

## FED FLEXES MUSCLE AS SENATE BATTLES OVER AID



Lining up at a grocery store in Alphabet City in Lower Manhattan. High density has helped the coronavirus to spread rapidly in New York, the nation's largest city.

### Trait Defining New York Life Enables Virus

**By BRIAN M. ROSENTHAL**

New York has tried to slow the spread of the coronavirus by closing its schools, shutting down its nonessential businesses and urging its residents to stay home almost around the clock. But it faces a distinct obstacle in trying to stem new cases: its cheek-by-jowl density.

New York is far more crowded than any other major city in the United States. It has 28,000 residents per square mile, while San Francisco, the next most jammed city, has 17,000, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

All of those people, in such a small space, appear to have helped the virus spread rapidly through packed subway trains, busy playgrounds and hivelike apartment buildings, forming ever-widening circles of infections and making New York the nation's epicenter of the outbreak.

"Density is really an enemy in a situation like this," said Dr. Steven Goodman, an epidemiologist at Stanford University. "With large population centers, where people are interacting with more people all the time, that's where it's going to spread the fastest."

The challenge facing New York and other tightly cramped cities around the United States can be seen by comparing the country's largest city to its second biggest,

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### Rancor Makes Stimulus Bill A Heavy Lift

**By EMILY COCHRANE and NICHOLAS FANDOS**

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats on Monday blocked action for the second day in a row on a nearly \$2 trillion emergency economic aid measure to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, insisting on stronger protections for workers and restrictions for bailed-out businesses as they struggled to reach a deal with the Trump administration.

Despite a sense of desperation in both parties and at the White House about quickly enacting a stabilization package to deliver critical financial support to businesses forced to shutter and relief to hard-pressed American families, sharp ideological differences between Republicans and Democrats were making it difficult to finalize a compromise.

Still, as the Senate prepared to close for the night around 9, Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York and the minority leader, appeared on the floor to declare that the adjournment "doesn't mean negotiations are slowing down one bit" between him and Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury secretary.

The list of unresolved items had "narrowed significantly," Mr. Schumer said. "We're going to work into the night."

As urgent negotiations contin-

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### Biden, Offstage During a Crisis, Strains to Make Himself Heard

**By THOMAS KAPLAN and ALEXANDER BURNS**

With President Trump providing daily televised briefings and governors like Andrew M. Cuomo emerging as national leaders during the coronavirus pandemic, former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. is still grappling with how to position himself as a prominent voice on a crisis that is pushing traditional politics to the back-ground.

Mr. Biden has been confined over the last week to an unusually small role for the likely — though not yet completely certain — nominee of a major political party. His public comments have been sparing and, for the most part, restrained. He has begun to ramp up a public schedule, beginning with an appearance on ABC's "The View" on Tuesday, and his aides

said he would now offer remarks on camera in some fashion each day.

But Democratic strategists, some state officials and even some of his own aides have said that Mr. Biden needs to be more visible at a time when Americans are looking for leadership. The challenge for Mr. Biden, they say, is to find ways to draw sharp contrasts in leadership style with Mr. Trump while showing sensitivity to the severity of the crisis, and to break through when the nation is focused on more immediate concerns than November's election.

Jim Margolis, a veteran Democratic strategist, said Mr. Biden had "walked that line really well,

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### To Some, Cost of Prolonged Isolation Is Too High

*This article is by Jim Tankersley, Maggie Haberman and Roni Caryn Rabin.*

WASHINGTON — As the United States entered Week 2 of trying to contain the spread of the coronavirus by shuttering large swaths of the economy, President Trump, Wall Street executives and many conservative economists began questioning whether the government had gone too far and should instead lift restrictions that are already inflicting deep pain on workers and businesses.

Consensus continues to grow among government leaders and health officials that the best way to defeat the virus is to order non-essential businesses to close and residents to confine themselves at home. Britain, after initially resisting such measures, essentially

locked down its economy on Monday, as did the governors of Virginia, Michigan and Oregon. More than 100 million Americans will soon be subject to stay-at-home orders.

