

PRESSURE ON TRUMP AS MILLIONS ARE KEPT HOME

Mixed Signals
From President
Sow Confusion

This article is by Katie Rogers, Maggie Haberman and Ana Swanson.

WASHINGTON — President Trump and his advisers have resisted calls from congressional Democrats and a growing number of governors to use a federal law that would mobilize industry and provide badly needed resources against the coronavirus spread, days after the president said he would consider using that authority.

Mr. Trump has given conflicting signals about the Defense Production Act since he first said on Wednesday that he was prepared to invoke the law, which was passed by Congress at the outset of the Korean War and grants presidents extraordinary powers to force American industries to ensure the availability of critical equipment.

The next day, he suggested that obtaining medical equipment should be up to individual governors because “we’re not a shipping clerk.” But on Friday, he reversed himself, asserting that he had used the law to spur the production of “millions of masks,” without offering evidence or specifics about who was manufacturing them or when they would reach health workers.

And Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader, said that he was left with the impression after talking with Mr. Trump that he had decided to move to put the act into effect. He said “a commitment on the phone was a good start,” but that the president now needed to push the government “to move full steam ahead.”

But Mr. Trump’s confusing statements played out in the middle of a growing health crisis that within days has abruptly and indefinitely altered the course of American life.

With the number of coronavirus cases in the United States surging above 17,000 — over 40 percent of those concentrated in New York — front-line health care workers have reported a dire shortage of masks, surgical gowns and eye gear to protect them from the virus. State lawmakers have also implored the president to help them get the supplies they need.

Business leaders have said invoking the defense law is not necessary. During his appearance with the members of his coronavirus task force on Friday, Mr. Trump supported that idea and said that private companies, in-

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TRACKING AN OUTBREAK

STOCK UPROAR A sell-off by Senator Richard Burr has led to calls for his resignation. PAGE A9

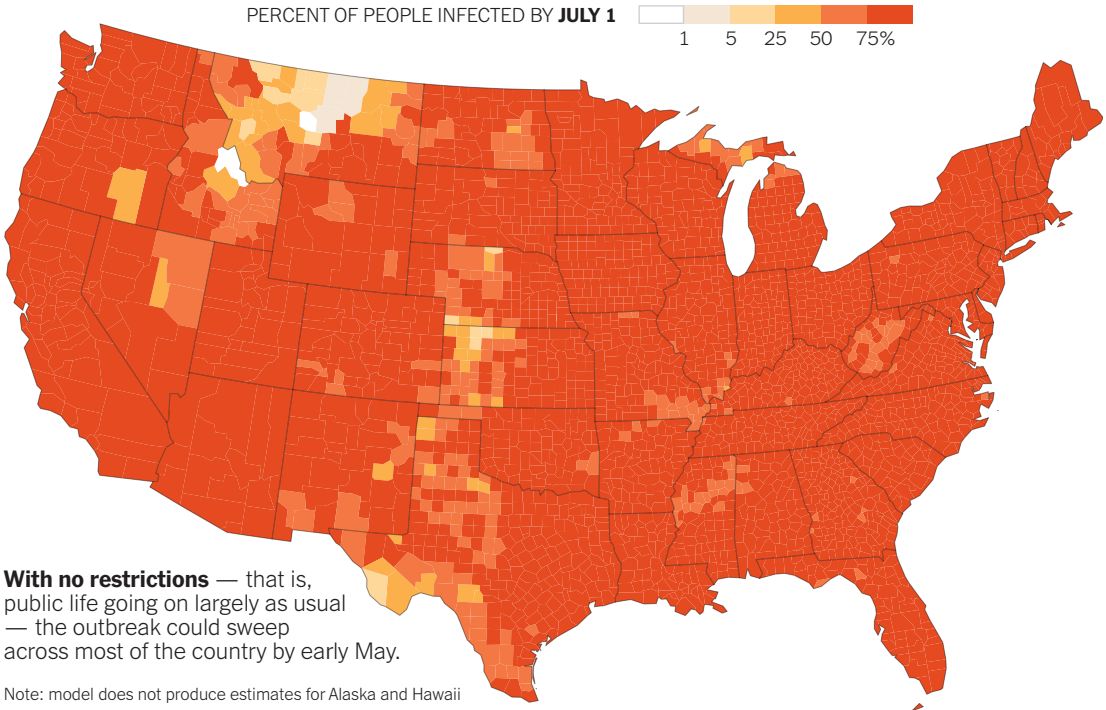
MILESTONE Spain became the second European country with more than 1,000 deaths. PAGE A4

