Bloomberg   **News Story**

Live Updates: WHO Declares Coronavirus a Pandemic, Citing 'alarming Levels of Spread And … Alarming Levels of Inaction'

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(Washington Post) –– The World Health Organization on Wednesday declared coronavirus a pandemic, reflecting concern from WHO that countries aren't working quickly and aggressively enough to contain the virus.

"We are deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity and by the alarming levels of inaction," WHO Director–General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

The declaration came as the number of novel coronavirus cases surpassed 120,000 worldwide. In the United States, where more than 30 people have been killed by the coronavirus, the total number of cases has doubled in a matter of days, surpassing 1,000 late Tuesday.

The White House is considering moving all of Europe to a Level 3 travel advisory, discouraging all nonessential travel to those regions, according to two people with knowledge of the discussions.

Here are the latest developments:

German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned Wednesday that up to 70 percent of her country could end up infected.

U.S. markets slid as coronavirus tightens its grip on the economy and the oil price war escalates.

In Italy, there are now more than 10,000 coronavirus cases. Schools and universities across Poland, as well as in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, will be shut for the rest of March, as European countries attempt to limit large gatherings.

South Korea's daily tally of new confirmed cases, which had been declining amid a mass testing program, almost doubled the previous day's numbers.

Iran announced 63 more coronavirus deaths, bringing the death toll to over 350. With another thousand infections announced, the country's total has increased to more than 9,000.

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