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Joe Biden takes the stage to answer ques

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Trump puts Pence in charge of coronavirus efforts 0:59

Coronavirus fears spread across the world

By Jessie Yeung, Adam Renton, Meg Wagner, Mike Hayes and Rachel Bowman, CNN

Updated 8:07 p.m. ET, February 26, 2020

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What we covered here

- **Death toll:** It is over 2,700 worldwide, with the vast majority in mainland China.
- **Worldwide cases:** There have been more than 80,000 **global cases** with cases in every continent except Antarctica.



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10 hr 2 min ago

Coronavirus patient in Brazil marks Latin America's first case

From CNN's Shasta Darlington in Sao Paulo



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Brazil's health minister confirmed today that a 61-year-old Brazilian man who arrived in Sao Paulo after traveling to Italy is the first case of novel coronavirus in Brazil.

Minister Luiz Henrique Mandetta said the man arrived in Brazil on Saturday without any symptoms and spent the weekend with his family before coming down with symptoms and going to a health clinic on Monday.

He was hospitalized and tested positive for the virus in a preliminary test and was isolated. The second test confirmed he had the virus. The man was in Italy from Feb. 9 until Friday.

Authorities are mapping who the man came in contact with.



10 hr 22 min ago

US stocks open higher after selloff fueled by coronavirus fears

From CNN's Anneken Tappe

US stocks opened higher today, taking a break from the sharp selloff of the past two days.

Worries about the spread of coronavirus around the world tanked global markets at the start of the week. The Dow lost more than 1,900 points over the past two trading sessions alone.

Here's how the US markets opened on Wednesday:

- The Dow opened up 110 points, or 0.4%.
- The S&P 500 rose 0.5%.
- The Nasdaq Composite climbed 0.7%.

All three indexes extended their gains after the open.



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10 hr 19 min ago

How churches in Northern Italy are handling Ash Wednesday mass



Pope Francis greets people at St. Peter's Square in the Vatican at the end of his weekly general audience on Wednesday, February 26. Tiziana Fabi/AFP via Getty Images

planned, other Catholic churches across Italy are modifying their services because of coronavirus.

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Catholic churches in many cities in the north of Italy — such as in Bologna, Turin, and Venice — have suspended their Ash Wednesday services. Some of them are offering masses online or through local television.

Ash Wednesday is one of the most important religious days for Catholics after Christmas and Easter. It signifies the beginning of Lent, a period of six weeks before Easter when many Christians fast, abstain from meat and make a personal Lenten sacrifice to prepare themselves for Easter.



10 hr 26 min ago

Here's how coronavirus could affect tensions in the Middle East

Analysis from CNN's Tamara Qiblawi in Beirut



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Coronavirus's spread through the Middle East could add another layer of woes to a region already plagued by problems.

In the Levant, the virus could take root in one of the refugee camps that speckle the landscape. The camps are densely populated and already suffer from poor living conditions, scant medical attention and decaying infrastructure.

Economic crises in countries like Lebanon, where the health sector has already warned that it is on the brink of collapse, or Syria, could mean that millions are defenseless in the face of pathogen.

In Iran, the outbreak is the worst in the region, and it has intensified the country's isolation. Viewed as a regional breeding ground for the virus, Iran is being sealed off from its neighbors, further crippling an economy already buckling under US sanctions.

The country's rift from the rest of the region is becoming more pronounced. Land borders with neighboring Iraq and Afghanistan have been closed. Numerous flights to Iranian cities have been suspended.

The country's officials are seething. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned the virus could be used as a "weapon" in "propaganda" by "Iran's enemies." The Iranian leader has refused to quarantine cities in a bid, he said, not to further stifle the economy.

Symbolically, the country's deputy health minister, Iran Harirchi, tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday — just 24 hours after a press briefing where he tried to downplay the threat of the virus.



