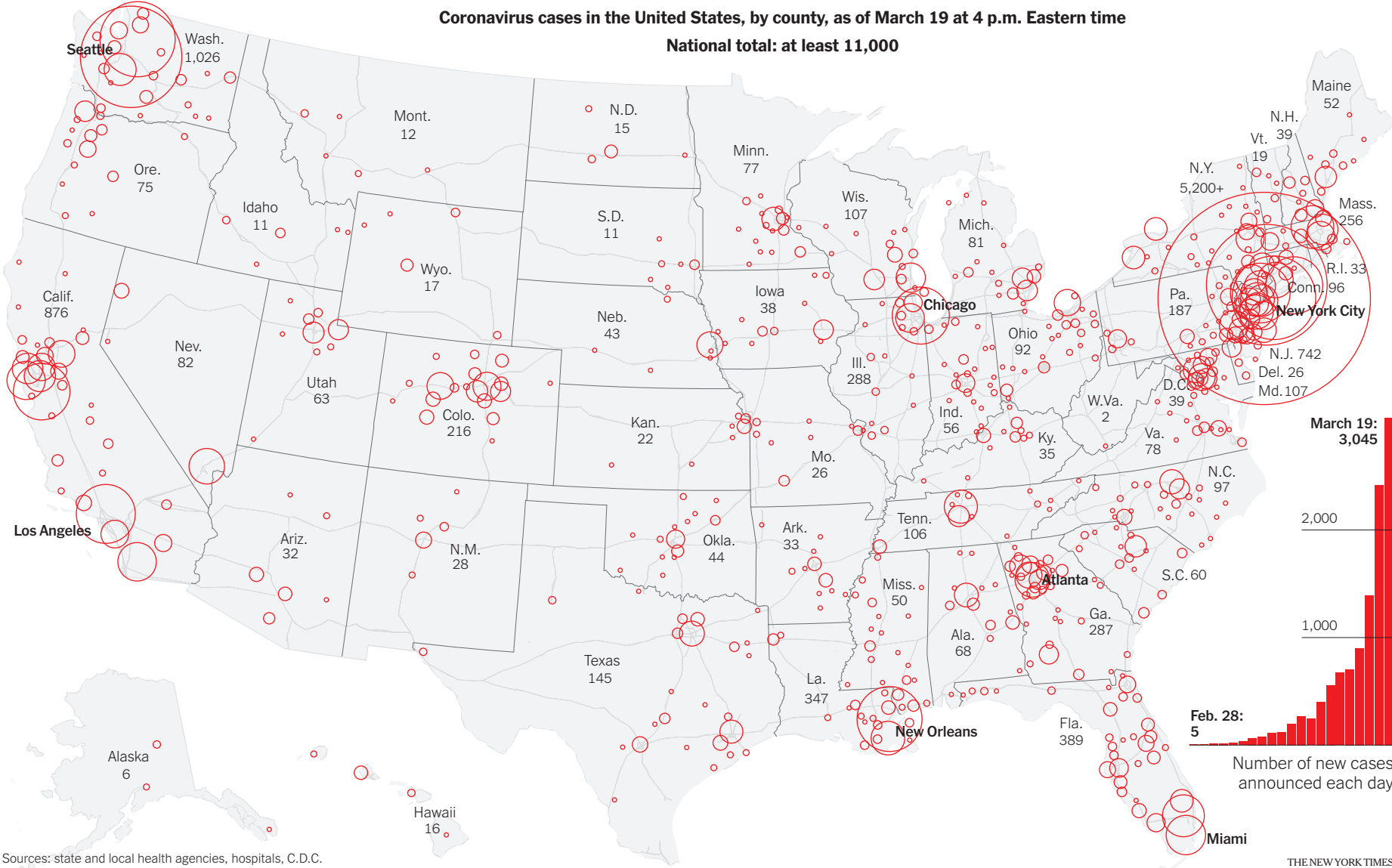


DOCTORS SOUND ALARM AS A NATION STRUGGLES



Sources: state and local health agencies, hospitals, C.D.C.

Shortages of Gear  
Imperil Staffs  
at Hospitals

This article is by **Andrew Jacobs, Matt Richtel and Mike Baker.**

The Open Cities Community Health Center in St. Paul, Minn., is considering shutting down because it doesn't have enough face masks. Doctors at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis are performing invasive procedures on coronavirus patients with loose-fitting surgical masks rather than the tight respirator masks recommended by health agencies. At a Los Angeles emergency room, doctors were given a box of expired masks, and when they tried to put them on, the elastic bands snapped.

