 vaccine in retail pharmacies, with the goal of up to 6,000 pharmacies administering vaccines over the following two weeks.

Millions of voters contributed to a high turnout election for the two Georgia Senate runoffs, in which Democrats Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff defeated Republican Senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue, respectively. The Democratic victories meant that for the first time over the course of the pandemic there would be unified control of the government in Washington.

January 6

The IRS sent direct payments from the second round of stimulus to over 13 million bank accounts that were closed or not valid, leading to delays.

The first people in the U.S. who received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine began to receive their second dose after the requisite 21 days between doses had passed.

Of the 17 million doses delivered by the federal government, only 4.8 million had been administered as states struggled to keep up due to budget and staffing shortages and lack of support from the federal government.

Reports indicated that some White House coronavirus task force officials were urging states to administer excess vaccines to any residents who wanted them, as opposed to the risk stratification approach.

During the Congressional certification of the Electoral College votes, a violent pro-Trump mob sieged the U.S. Capitol. Four individuals died and several were injured. After the building was secured, Congress affirmed the Electoral College results and Joe Biden and Kamala Harris's victory. It was the latest assault by Trump and his allies to distract from the gravely mishandled pandemic that had left at the time of the attack 360,000 Americans dead.

On the dark day for American democracy, the U.S. experienced the highest death toll in a single day ever over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic with 3,963 people perishing due to the virus.

January 7

States began to expand their vaccination rollouts beyond medical workers, including to firefighters and other risk groups that were not necessarily first in line.

787,000 Americans newly filed for state unemployment benefits in the previous week, a slight downtick from the week prior. Still 19.2 million Americans were receiving benefits from all unemployment compensation programs.

Brazilian officials announced that a vaccine developed by Chinese company Sinovac was 78% effective, which meant another vaccine would likely be available in the coming weeks for much of the developing world.

Jury trials that had resumed in some parts of the country began to be suspended again as COVID-19 surged.

The Trump Administration announced it would allocate \$550 million to community-based testing programs in the states and \$300 million for 60 million testing kits for nursing homes and vulnerable communities.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the U.S. surpassed 4,000 deaths due to COVID-19 in a single day. With over 280,000 new cases, the country also surpassed a single day new case record.

January 8

According to the Department of Labor, U.S. employers cut 140,000 jobs in the month of December. It was the first drop since the massive layoffs in the spring of 2020 when the country began to impose virus-related restrictions.

The unemployment rate in December 2020 remained 6.7%, which was still nearly double that of the unemployment rate in December 2019.

Despite the report of job losses, U.S. stocks rose and hit new all-time records.

A growing list of states confirmed that they had cases of the new COVID-19 variant, including Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Texas, which joined California, Colorado, Georgia, Florida and New York.

Pfizer and BioNTech said that they were "encouraged" by early results of new studies testing their vaccine for effectiveness against the new strains of the virus first found in South Africa and the U.K.

President-elect Joe Biden said his incoming administration would release all available COVID-19 vaccine doses, instead of the Trump administration plan to ration first and second doses.



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Twitter joined Facebook in permanently suspending President Trump's account in light of his incitement of violence. The President had used Twitter as his primary mode of communication over the course of the pandemic with both false statements and policy declarations to his 88.7 million followers.

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the U.S. confirmed 300,000 new cases of the virus – a new record.

January 9

New data showed that during the disbursement of \$523 billion in forgivable federal loans from the Paycheck Protection Program in 2020, 300 businesses received a measly \$99 or less, while the average recipient received roughly \$100,000.

California reported a recorded single-day death toll, with 695 people in the state perishing from COVID-19.

In only nine days of 2021, the U.S. reported over 2 million new virus cases and 24,260 deaths.

In response to President-elect Biden's proposal to release available vaccines instead of on a schedule, Pfizer said that they were prepared to "release millions of doses each day" of their vaccine.

January 10

Former FDA commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said that the U.S. vaccine rollout needed a reset.

Biden transition officials tasked with the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, including those working under coordinator Jeff Zients and deputy Natalie Quillian, reportedly had told Biden that they hadn't gotten the requisite information and data from the Trump administration for weeks.

The Office of the Attending Physician told House lawmakers that they may have been exposed to someone infected with COVID-19 while sheltering in-place during the pro-Trump insurrectionist attack in the Capitol on January 6th.

Global cases of COVID-19 surpassed 90 million. The United States continued to lead the world in confirmed cases and deaths.

January 11

Unlike previous outbreaks that were concentrated in one region of the country, the five hardest hit states at the beginning of January spanned geography and demography.

President-elect Joe Biden received his second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine after receiving his first dose in December.

