

'Scary to go to work': White House races to contain virus in its ranks

The Trump administration is racing to contain an outbreak of the coronavirus inside the White House, as some senior officials believe that the disease is already spreading rapidly through the warren of **cramped** offices that make up the three floors of the West Wing.

cramp 狭窄的; 受限制的

Three top officials leading the government's coronavirus response have begun two weeks of self-quarantine after two members of the White House staff — one of President Trump's personal **valets** and Katie Miller, the spokeswoman for Vice President Mike Pence — tested positive.

valet 男仆; 服侍

"It is scary to go to work," Kevin Hassett, a top economic adviser to the president, said on CBS's "Face the Nation" program on Sunday.

The discovery of the two infected employees has prompted the White House to **ramp up** its procedures to combat the virus, asking more staff members to work from home, increasing usage of masks and more **rigorously** screening people who enter the complex.

ramp up 斜升; 增加

rigorously 严厉地; 残酷地

The concern about an outbreak of the virus at the White House — and the swift testing and contact tracing being done to contain it — underscores the broader challenge for Americans as Mr. Trump urges them to begin returning to their workplaces despite warnings from public health officials that the virus continues to **ravage** communities across the country.

ravage 蹂躏; 破坏

aide 助手; 副官

Most restaurants, offices and retail stores do not have the ability to regularly test all their employees and quickly track down and quarantine the contacts of anyone who gets infected. At the White House, all employees are being tested at least weekly, officials said, and a handful of top **aides** who regularly interact with the president are being tested daily.