TEST SHORTAGES Decisions and blunders months ago have caused disparities worldwide. PAGE A6

How the Outbreak Could Spread Across
U.S. Counties Under Three Social Control Scenarios

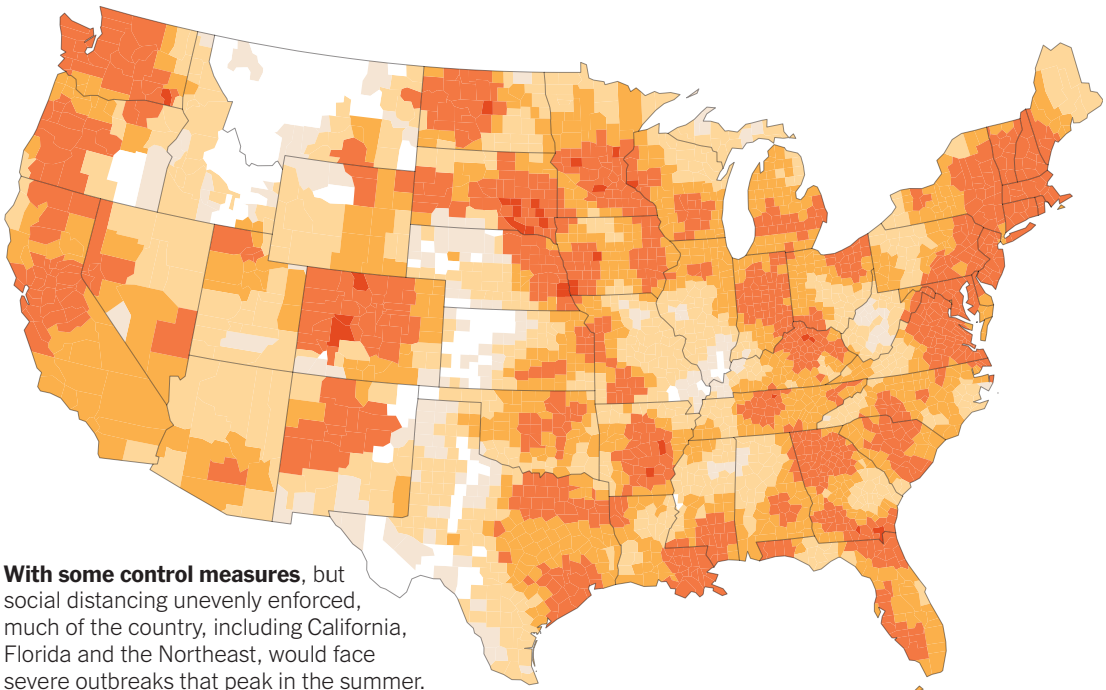
These maps, based on modeling, show where coronavirus infections might spread — or not — depending on how aggressively Americans’ social contact is restricted.

Story and more graphics, Page A12.