For 40 straight days, the U.S. reported more than 100,000 COVID-19 hospitalizations each day.

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) tested positive for COVID-19, which she believed came from sheltering in place during the January 6th attack on the Capitol with Republican colleagues who refused to wear masks.

The death toll from COVID-19 in the United States surpassed 375,000. The seven-day average death toll exceed 3,000 per day and was climbing.

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January 12

A new report found that greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. dropped a staggering 10% in 2020, mostly driven by a drop in transportation-related emissions as the economy slowed and millions stayed home during the outbreak of the virus.

In the face of a slower than planned vaccine rollout, the Trump administration recommended that all Americans age 65 and older and adults with pre-existing conditions that would put them at risk of serious illness be vaccinated as soon as possible against COVID-19.

A second and third member of Congress, Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL), tested positive for COVID-19 after the January 6th attack on the Capitol in which lawmakers were forced to shelter in place and several Republican members refused to wear masks.

The CDC announced that effective January 26th, all international travelers test negative for COVID-19 before boarding flights to any American airports. The responsibility of confirming negative results provided by travelers would fall on the airlines themselves.

President Trump made his first public appearance since the violent attack on January 6th when he traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas to tout the partially built border wall. Though he was in one of the hardest-hit communities over the course of the pandemic, Trump did not mention the virus.

State officials were caught off guard by the Trump Administration's shift in vaccine distribution that would punish states that did not move quickly enough on administering vaccines or fail to provide the federal government with real-time reports on vaccinations.

With impeachment at the forefront of the news, the U.S. set a new single-day death toll record due to the virus, with over 4,400 people perishing due to the virus on January 12th alone.

January 13

Johnson & Johnson was reported to be experiencing manufacturing delays that would almost certainly lead to the company not being able to fulfill the number of doses it promised the federal government by the Spring.

Pfizer said that it was actively investigating the death of a Miami-based doctor who died 16 days after receiving a dose of the vaccine. The company noted that they did not believe that there was a direct link between the fatality and the vaccine. To date, the U.S. had reported 29 cases of anaphylaxis – none fatal – from both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

Reports indicated that key Democratic members of the Senate were working with Biden transition officials to quickly put together another round of COVID-19 economic relief once Biden and Harris took office.

Two federal agencies planned to distribute COVID-19 tests from a Chinese company despite security risks detailed by U.S. intelligence.

States reported struggles with meeting the skyrocketing demand for vaccines after the Trump administration recommended that any adult 65 years or older or with an underlying health condition be vaccinated – a total of roughly 150 million people.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 surpassed 23 million in the United States.

January 14

1.15 million Americans filed new claims for state unemployment benefits in the first week of January, a sharp uptick from the week prior. 284,000 more applied for federal unemployment assistance. 10 million Americans remained unemployed from the initial layoffs in the spring of 2020.

Experts from the World Health Organization descended upon Wuhan, China to investigate the origins of COVID-19.

Some nursing home, long-term care and hospitals around the country began offering incentives, or in some cases penalizations, to incentivize workers to get vaccinated. Some health care and nursing home workers were opposed to being vaccinated after a long history of mistreatment.

A group of technology companies, health organizations and nonprofits joined forces to develop digital vaccination credentialing on smartphones, including Microsoft, Oracle, Salesforce, Epic Systems and the Mayo Clinic.

A fourth member of Congress, Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) tested positive for COVID-19 in the aftermath of the January 6th attack on the Capitol. To date, % of members of Congress had

Officials accused people in Florida of vaccine tourism, as individuals flocked to the state to receive a vaccine even if they were not residents, as the state program allowed.

A *Wall Street Journal* [analysis](#) found that the true death toll of COVID-19 was higher than reported – it found more than 2.8 million people had lost their lives due to the pandemic, above the nearly 2 million reported deaths.

President-elect Biden unveiled his priorities for tackling COVID-19 and providing economic relief, including a \$1.9 trillion plan to scale up vaccination programs (his “number one priority”) and increase testing capacity, as well as providing \$1,400 direct stimulus payments to Americans up to a certain income level, small business aid, state and local funding and money for schools to allow them to safely reopen. The plan also included an extension on the eviction and foreclosure moratorium with aid to make rent and utility payments, an increase in the refundable child care tax credit, and an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

January 15

Major cities including Los Angeles and New York began setting up sport stadiums as mass vaccination sites. Mayor Eric Garcetti (D-Los Angeles) said that Dodger Stadium would have the capacity to vaccinate 12,000 residents per day.

28 states and Washington, D.C. began administering vaccines for adults 65 and older, though demand for vaccines far outweighed supply. Across the country, states had experienced crashed vaccination portal websites, long lines outside of clinics and under-resourced staff in clinics.