This image made from video shows the head of Iran's counter-coronavirus task force, Iraj Harirchi, left, wiping his face during a press briefing with government spokesman Ali Rabiei, in Tehran, Iran, on Monday. Harirchi, has tested positive for the virus himself, authorities announced on Tuesday, amid concerns the outbreak may be far wider than officially acknowledged. Credit: APTN via AP

Rich Arab Gulf countries – such as the UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait — that have confirmed cases of novel coronavirus may have the wherewithal to stem the tide of the sickness. But most countries in the region are running on fumes.

Between trying to keep the virus at bay, and stemming the economic toll brought on by panic about its spread, they are between a rock and a hard place. They see that even the advanced countries of Europe have failed to outrace the virus. So they live on a prayer that the coronavirus tidal wave veers in another direction.

10 hr 28 min ago

The Pope's Ash Wednesday mass will go on as planned

From CNN's Delia Gallagher



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Pope Francis greets people in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Wednesday. Credit: Alessandra Tarantino/AP

The Pope's Ash Wednesday mass in Rome will go on as planned today without any "particular measures" against coronavirus, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni tells CNN.

The mass at the church of Santa Sabina will include the usual tradition of handshaking and embracing as a sign of peace.

Attendees can use the water at the back of church to bless themselves upon entering.

Ash Wednesday is one of the most important religious days for Catholics after Christmas and Easter. It signifies the beginning of Lent, a period of six weeks before Easter when many Christians fast, abstain from meat and make a personal Lenten sacrifice to prepare themselves for Easter.

On Ash Wednesday Pope Francis participates in a solemn procession, together with Cardinals, bishops and monks, from the Benedictine Church of Sant'Anselmo on the Aventine Hill in Rome to the nearby Dominican church of Santa Sabina, where he celebrates mass for Ash Wednesday and places ashes, in the sign of the cross on the heads of the faithful.

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People wear face masks as they wait for Pope Francis' arrival in St. Peter's Square on Wednesday. Credit: Alessandra Tarantino/AP



10 hr 56 min ago

Some people close to the center of Italy's outbreak aren't concerned

From CNN's Ben Wedeman

The closer you get to northern Italy's "red zones"— where inhabitants are barred from leaving and others entering — the less concerned the residents seem to be.

CNN's Ben Wedeman is in Secugnago, a village in Lombardy about a 5-minute drive from the police road block barring entry into the red zone.

"We just had a few bottles of white wine and some risotto," a man said with a laugh as he got on his bicycle in the main square.

the red zone. The rest seem to be operating as usual, although one grocery store has posted a sign outside asking customers to enter only three at a time, wear face masks and shop as quickly as possible.