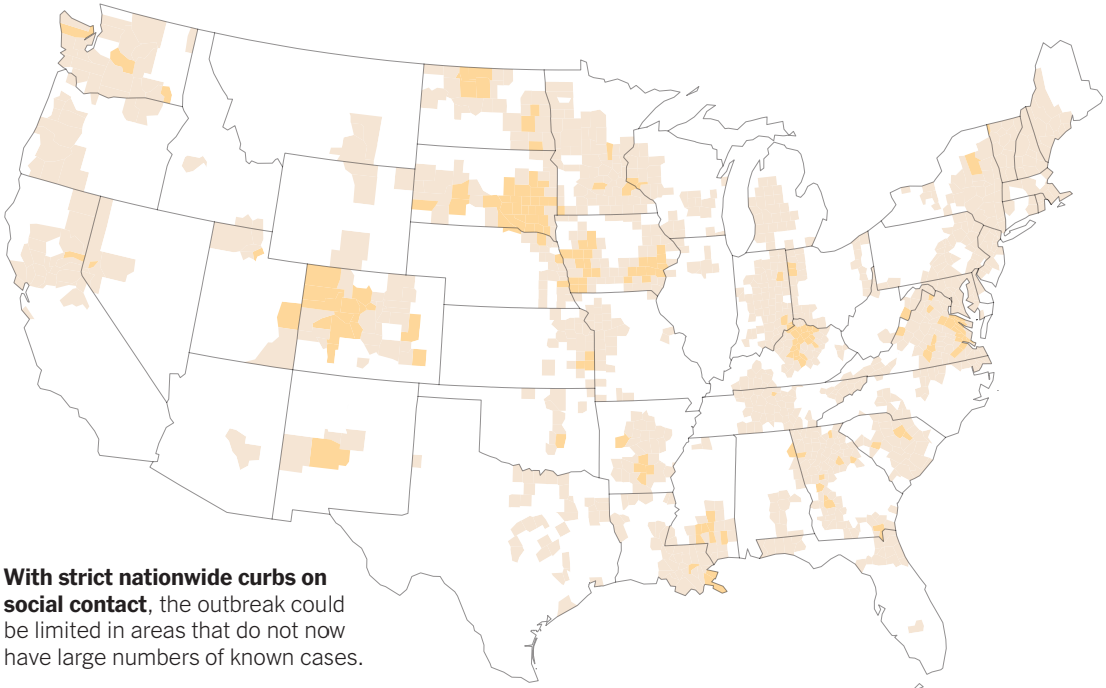


With no restrictions — that is, public life going on largely as usual — the outbreak could sweep across most of the country by early May.

Note: model does not produce estimates for Alaska and Hawaii



With some control measures, but social distancing unevenly enforced, much of the country, including California, Florida and the Northeast, would face severe outbreaks that peak in the summer.



With strict nationwide curbs on social contact, the outbreak could be limited in areas that do not now have large numbers of known cases.

Source: Sen Pei and Jeffrey Shaman, Columbia University

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Decrees From New York and Illinois
— Virus Tightens Grip on Nation

By JULIE BOSMAN and JESSE MCKINLEY

CHICAGO — America plunged into a deeper state of disruption and paralysis on Friday as New York and Illinois announced a broad series of measures aimed at keeping tens of millions of residents cloistered in their homes, following similar actions by California and a patchwork of restrictions from coast to coast.

The new, more stringent directives, in some of the country’s most populous states, were intended to slow the spread of the coronavirus that has swept across the country, sickening more than 17,000 people and claiming at least 214 lives. By the end of the weekend, at least 1 in 5 Americans will be under orders to stay home, and more states were expected to follow suit.

Increasingly severe shutdowns and restrictions on Americans’ movement — which public experts consider essential to reduce the alarming rate of infection — have turned much of the country quiet. Forty-five states have closed all their schools and the other five have closed at least some of them. Bars, restaurants and other gathering spots have been abruptly shuttered.

New York State has become the center of the outbreak, as its confirmed coronavirus cases have jumped to more than 7,000 and health officials have flagged with urgency a looming shortage of hospital beds and equipment. With 6 percent of the U.S. population, the state now accounts for more than one-third of all confirmed cases in the country.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York announced Friday what he called “the most drastic action we can take,” essentially ordering the nation’s largest city and the rest of his state into a protective crouch: All nonessential businesses were ordered closed by 8 p.m. on Sunday, setting up a stark new reality

for some 19 million residents, who were told to stay home as the state went “on pause.”

New York officials have issued a lengthy list of businesses and services that would be allowed to stay open, including nuts-and-bolts governmental duties like code enforcement to more practical concerns like automotive repair, child care and computer support.

Basic functions like grocery shopping, walking the dog and getting medicine or exercise were



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Most businesses in New York State must close by Sunday.

still to be permitted, but little else in the way of normal life. “We need everyone to be safe,” Mr. Cuomo said, acknowledging the severe economic and psychological impact of such an order. “Otherwise no one can be safe.”

New York City’s public transit system would continue to run, but the city it travels through was profoundly transformed from its usually bustling, never-sleep energy: Its restaurants and bars were closed; its schools, museums and theaters dark; and its gaudy central mall — Times Square — quiet.

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Short on Beds and Ventilators,
New York Hospitals Face Surge

This article is by Brian M. Rosenthal, Joseph Goldstein and Michael Rothfeld.

New York State’s long-feared surge of coronavirus cases has begun, thrusting the medical system toward a crisis point.

In a startlingly quick ascent, officials reported on Friday that the state was closing in on 8,000 positive tests, about half the cases in the country. The number was 10 times higher than what was reported earlier in the week.

In the Bronx, doctors at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center say they have only a few remaining ventilators for patients who need them to breathe. In Brooklyn, doctors at Kings County Hospital Center say they are so low on supplies that they are reusing masks for up to a week, slathering them with hand

sanitizer between shifts.

Some of the jump in New York’s cases can be traced to significantly increased testing, which the state began this week. But the escalation, and the response, could offer other states a glimpse of what might be in store if the virus continues to spread. Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Friday urged residents to stay indoors and ordered nonessential businesses to keep workers home.