President-elect Joe Biden selected Dr. David Kessler to lead Operation Warp Speed – a former FDA commissioner under the Bush senior and Clinton administrations.

Participants in Moderna's early clinical trial for its vaccine began being offered a third, booster shot as part of an ongoing study to determine the efficacy and safety of repeated vaccinations.

Global deaths due to COVID-19 surpassed 2 million. As a CNN analysis put it, the death toll was equivalent to 10 large passenger jets falling out of the sky every day for an entire year.

It was revealed that vaccine reserves were already depleted when HHS Secretary Alex Azar announced a few days prior that the federal government would be releasing more doses that were originally thought to be held for second shots. In fact, the Trump administration had already shipped those second doses at the end of December directly off the pharmaceutical companies' manufacturing lines. State health officials were in uproar over what, Gov. Kate Brown (D-OR) called "deception on a national scale" as they had planned to ramp up vaccination velocity but realized they would be unable to do so.

Arizona, a state with a disproportionately high older adult population, was quickly running out of space in hospitals as the per capita infection rate was the highest in the country.

The CDC said that the more transmissible strain of the virus first discovered in the U.K. would likely be the dominant source of infections in the U.S. by March.

January 16

The incoming Biden Administration planned to send vaccines to federally qualified health centers in underserved neighborhoods, as well as plans to ramp up vaccination in mass fashion at sport stadiums, churches and community centers.

January 17

Los Angeles County became the first county in the U.S. to surpass 1 million confirmed cases of COVID-19.

A *New York Times* [analysis](#) pointed to key missteps along the year-long effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic as the death toll approached 400,000 in the United States, including a rush to reopen in the spring before the virus was at low enough levels, the objection to science on the part of elected leaders, the making of masks as a political statement, and the spread of misinformation and disinformation about the severity of the pandemic, especially by President Trump.

January 18

Thousands of National Guard troops descended upon Washington, D.C. as threats of violence loomed ahead of the Biden-Harris inauguration, though most were not tested for COVID-19.

60% of all COVID-19 deaths in the United States had occurred since the 2020 Election on November 3rd, as a surge in cases took over the country after Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

President Trump ordered an end to the travel ban from Europe and Brazil, which President-elect Biden's team quickly indicated they would be reversing: Biden's press secretary Jennifer Psaki tweeted, "With the pandemic worsening, and more contagious variants emerging around the world, this is not the time to be lifting restrictions on international travel."

Inauguration officials decorated the National Mall with thousands of U.S. flags to represent the Americans that would, in a normal year, be in attendance for the inauguration.

New cases of COVID-19 trended downward by 11% after hitting a pandemic-level high, but public health experts warned that until herd immunity was reached, transmission would still remain elevated.

The U.S. surpassed 24 million confirmed cases of COVID-19. It took the United States 304 days to reach 12 million confirmed cases and only 59 days to reach the second 12 million cases.



January 19

On President Trump's final full day in office, he focused on issuing more pardons and planning a send-off event in which invitees were encouraged to bring up to five plus-ones. He did not address the pandemic.

The College Board announced it would drop sections from the SAT college entrance examine to streamline processes in light of COVID-19.

A crisis that had been in effect for years was exacerbated by the pandemic – massive shortages of teachers in public school systems across the U.S.

President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris held a ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial to commemorate the lives lost in the United States due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ahead of the transfer of power, the 55,000 square-foot White House complex received a historic deep clean to disinfect the building for COVID-19.

The death toll of COVID-19 in the United States surpassed 400,000 – more than the number of U.S. soldiers killed in World War II. The number of deaths far surpassed President Trump's initial estimates of 60,000-70,000.

January 20

President Trump exited the White House for the final time and held a send-off event at Joint Base Andrews with a modest crowd. He called COVID-19 the "China virus" and boasted about the "greatest economy" that had left tens of millions of Americans out of work and the U.S. budget deficit at \$3.3 trillion. Over 400,000 Americans died of the virus under his watch.

There were no crowds at the Inauguration due to the continued prevalence of COVID-19. Lawmakers and dignitaries attended with social distancing and masks. One of Biden's first orders of business was to halt the U.S. exit from the World Health organization as well as extend the ban on evictions and foreclosures and extend the pause on student loan payments.

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were sworn in as President and Vice President of the United States. A new era and strategy to address the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis had begun.

Here is where the COVID-19 pandemic stands today:

Total cases: 96,311,790

Total deaths: 2,060,731

U.S. cases: 24,311,790

U.S. deaths: 401,820

For more information on the coronavirus, what to do if you believe you have symptoms, and how to protect yourself and others, please refer to information from the C.D.C. at this [link](#).