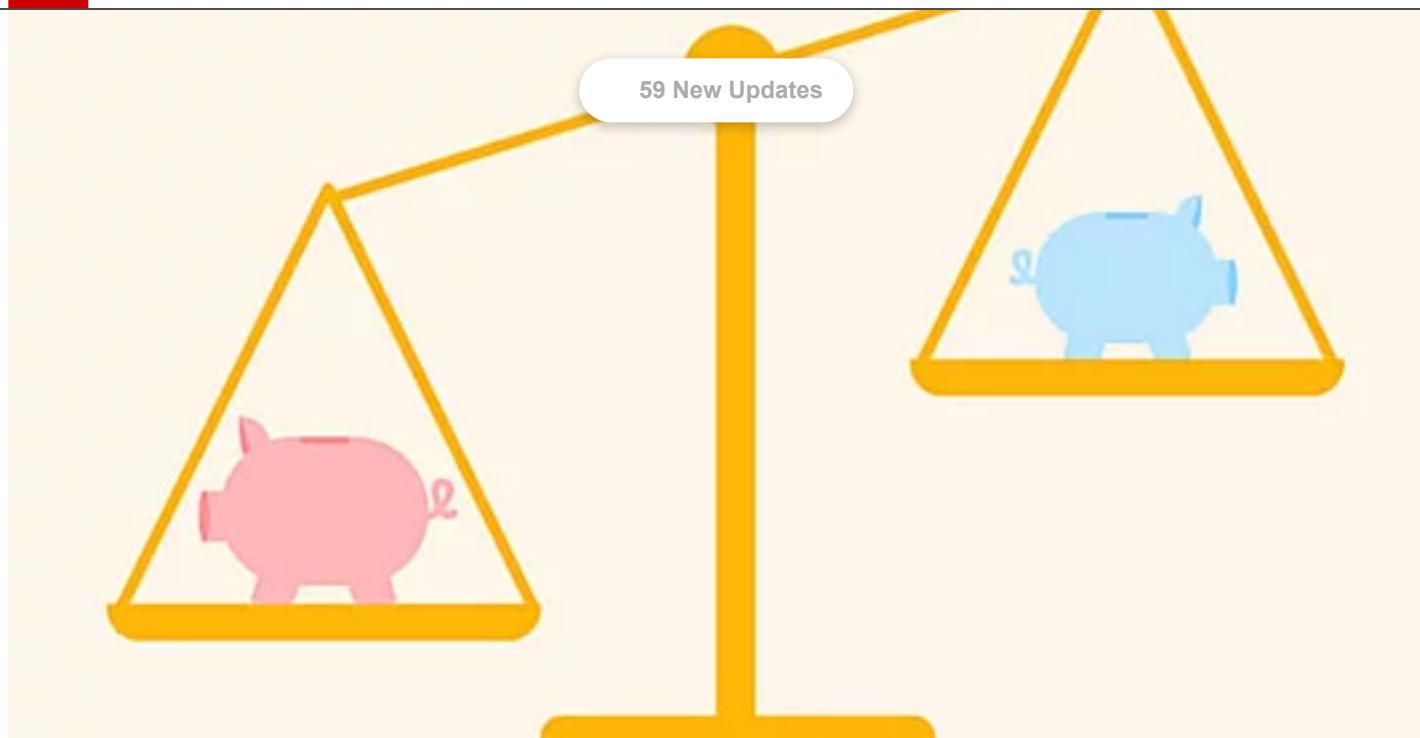
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But few people in Secugnago are actually wearing masks: A man named Daniele is out on a stroll with his wife and young children. Daniele is a technician for a company that installs home alarms, and under normal circumstances would be at work on a Wednesday morning.

"Look around," he says. "At the closer shops and businesses. We will pay a much higher economic price than the Coronavirus itself."





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11 hr 9 min ago

Trump will have a coronavirus news conference today

President Trump has announced he will hold a news conference at the White House about coronavirus at 6 p.m. ET.

Here's what he tweeted moments ago:



11 hr 20 min ago

Democrat will request \$8.5 billion in coronavirus funding for the US

From CNN's Lauren Fox and Phil Mattingly

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Sen. Chuck Schumer speaks during a news conference in Washington, DC on February 13. Credit: Sarah Silbiger/Getty Images

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer is preparing a detailed Senate Democrat request for emergency coronavirus funding totaling \$8.5 billion, a senior senate Democratic aide tells CNN.

Schumer's request is expected to be finalized this morning and sent to appropriators.

