



February 26, 2020

CDC's Dr. Nancy Messonnier, Incident Manager for the COVID-19 Response, holds a telebriefing. During the telebriefing she braces the U.S. for the eventual community spread of the novel coronavirus and states that the "disruption to everyday life may be severe."



Feb 29 2020

CDC updates its Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Testing of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 to any patients with a severe respiratory illness even in the absence of travel history to affected areas or known exposure to another case to prepare for possible additional person-to-person spread.



February 29, 2020

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announces a "new policy...for certain laboratories that develop and begin to use validated COVID-19 diagnostics before the FDA has completed review of their Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) requests," allowing laboratories to create tests to address testing shortages in the U.S.



March 1, 2020

CDC creates COVID-NET by modifying existing respiratory virus surveillance networks that monitor for hospitalizations associated with influenza and Respiratory Syncytical Virus (RSV) to monitor for hospitalizations associated with COVID-19.



March 11, 2020

The World Health Organization declares COVID-19 a pandemic.



March 12, 2020

Confirmatory testing for COVID-19 by CDC is no longer required by the U.S, Food and Drug Administration



March 13, 2020

President Donald J. Trump declares a nationwide emergency.



March 14, 2020

CDC issues a "No Sail Order" to all cruise ships. The order calls for all cruise ships in waters that the U.S. has jurisdiction over to cease activity.



March 15, 2020

U.S. states begin to shut down to prevent the spread of COVID-19. New York City public schools system (the largest school system in the U.S., with 1.1 million students) shuts down, while Ohio calls for restaurants and bars to close.