State officials have projected that the number of coronavirus cases in New York will peak in early May. Both the governor and Mayor Bill de Blasio have used wartime metaphors and analogies to paint a grim picture of what to expect. Officials have said the state would need to double its available hospital beds to 100,000

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\$1 Trillion Stimulus Spurs Lobbying Gold Rush

This article is by Kenneth P. Vogel, Catie Edmondson and Jesse Drucker.

WASHINGTON — Restaurants say they need \$325 billion in federal assistance. Boeing wants \$60 billion. The travel industry has requested \$250 billion and manufacturers are seeking \$1.4 trillion in loans to deal with the economic devastation being wrought by the coronavirus.

And that’s to say nothing of the casinos, airlines and franchise owners, all of whom have signaled that they, too, will need relief from

Old Agendas Infiltrate
Aid Package Proposal

the federal government to survive.

Then there are the industries and companies that do not immediately come to mind as front-line casualties but are nonetheless lobbying for their causes to be addressed as Congress prepares to allocate \$1 trillion or more in response to the crisis.

The prospect of a bailout on a

scale without precedent has set off a rush to the fiscal trough, with businesses enduring undeniable dislocation jostling with more opportunistic interests to ensure they get a share.

The sportswear company Adidas is seeking support for a long-sought provision allowing people to use pretax money to pay for gym memberships and fitness equipment — despite the mandatory closure of fitness facilities in many jurisdictions during the outbreak.

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Skiping Meals So Her Children Can Have Theirs

By MANNY FERNANDEZ

BRENNHAM, Texas — With her six hungry children in the car, Summer Mossbarger was one of the first in line for lunch at the drive-through. Not at a fast-food restaurant, but outside Alton Elementary School.

Alton was closed — all the public schools in Brenham, a rural Texas town of 17,000 about 90 miles east of Austin, have shut for the coronavirus — but one vital piece of the school day lived on: free lunch. Ms. Mossbarger rolled

In a Crisis, the Poor Are
Left Further Behind

down the window of her used, 15-year-old sport utility vehicle as school employees handed her six Styrofoam containers.

Even as the carnival aroma of mini corn dogs filled the vehicle on the drive back home, and even as the children sat on the porch and ate from their flipped-open containers with the family dogs running around, Ms. Mossbarger

ate nothing.

She skipped breakfast and lunch, taking her first bite of food — food-pantry fried chicken — about 5:30 p.m. All she consumed from the time she awoke that morning until she ate dinner were sips from a cherry Dr Pepper.

Money was tight. Ms. Mossbarger, 33, a disabled Army veteran, does not work. Her husband’s job as a carpenter has slowed, becoming more unpredictable as people cancel or delay residential construction jobs. She

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INTERNATIONAL A17-18

Making a Rare Vocal Leap

María Castillo de Lima became a breakout star after switching to soprano from tenor. The Saturday Profile. PAGE A18

Europe’s New Migrant Buffer

Merchant ships have been tasked with saving lives — and returning seaborne migrants to war-torn Libya. PAGE A17

BUSINESS B1-8

Groceries on the Front Line

Grocery stores have been deemed essential businesses, meaning their employees are worried about being exposed to the coronavirus. PAGE B1

The ‘Trump Bump’ Vanishes

With a decline of 4.5 percent on Friday, the Dow Jones industrial average is now lower than it was when President Trump took office. PAGE B1

News Site Traffic Ticks Up

Journalists are covering the coronavirus from home. But as readers flock to news outlets, ads in some categories are starting to disappear. PAGE B1

SPORTSSATURDAY B9-12

Liverpool’s Delayed Dream

The club was two wins away from claiming its first Premier League title. And then everything stopped. PAGE B9

Brady Is a Buccaneer

After 20 seasons and six championships with the New England Patriots, Tom Brady, a free agent, is joining just his second N.F.L. team. PAGE B9

OBITUARIES B13-14

Poet Who Had ‘Bandit’ Father

Molly Brodak chronicled the trauma she endured as the child of a bank robber in the Detroit area. She was 39. PAGE B14



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No More Coal in New York

A coal-fired power plant in Barker, N.Y., the last of its kind in the state, will close this month. PAGE A19

Bloomberg Shifts His Spending

The former New York mayor will give \$18 million directly to the Democratic National Committee. PAGE A20

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Holed Up With Viral Content

The pandemic clarifies a dark bargain: We look to devices to soothe our nerves, and we hand over our minds. PAGE C1

Overshadowed by Bach

The music of Heinrich Schütz, a 17th-century path breaker, is largely unknown today but worth a listen. PAGE C1

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Bret Stephens

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