Relaxing those restrictions could significantly increase the death toll from the virus, public health officials warn. Many economists say there is no positive trade-off — resuming normal activity prematurely would strain hospitals and result in even more deaths, while exacerbating a recession that has probably already

### Trump Says That He'll Soon Reassess Social Distancing Rules

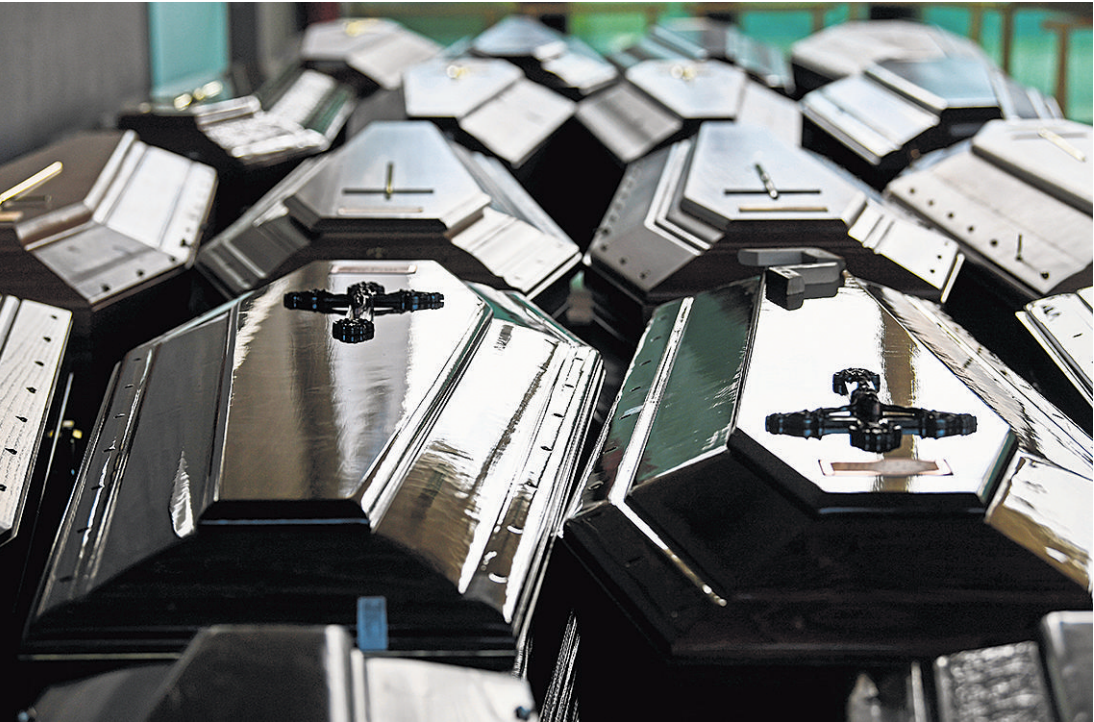
arrived.

The economic shutdown is causing damage that is just beginning to appear in official data. Morgan Stanley researchers said on Monday that they now expected the economy to shrink by an annualized rate of 30 percent in the second quarter of this year, and the unemployment rate to jump to nearly 13 percent. Both would be records in modern economic statistics.

Officials have said the federal government's initial 15-day period for social distancing is vital to slowing the spread of the virus, which has infected more than 40,000 people in the United States.

But Mr. Trump and a chorus of conservative voices have begun to suggest that the shock to the economy could hurt the country more than deaths from the virus.

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### A Deadly Fight Persists

Italy cited over 600 virus fatalities Monday, even as the number of new cases and deaths declined.

## Spit On, Yelled At, Attacked: Chinese-Americans Fear for Safety

**By SABRINA TAVERNISE and RICHARD A. OPPEL Jr.**

WASHINGTON — Yuanyuan Zhu was walking to her gym in San Francisco on March 9, thinking the workout could be her last for a while, when she noticed that a man was shouting at her. He was yelling an expletive about China. Then a bus passed, she recalled, and he screamed after it, "Run them over!"

She tried to keep her distance, but when the light changed, she was stuck waiting with him at the crosswalk. She could feel him staring at her. And then, suddenly, she felt it: his saliva hitting her face and her favorite sweater.

In shock, Ms. Zhu, who is 26 and moved to the United States from China five years ago, hurried the rest of the way to the gym. She found a corner where no one could see her, and she cried quietly.

