

COVID-19

# NEWS UPDATES 03/24/20

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Read remarks from yesterday's press briefing from President Trump and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force [here](#).

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## **Congress, White House on verge of \$2 trillion stimulus deal to blunt coronavirus fallout**

Source: The Washington Post  
Publication: 3/24/20, 4:09 PM

Congress and the Trump administration on Tuesday were on the verge of clinching a massive \$2 trillion stimulus package to address economic fallout from the [coronavirus](#), as lawmakers reviewed final language and the Senate aimed for an evening vote. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin -- the top White House negotiator -- all said they expected resolution imminently. However, lawmakers were still reviewing details and the situation was fluid and could quickly change.

The package would extend extraordinary - and unprecedented - taxpayer assistance to potentially millions of American and foreign companies that have been hammered by the fast-moving economic crisis. It would also extend one-time cash payments to most Americans, aimed at flooding the economy with money. The bill is being rushed through Congress without public hearings or formal review, and it's unclear what impact the measures will have in arresting the economy's sudden fall.

Continue reading [here](#).

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## **Trump says he wants country 'opened up' by Easter, despite caution from health experts**

Source: NBC News  
Publication: 3/24/20, 3:57 PM

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he wants to have the country getting back to business by April 12, Easter Sunday, even as the [coronavirus](#) pandemic [worsens](#). "I would love to have the country opened up and raring to go by Easter," Trump said during a Fox News interview.

Public health experts and local and state leaders have cautioned [against easing restrictions too early](#), saying it could put an enormous strain on hospitals and lead to even more deaths and economic damage. But Trump said Tuesday that he believed the human toll would be greater should Americans continue to stay at home. "This cure is worse than the problem," Trump said, adding that "in my opinion, more people are going to die if we allow this to continue."

Continue reading [here](#).

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## **FEMA chief says Defense Production Act will be used for coronavirus test kits**

Source: The Hill

Publication: 3/24/20, 10:32 AM

The Trump administration will formally trigger the Defense Production Act (DPA) Tuesday to secure coronavirus testing kits, the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency said.

"We're actually going to use the DPA for the first time today. There's some test kits we need to get our hands on," FEMA administrator Peter Gaynor told CNN in an interview. Gaynor said they will use the act to acquire "about 60,000 test kits."

He also said that the administration would insert some DPA language into the mass contracts the federal government has to acquire 500 million protective masks.

Continue reading [here](#).

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## **General Resources**

[The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America - 15 Days to Slow the Spread](#)

[Updates on Federal Agencies' Responses to COVID-19](#)

[FEMA Guidance: COVID-19 Pandemic Eligible Emergency Protective Measures](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration - Disaster Loan Assistance](#)

[CDC Resources for Businesses and Employers](#)

[Guidance on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#)

[State Health Departments](#)

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