With coronavirus cases soaring, doctors, nurses and other front-line medical workers across the United States are confronting a dire shortage of masks, surgical gowns and eye gear to protect them from the virus.

In interviews, doctors said they were increasingly anxious, fearing they could expose not only themselves to the virus, but also their families and others.

"There's absolutely no way to protect myself," said Dr. Faezah A. Bux, an anesthesiologist in central Kentucky who in recent days had to intubate several elderly patients in respiratory distress without the respirator masks and protective eye gear recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Not only can I not protect myself, I can't protect my patients."

At a White House briefing on Thursday, President Trump said that millions of masks were in production and that the federal government had made efforts to address the shortages, though he did not provide details. But he said it was largely up to governors to deal with the problem.

"The federal government's not supposed to be out there buying vast amounts of items and then shipping," Mr. Trump said. "You know, we're not a shipping clerk."

While doctors grappled with supply problems, the State Department advised Americans who are abroad to either come home now or plan to stay overseas until the pandemic is under control. In Italy, the death toll is now more than 3,400, a higher number of fatalities than even in China.

At home, the number of reported cases grew to over 11,000, Senate Republicans released a plan that would provide checks of up to \$1,200 for many taxpayers, and Gov. Gavin Newsom of California issued an order that state residents "stay at home."

In talking about the medical supplies shortage, the president said there were no immediate plans to address medical equipment shortages by activating the Defense Production Act, a Korean

Continued on Page A11

TRACKING AN OUTBREAK

**SENATE PLAN** Republicans unveiled a bill that includes tax cuts and loans to businesses. PAGE A10

**SYRIAN CAMPS** Doctors worry about the toll in places where even hand-washing is hard. PAGE A6

A Global Race  
To Figure Out  
A Silver Bullet

This article is by **David E. Sanger, David D. Kirkpatrick, Sui-Lee Wee and Katrin Bennhold.**

WASHINGTON — A global arms race for a coronavirus vaccine is underway.

In the three months since the virus began its deadly spread, China, Europe and the United States have all set off at a sprint to become the first to produce a vaccine. While there is cooperation on many levels — including among companies that are ordinarily fierce competitors — hanging over the effort is the shadow of a



BING GUAN/REUTERS

Vaccine research at Arcturus Therapeutics in San Diego.

nationalistic approach that could give the winner the chance to favor its own population and potentially gain the upper hand in dealing with the economic and geostrategic fallout from the crisis.

What began as a question of who would get the scientific accolades, the patents and ultimately the revenues from a successful vaccine is suddenly a broader issue of urgent national security. And behind the scramble is a harsh reality: Any new vaccine that proves potent against the coronavirus — clinical trials are already underway in the United States, China and Europe — is sure to be in short supply as governments try to ensure that their own people are the first in line.

In China, 1,000 scientists are at work on a vaccine, and the issue has already been militarized: Researchers affiliated with the Academy of Military Medical Sciences

Continued on Page A17

Claims Surge  
As Employees  
Are Cut Loose

By **PATRICIA COHEN**

In an early sign of the coronavirus pandemic's devastating impact on American workers, the Labor Department on Thursday reported a 30 percent increase in unemployment claims last week, one of the largest spikes on record.

The surge — 281,000 new claims — reflects a crushing new reality: Any hopes that businesses could keep their staffs largely intact have quickly evaporated.

"I started laying people off this Monday, not knowing how bad it was," said Barry Rosenberg, founder of Vending One, a Los Angeles company that stocks and maintains vending machines and self-serve kiosks in malls, office complexes, jails, schools and casinos. "On Tuesday, we started restricting hours. By next Monday, I don't know that they'll be any work."

Jon Blomer, who services accounts and refills those machines, was one of the first to lose his job. "There's not enough hours to go around, and everyone's been there longer," said Mr. Blomer, 33, who has worked at Vending One for a year. "I understand."

Job losses have become so sensitive that the Trump administration is asking state labor officials to delay releasing the precise number of unemployment claims.

In an email sent Wednesday and shared with The New York Times, the Labor Department instructed state officials to do nothing more than "provide information using generalities to describe claims levels (very high, large increase)" until the department releases the total number of national claims next Thursday.

The message noted that the data was "monitored closely by policymakers and financial markets to determine appropriate actions in light of fast-changing economic conditions" and should be closely held until the Labor Department's report.