"That person didn't look

### Growing Racism Jars Asians Nationwide

strange or angry or anything, you know?" she said of her tormentor. "He just looked like a normal person."

As the coronavirus upends American life, Chinese-Americans face a double threat. Not only

### Unlimited Buying of Bonds to Help Businesses

**By JEANNA SMIALEK**

The Federal Reserve, determined to try to keep the spread of the coronavirus from devastating the American economy, rolled out a series of sweeping new programs on Monday meant to shore up large and small businesses and keep markets functioning.

As mortgage markets showed signs of crumbling, companies struggled to sell debt and stresses plagued the entire financial system, the Fed announced several never-before-attempted actions to try to calm the turmoil.

The Fed pledged to buy as much government-backed debt as needed to bolster the markets for housing and Treasury bonds. It announced that it would buy corporate bonds, including the riskiest investment-grade debt, for the first time in its history. And it promised to unveil more, including supports for small businesses, in the days and weeks to come.

The Fed is throwing its full weight at confronting the economic fallout from the coronavirus, which poses a severe threat as factories shut down, people lose jobs and the economy grinds to a halt while lawmakers in Congress continue to struggle to find a fiscal response, making the central bank the primary line of defense.

"The speed of the response has been unprecedentedly fast," said Roberto Perli, a partner at Cornerstone Macro and a former Fed economist. "It is a 'whatever it takes' moment, but backed by actions."

To try to curb the virus, several more states, including Massachusetts, Michigan and Oregon, moved on Monday to impose stay-at-home orders. Such orders will soon cover more than 100 million Americans.

In New York, which accounts for about 6 percent of the virus cases worldwide and is facing critical medical shortages, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo ordered hospitals to increase capacity by at least 50 percent. Almost 21,000 cases have been recorded in the state, with at least 157 deaths. But President Trump suggested he would soon re-evaluate the federal guidance urging social distancing. Also on Monday he signed an executive order to keep people and businesses from hoarding supplies and from engaging in price gouging.

In Britain, the government imposed a virtual lockdown, closing all nonessential shops, banning meetings of more than two people and requiring people to stay home, except for trips for food or medicine.

The Fed's moves, decided over weeks of back-to-back late nights, are meant to be only a first step. They could be scaled up sharply if

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**TRACKING AN OUTBREAK**

**SUSPENDED** Gilead will halt access to a drug that President Trump promoted. **PAGE A12**

**CONCERNED** The U.S. Olympic Committee urged a postponement of the Tokyo Games. **PAGE B8**



**Veiled by Choice in Indonesia**

A growing movement of Muslim women is promoting the niqab, revealing only the eyes, for personal reasons. **PAGE A14**

**Joint Military Drill in Mideast**

The biennial exercise, which reflects the ties between U.S. and Emirati forces, proceeded despite a pandemic. **PAGE A15**

**Obamacare Turns 10**

With the coronavirus, a new Supreme Court case and a blistering election debate, the Affordable Care Act is still facing severe challenges. **PAGE A18**

**Muffling Black Voices**

Voice-recognition devices from major tech firms misidentified 35 percent of words from black users. **PAGE A16**

**‘Dueling Banjos’ Musician**

Eric Weissberg, whose banjo work on the 1973 hit helped usher bluegrass into the mainstream, was 80. **PAGE A21**



**Salvaging History**

Hundreds of boxes of heirlooms were salvaged from the scorched interior of a Chinatown museum, above. **PAGE C1**

**Roasting McConnell**

A book by the sports radio host Matt Jones trolls Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, for 500 pages. **PAGE C1**

**Manslaughter Plea for Utility**

California regulators determined that PG&E's equipment caused the devastating 2018 Camp Fire that led to the deaths of 85 people. **PAGE B3**

**A Double Dose of Loss**

At Kobe Bryant's high school, players were already aching. Now they may not get to finish their season. **PAGE B8**

**Stanley McChrystal and Chris Fussell**

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**Surviving Thalidomide**

Unearthed papers tell the almost forgotten story of the drug's impact in the U.S. Above, Carolyn Farmer Sampson, whose mother took the drug. **PAGE D1**

