

COVID-19

NEWS UPDATES 03/26/20

Senate passes \$2 trillion coronavirus relief package

Source: NPR

Publication: 3/25/20, 11:47 PM

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved a \$2 trillion relief package Wednesday night designed to alleviate some of the worst effects of the swift economic downturn currently underway as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Ahead of the 96-0 vote, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) told lawmakers, "Our nation obviously is going through a kind of crisis that is totally unprecedented in living memory." As of Wednesday evening, [there were 65,000 diagnosed cases of the highly contagious virus in the U.S.](#) and more than 900 deaths. "The legislation now before us is historic because it is meant to match a historic crisis," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.).

The plan marks the largest rescue package in American history. The legislation covers an array of programs, including direct payments to Americans, an aggressive expansion of unemployment insurance, billions of dollars in aid to large and small businesses, and a new wave of significant funding for the health care industry.

Continue reading [here](#).

Read the full text of the CARES Act [here](#).

Pelosi says House will take up coronavirus relief bill on Friday

Source: CBS News

Publication: 3/26/20, 12:07 PM

Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the House will vote Friday on a massive relief package responding to the economic fallout of the [coronavirus pandemic](#), after the Senate unanimously [passed the measure](#) late Wednesday night. The bill, which carries a price tag north of \$2 trillion, will likely be approved by a voice vote in the House, which doesn't require the presence of all members, many of whom are currently in their home states. Two House members have tested positive for coronavirus, and about two dozen others have said they are self-quarantining in case they have been exposed.

Continue reading [here](#).

Trump teases new coronavirus distancing guidelines based on county risk

Source: Politico

Publication: 3/26/20, 4:21 PM

President Donald Trump on Thursday teased a new plan to reopen swaths of the country shuttered by the coronavirus pandemic via a targeted, county-by-county mitigation effort. In a letter to the nation's governors released by the White House, Trump outlined a system to conduct "robust surveillance testing" that would allow the federal government to "classify counties with respect to continued risks posed" by the coronavirus, rather than apply one set of nationwide social distancing guidelines, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did a little over a week ago.

Continue reading [here](#).

EPA Loosens Rules for Disinfectants

Source: Wall Street Journal

Publication: 3/26/20, 3:58 PM

The Environmental Protection Agency is waiving some sourcing requirements for disinfectant and pesticide makers in an attempt to make more products available to address the coronavirus pandemic. The waivers will apply to 280 inert ingredients, including sodium chloride or glucose. Producers will be able to obtain them from different suppliers without getting approval from EPA as they usually would, the agency said Thursday.

Continue reading [here](#).

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](#)