To stanch the job losses, officials in Washington are racing to design a trillion-dollar stimulus. Senate Republicans put forward

Continued on Page A10

Warning of a Pandemic Last Year Was Unheeded

This article is by **David E. Sanger, Eric Lipton, Eileen Sullivan and Michael Crowley.**

WASHINGTON — The outbreak of the respiratory virus began in China and was quickly spread around the world by air travelers, who ran high fevers. In the United States, it was first detected in Chicago, and 47 days later, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic. By then it was too late: 110 million Americans were expected to become ill, leading to 7.7 million hospitalized and 586,000 dead.

That scenario, code-named "Crimson Contagion," was simulated by the Trump administra-

Simulation Showed the  
U.S. Was Unprepared  
for a Contagion

tion's Department of Health and Human Services in a series of exercises that ran from last January to August.

The simulation's sobering results — contained in a draft report dated October 2019 that has not previously been reported — drove home just how underfunded, underprepared and uncoordinated the federal government would be for a life-or-death battle with a vi-

rus for which no treatment existed.

The draft report, marked "not to be disclosed," laid out in stark detail repeated cases of "confusion" in the exercise. Federal agencies jockeyed over who was in charge. State officials and hospitals struggled to figure out what kind of equipment was stockpiled or available. Cities and states went their own ways on school closings.

Many of the potentially deadly consequences of a failure to address the shortcomings are now playing out in all-too-real fashion across the country. And it was hardly the first warning for the nation's leaders. Three times over the past four years the U.S. gov-

Continued on Page A12



SERGEY PONOMAREV FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Security State Showcase

Shelves in Moscow are bare, yet the Kremlin sees opportunity in the coronavirus outbreak. PAGE A8.

Is Anyone Actually Sick? Yes, She Told Her Friends, My Husband

By **ELAINA PLOTT**

The only thing that should have been different about the first Friday in March was the apple crisp. Heaven Frilot didn't usually cook at the end of the workweek, instead letting her family snack on leftovers — a roast or pork chops she'd made earlier, maybe — or order pizza. But her 10-year-old son, Ethan, was having a friend over

that night, and her husband, Mark, a lawyer, was coming off a crushing week of arbitration. She would bake an apple crisp.

Then Mark Frilot — 45 years old, "never, ever sick" — came home with a fever.

In the haze of days that followed, Ms. Frilot, a 43-year-old oil-and-gas analyst, occupied one world, the rest of her community in Kenner, La., another. She saw

Putting a Local Face on  
the Coronavirus

her friends making jokes on social media about the coronavirus — eye-roll emojis, Fox News talking points, Rush Limbaugh quotes writing off the threat. And then one person asked if anyone really

had this thing.

Ms. Frilot had an answer.

"I have been seeing a lot of posts about people taking this virus lightly and joking about it," she began in a Facebook post. "Mark has tested positive for the coronavirus."

Days earlier, it never occurred to Ms. Frilot (pronounced FREE-low) that her husband's fever that

Continued on Page A11



NATIONAL A22-26

Rival Turned Running Mate?

If Joseph R. Biden Jr. is going to run with a woman, some officials think it should be one who ran against him. PAGE A24

Homeless Youth Discrepancy

Data from two federal agencies show opposite trends, which some say undermines an effort to provide aid. PAGE A22

INTERNATIONAL A4-21

Honoring Female Strength

An exhibit in Kabul, Afghanistan, celebrates the achievements of ancient and modern women amid fears of a Taliban return to power. PAGE A20

Germany Bans Far-Right Clubs

In raids on the homes of extremist leaders, the police found weapons, propaganda and narcotics. PAGE A21

OBITUARIES A27, 30

A Pioneer of Pranks

Six decades ago, Mal Sharpe began conducting absurd interviews with gullible passers-by. He was 83. PAGE A30



SPORTSFRIDAY B9-12

Giddyup on the Piste

The Scandinavian sport of skijoring fits in with the Wild West atmosphere in Leadville, Colo. PAGE B9

Broken Up in Boston

Tom Brady's departure from the Patriots on Tuesday anguished fans already besieged by bad news. PAGE B9

BUSINESS B1-8

Trump Deflates Punching Bag

The president's relentless attacks on the Federal Reserve Board and its chair, Jerome H. Powell, have undermined public confidence in its ability to navigate the current crisis. PAGE B3

Hush! Big Rigs Go Electric

Tractor-trailer fleets will take time to make the transition from noisy, dirty diesel, but start-ups and established truck makers are racing to get their models on the road. Wheels. PAGE B3

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A28-29

David Brooks

PAGE A29



WEEKEND ARTS C1-12

Taking a Scalpel to Society

The artist Nate Lewis left his job as a nurse three years ago, but life in an I.C.U. unit produced long-lasting memories. Above, an untitled sketch. PAGE C8

