



DRIVE-THROUGH Joanne Massarotti approved a patient for testing last week in Paramus, N.J. Residents waited overnight to get swabs.



ROUTING May Carrillo sorting samples at Quest Diagnostic’s facility in Teterboro. Its proximity to New York has left it swamped.



FLIGHT George Fendley and Jamahl Carter loading bags of coronavirus test samples onto a plane at Teterboro Airport.

Agonizing Waits and Few Nurses: New Jersey Testing Is in Chaos

By RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

The lines start forming the night before, as people with glassy eyes and violent coughs try to get tested for the virus. In the darkness, they park their cars, cut their engines and try to sleep.

The backlog for coronavirus testing in New Jersey, the state with the second-highest caseload in the country, has been getting worse, not better, officials say.

So far, New Jersey has con-

ducted over 115,000 tests, about one for every 75 residents. Across the river in New York, the epicenter of the crisis, there is about one for every 40. The tests are a critical tool in measuring the disease’s spread and a requirement for certain forms of treatment. Yet they remain hard to get, and many are actively discouraged from trying.

“It’s unequivocally worsening,” Gov. Philip D. Murphy of New Jersey said recently, adding, “We’ve got constraints in the entire food chain.”

Sample Shipping Turns Into a Relay Race

Initially, the strain came from a lack of test kits, but now there are not enough nasal swabs, not enough nurses. There is a pileup at the labs themselves and a limited supply of the chemicals needed to identify the virus.

Two weeks ago at the Bergen Community College in Paramus, a

drive-through testing site in the hardest-hit area of New Jersey, residents had to arrive by 3 a.m. to get a spot. Within days, they were told to show up at 11 p.m. the night before.

On Monday of last week, Anita Holmes-Perez felt so sick that she asked her husband to drive her there even earlier, at 10:45, but a car was already ahead of her. The entrance to the site, run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, was blocked off by an ar-

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Sanders Endorses Biden, Saying, ‘We Need You in the White House’

By SYDNEY EMBER and KATIE GLUECK

Senator Bernie Sanders endorsed Joseph R. Biden Jr. as the Democratic nominee for president on Monday, adding the weight of his left-wing support to Mr. Biden’s candidacy and taking a major step toward bringing unity to the party’s effort to unseat President Trump in November.

The decision by Mr. Sanders to back his former rival is an unmistakable signal to his supporters — who are known for their intense loyalty — that they should do so as well, at a moment when Mr. Biden still faces deep skepticism from many younger progressive voters.

In a surprise joint appearance over live-streamed video, the two men revealed a rapprochement forged amid extraordinary circumstances just five days after Mr. Sanders withdrew, a sign of how profoundly the coronavirus pandemic has changed the race. The uncertainty caused by the virus, the vast damage to the American economy and the fervent de-



TAMIR KALIFA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. at the Iowa debate with Senator Bernie Sanders.

sire to deprive Mr. Trump of a second term prompted an earlier-than-expected alliance between two ideological rivals, aimed at bringing together disparate factions of the party.

“We need you in the White House,” Mr. Sanders said to Mr. Biden. “And I will do all that I can to see that that happens.”

Mr. Biden said: “I’m going to need you. Not just to win the campaign, but to govern.”

The coalescence behind Mr. Bi-

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23 Die in a Virus ‘Time Bomb’ At Packed New York Shelters

By NIKITA STEWART

Roy Coleman, a 69-year-old living in a homeless shelter on Wards Island, was taken away by ambulance after showing symptoms of Covid-19. The other shelter residents were relieved — until Mr. Coleman was allowed to return last week after testing positive at Harlem Hospital.

At another shelter, Alphonso Syville, 45, said that as much as he tried, he could not block out the incessant coughing that he heard from a man a few feet away.

At Delta Manor, a shelter in the Bronx, Christian Cascone recalled how a roommate confronted another resident who had poor hygiene and would not wash his hands. The resident “said something like, ‘Well, if God chooses for me to die, I’ll die,’” said Mr. Cascone, 37.

“My roommate said, ‘Well, the good Lord also wants the rest of us to be healthy, too,’” he said.

While much of New York City is staying inside, a crisis has taken hold among a population for whom social distancing is nearly



JONAH MARKOWITZ FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Alfonzo Forney, left, and Roberto Mangual near the Clarke Thomas shelter in New York.

impossible: the more than 17,000 men and women, many of them already in poor health, who sleep in roughly 100 group or “congregate” shelters for single adults. Most live in dormitories that are fertile fields for the virus, with beds close enough for people sleeping in them to hold hands.

And rather than keeping people away from shelters, the virus has driven them in.

