

- 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 Syncytial 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.