

Trump dismisses concern over Spread of Virus in White House

CE Noticias Financieras English

May 12, 2020 Tuesday

Copyright 2020 Content Engine, LLC.

All Rights Reserved

Copyright 2020 CE Noticias Financieras All Rights Reserved

Length: 659 words

Body

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday dismissed concerns about the possible spread of coronavirus in the White House, but said he mulls limiting contact with Vice President Mike Pence.

During a press conference at the White House Rose Garden, in which the president was not wearing cover-ups but all reporters did, Trump suggested that Pence was quarantined after his press secretary tested positive for COVID-19, though he did not say it directly.

Katie Miller, Pence's spokeswoman, who heads the White House workforce to tackle the pandemic, tested positive for coronavirus last week along with a ededan from Trump.

Since then, three members of the working group have been quarantined: infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci; Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Robert Redfield; and Stephen Hahn, head of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

A spokesman for Pence denied the weekend that the vice president was also quarantined. But on Monday Trump implied that he was when asked if he was evaluating taking away from Pence.

"I'd say he and I will talk about it," Trump said. "During this quarantine period, we'll probably talk," he added, noting, "I haven't seen it since."

"We can talk on the phone, " he noted. "It came back negative (...) but he's in touch with a lot of people."

- "No vulnerability" -

Trump tried to minimize any concerns about an outbreak of the virus in the West Wing, where the Oval Office where the president works is located.

"We want to keep our country running so we have a lot of people in and out (of the White House) and a lot of those people, most of those people, are evaluated," he said.

"Everyone who enters the president's office is tested and I haven't felt any vulnerabilities," he said.

Trump, who wants to revive the economy ahead of the November election, in which he seeks re-election, said the U.S. was making "tremendous advances" in the amount of evidence, and said the number of infections "is dropping very quickly."

"People want our country to be on track," he said, stating that reopening is essential and that "some states could move faster."

"People also die with confinement," he said.

Trump abruptly ended the press conference after an exchange with CBS News correspondent, who asked him why while American was still dying, he insisted on turning the fight against the pandemic a "global competition" in which the United States fared better than other countries when it came to testing.

"Well, they're losing their lives all over the world," Trump replied. "And maybe that's a question I should ask China. Don't ask me, ask China that question, okay?"

Trump dismisses concern over Spread of Virus in White House

The journalist, Weijia Jiang, who is Chinese-American, replied, "Sir, why are you telling me that specifically?" "I say it. I'm telling anyone who asks a nasty question like that," Trump replied before leaving the podium.

- "Fear of going to work" -

Although it may seem spacious in movies and TV shows, the West Wing is not very large, making social estrangement difficult. It houses not only the president's office, but also those of some of his closest advisers, the press room and the desks of White House correspondents, who work side by side.

Kevin Hassett, the president's financial adviser, told CBS over the weekend that "it's scary to go to work."

"I would be safer sitting in my house than in the West Wing, than with all the tests in the world and the best medical equipment on Earth, it's a pretty crowded place," he told another network, CNN.

In a memorandum issued Monday, the White House instructed all personnel to use plugs inside the West Wing, except at their desks.

Unlike other world leaders, 73-year-old Trump never appeared with a beard in public.

On Monday, he said Americans "have learned about face masks." "Good and bad, by the way, " he said, without needing any more.

The United States is the country most affected by the new coronavirus, with more than 80,000 deaths and 1.3 million infections.

jca/cl/ec/ad/dga

Load-Date: May 13, 2020

End of Document