Some inmates released from Rikers Island to control the out-

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GOVERNORS AGREE TO EXPLORE PLANS TO REOPEN STATES

Cautiously, Cuomo Says ‘Worst Is Over’ as Pacts Appear to Rebuke Trump

By LUIS FERRÉ-SADURNÍ and JESSE MCKINLEY

With the number of new deaths and the rate of hospitalizations falling in New York, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said on Monday that “the worst is over” in the coronavirus pandemic, and he announced an alliance with six other Northeastern governors to explore how to eventually lift restrictions — a move that appeared to be an implicit rebuke to President Trump.

The governors from New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Massachusetts and Rhode Island said they would begin to draw up a plan for when to reopen businesses and schools, and how quickly to allow people to return to work safely, although the timeline for such a plan remained unclear.

“If you do it wrong, it can backfire, and we’ve seen that with other places in the globe,” Mr. Cuomo said. “What the art form is going to be here is doing that smartly and doing that in a coordinated way.”

The joint effort was the first of two announced on Monday: The governors of California, Oregon and Washington — three Western states that were among those that felt the impact of the virus before it spread rapidly in the Northeast — announced a similar pact. All but one of the 10 governors on the two coasts are Democrats.

In moving ahead on their own, the governors were all but disregarding Mr. Trump just as he was trying to assert control over the

question of when and how to reopen the country — a move that set up the possibility of a collision course between the states and Washington.

The president spent Monday assembling a task force to advise him on a path to restoring some semblance of normal life in America. He rejected the notion that the decision would be left to the governors, even though they have been the ones to close the schools and issue the stay-at-home orders, not the federal government.

BRITAINY NEWMAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Empty streets in Manhattan’s East Village on Monday.

“For the purpose of creating conflict and confusion, some in the Fake News Media are saying that it is the Governors decision to open up the states, not that of the President of the United States & the Federal Government,” he wrote on Twitter. “Let it be fully understood that this is incorrect. It is the decision of the President.

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Outbreak Puts Stress on Links Of Food Chain

By MICHAEL CORKERY and DAVID YAFFE-BELLANY

The nation’s food supply chain is showing signs of strain, as increasing numbers of workers are falling ill with the coronavirus in meat processing plants, warehouses and grocery stores.

The spread of the virus through the food and grocery industry is expected to cause disruptions in production and distribution of certain products like pork, industry executives, labor unions and analysts have warned in recent days. The issues follow nearly a month of stockpiling of food and other essentials by panicked shoppers that have tested supply networks as never before.

Industry leaders and observers acknowledge the shortages could increase, but they insist it is more of an inconvenience than a major problem. People will have enough to eat; they just may not have the usual variety. The food supply remains robust, they say, with hundreds of millions of pounds of meat in cold storage. There is no evidence that the coronavirus can be transmitted through food or its packaging, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Still, the illnesses have the potential to cause shortages lasting weeks for a few products, creating further anxiety for Americans already shaken by how difficult it can be to find high-demand staples like flour and eggs.

“You might not get what you want when you want it,” said Christine McCracken, a meat industry analyst at Rabobank in New York. “Consumers like to have a lot of different choices, and the reality is in the short term, we

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Consumer Fear Seen as Foiling Quick Recovery

By JIM TANKERSLEY

WASHINGTON — Walter Isenberg is the sort of business owner President Trump has in mind when he talks about the need to start lifting coronavirus lockdowns and reopen the American economy. Mr. Isenberg’s hotel and restaurant group in Denver has seen its revenues drop from \$3 million a day last year to \$40,000 a day now.

But Mr. Isenberg has no expectation that his company, Sage Hospitality Group, will see the quick economic “boom” that Mr. Trump has predicted, even after state officials allow his properties to begin hosting customers again.

“It’s just going to be a very long and slow recovery until such time as there is a therapeutic solution or a vaccine,” Mr. Isenberg, who has furloughed more than 5,000 of his 6,000 employees, said in an interview. “I’m not a scientist, but I just don’t see the psyche of people — I don’t see people coming out of this and rushing out to start traveling and having big conventions.”

The president is in a rush to lift quarantines and stay-at-home restrictions that have brought an 11-year economic expansion to an abrupt end and knocked millions of people out of work. Mr. Trump has predicted that once the economy restarts, it will rocket itself out of a deep recession and lead to an economic boom “perhaps like never before.”

Companies affected by the shutdowns say restarting the economy will not be that easy. So do a wide variety of economic and survey data, which suggest that the economy will recover slowly even after the government begins to ease limits on public gatherings

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Beijing appears to have directly caused the record low river levels in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. **PAGE A19**

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Robert Barth, 89, was a pioneering deep-sea diver in the Navy’s Sealab underwater habitat program. **PAGE B12**

A Trailblazer of Reality TV
Craig Gilbert, 94, created “An American Family,” the 1973 show that turned the Loud family into stars. **PAGE B11**



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Children’s shows like “Sesame Street” and “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood,” above, take on the coronavirus. **PAGE C1**

The Mouth Where the Money Is
In 1970, John Pasche created the Rolling Stones’ “tongue and lips” logo, the most famous in rock ‘n’ roll. **PAGE C1**

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