**What’s happening in the US?**

US Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar declared a [public health emergency](https://www.theverge.com/2020/1/31/21117403/trump-coronavirus-ban-travel-non-us-citizens-china) in response to the coronavirus at the end of January, and President Trump declared a [federal emergency](https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/13/21175637/coronavirus-trump-national-emergency-pandemic-announcement) in March.

The virus is spreading through the country, and dozens of states and counties have made [emergency declarations](https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/3/21162783/emergency-declarations-public-health-disaster-state-local-hhs). Hotspots include Louisiana and New York. It may have been spreading in Washington and other states [for weeks](https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/2/21161824/coronavirus-death-life-care-washington-testing-surveillance) [before](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/04/22/death-coronavirus-first-california/) it was first detected.

As the case counts shoot up, governors and local officials have closed nonessential businesses and told people to work from home and stay away from others. Hospitals in New York City and other places are buckling under the **strain** of hundreds of critically ill people; they’re running short on protective equipment for nurses and ventilators to help patients breathe. The interventions are helping to [slow the spread](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/29/us/seattle-washington-state-coronavirus-transmission-rate.html) of the disease in some areas.

The virus spread undetected because CDC guidelines originally did not allow testing unless a sick person had been in a country with an ongoing spread of the virus or who had been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of the disease could be tested. That delayed the diagnosis of patients who did not have those risk factors. They’ve since [updated the guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html) to say that doctors can use their best judgment to decide if the patient should be tested.

Public health experts are struggling to slow the spread of disease in part because there are still a [limited number of tests](https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/6/21168028/coronavirus-us-testing-insufficient-covid-19-cdc-fda-international) available. **It** [took too long](https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/17/21184015/coronavirus-testing-pcr-diagnostic-point-of-care-cdc-techonology) for the Food and Drug Administration and the CDC to develop and distribute a functioning test, and longer still for testing capacity to increase. In addition, public health agencies across the country don’t have the resources to get in touch with everyone who tests positive and find the people they may have exposed — a [critical public health tool](https://www.theverge.com/2020/4/10/21216550/contact-tracing-coronavirus-what-is-tracking-spread-how-it-works) called contact tracing.

Experts say that the US needs to dramatically increase the number of tests done each week and [scale up](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/04/10/831200054/cdc-director-very-aggressive-contact-tracing-needed-for-u-s-to-return-to-normal) the contact tracing workforce in order to control the outbreak.

The US currently has the worst outbreak of any country in the world.

Source: theverge.

1. What’s happening in the US?

**A.** US government is confusing.

B. Health care services are overloading.

C. The disease is worsening.

D. US economy is in crisis.

2. These statements are probably true **EXCEPT**:

A. Hospitals are lacking of breathing equipment.

B. The virus is spreading undetectably.

C. The interventions are helping to decrease the spreading rate.

D. US governors and local officials closed grocery business.

3. The word “**it**” is refer to:

A. A [limited number of tests](https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/6/21168028/coronavirus-us-testing-insufficient-covid-19-cdc-fda-international)

B. Public health agencies

C. Not refer to anything.

D. The spread of disease.

4. The word “**strain**” is best replaced with:

A. Ease. B. Tension. C. Fact. D. Expression.

5. This passage is most likely seen in:

A. An article. B. A magazine. C. An advertisement. D. A report.