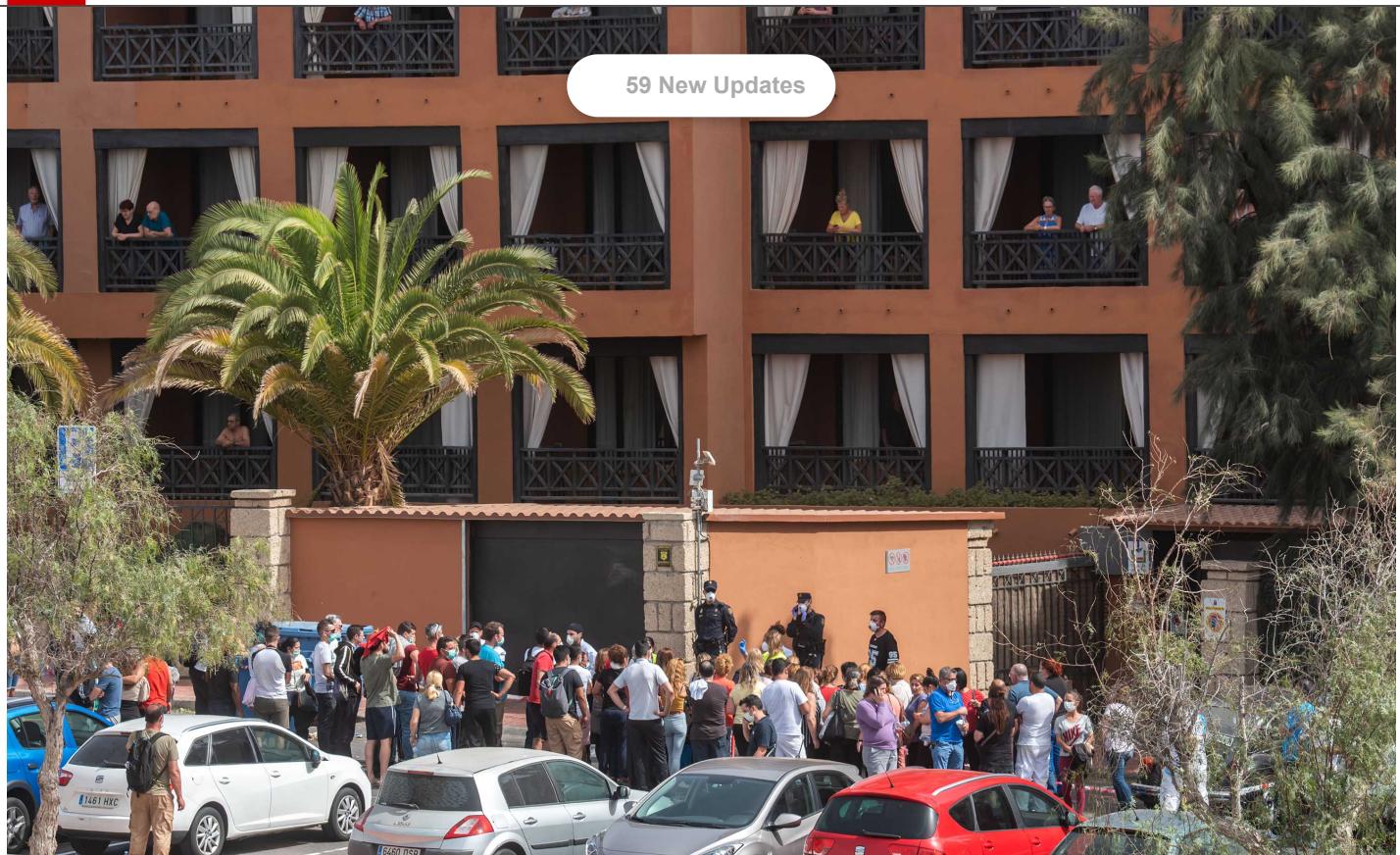
This is, of course, far more than **the \$2.5 billion requested** by the Trump administration.



7 hr 47 min ago

A hotel on a Spanish resort island is on partial lockdown, but guests are confused about protocols

From Aleesha Khalid



A psychologist talks to a group of workers on Tuesday outside the H10 Costa Adeje Palace Hotel in Tenerife, Spain, where hundreds of people were confined after an Italian tourist was hospitalised with a suspected case of coronavirus. Credit: Desiree Martin/AFP/Getty Images

Guests at the H10 Costa Adeje Palace on the Spanish resort island of Tenerife are confused over the situation at the hotel, which was partially put on lockdown yesterday as an Italian man at the hotel tested positive for the coronavirus overnight.

Spain's Health Ministry emergencies coordinator Fernando Simon said that four people in Tenerife — an Italian couple and two others traveling with them — have now tested positive for the virus, and another four in other parts of the country had been infected.

Simon said Spain was changing the contagion risk from low to moderate. The change in risk comes as a cluster of cases in northern Italy spreads to several European nations.

Guest Silke Bal said that people in the hotel were calm but confused about where in the hotel they were allowed to go. She said she saw towel collection services re-open by the swimming pool.



CNN.

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Bal said she expected to go home on Saturday but that she couldn't get a clear answer from the hotel. Staff appear to know as little as the guests, she said.



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