



Current Situation: COVID-19

April 8th,
2020 Update

Monitoring the Virus

World Continues to see COVID-19 Spread

Current figures show more than [1.46 million confirmed cases around the world and over 85,000](#) deaths, according to John Hopkins University data.

U.S. Hits Death Toll Record

The U.S. recorded [1,939 deaths during the 24-hour period ended 8 p.m. Tuesday](#)—50% more than any previous day of the pandemic.

India Keeping Close Eye

[India considers narrowing the nationwide lockdown](#) that was originally scheduled to end April 14th to coronavirus hotspots in Delhi and Mumbai and parts of the south.

COVID-19 GLOBAL SPREAD

	CONFIRMED CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS
United States	399,929	22,539	12,911
Spain	146,690	48,021	14,555
Italy	135,586	24,392	17,127
France	110,070	19,523	10,343
Germany	107,663	36,081	2,016
China	82,809	77,565	3,337
Iran	64,586	27,039	3,993
United Kingdom	55,957	332	6,171
Turkey	34,109	1,582	725
Belgium	23,403	4,681	2,240

AS OF APRIL 8, 2020 8:15 AM ET
SOURCE: JOHN HOPKINS CSSE

[Source](#)

Concerns with Spread through Africa



Over [10,000 confirmed cases reported in Africa](#); UN cites [Zimbabwe and South Sudan](#) among most vulnerable.

“COVID-19 has the potential not only to cause thousands of deaths, but to also unleash economic and social devastation”, [warned Matshidiso Moeti](#), WHO Regional Director for Africa.

COVID-19 in the U.S.

Battle in New York Continues

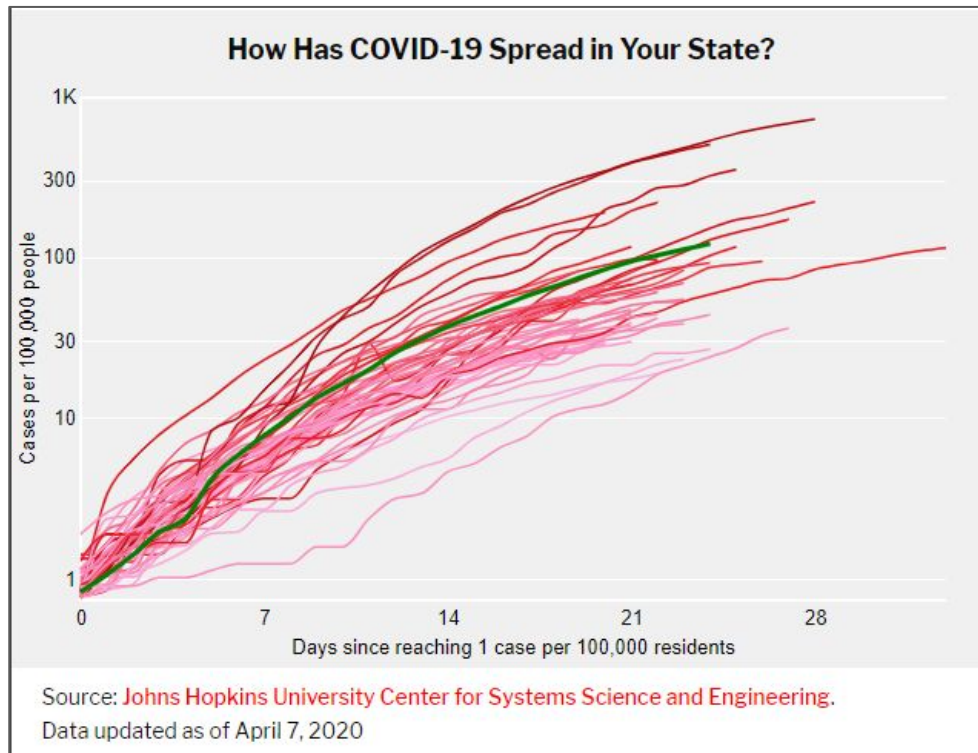
[Death toll in New York City exceeds 4,000.](#)

A figure now more than 1,000 deaths higher than the 9/11 attack, which killed 2,753 people in the city and 2,977 overall.

Government Responses

[Small businesses hardest hit](#) and Small Business Agency struggling to keep up.

Democrats Call for [\\$500 Billion in Additional Funds](#), double the White House Request.

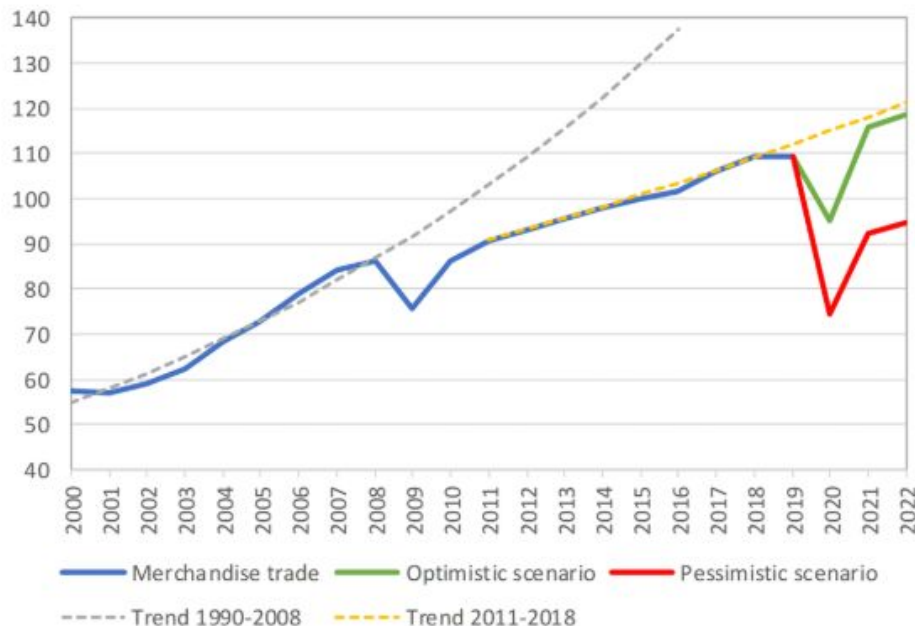


[Click here for interactive graph.](#)

Economic Impacts

Chart 1 - World merchandise trade volume, 2000-2022

Index, 2015=100



Mixed Signals

[U.S. Stocks rise on Wednesday](#) following news about the virus possibly stabilizing in various regions.

The World Trade Organization expects [global trade to fall anywhere between 13% and 32%](#) in 2020.

Meanwhile Germany and France, two of the biggest economies in the Eurozone, [sink into historic recessions](#).

Aid & Recovery Plans

Emergency Responses

CEO of Twitter [Jack Dorsey pledges \\$1 billion](#) of his Square stake for COVID-19 relief efforts.

[Iran calls on U.S. to allow IMF to give it \\$5 billion](#) emergency loan for COVID-19 as death toll nears 4,000.



New Measures

[Spain plans to roll out universal basic income](#) (UBI) as soon as possible to help families affected by the coronavirus and hopes to keep UBI ongoing after the pandemic.

If successful, Spain would be the first country in Europe to have nationwide UBI long term.

Security & Stability Concerns



Security Threats & Concerns

Reporting & Protests Under Threat

Reports of [journalists being threatened and detained](#) as countries on multiple continents restrict coronavirus coverage.

[Protests around the world come to a halt](#) as large gatherings have been banned in response to coronavirus forcing protesters to adapt.

Agencies Extend Suspensions

[UN suspends peacekeeping deployments](#). The rotation and deployment of U.N. peacekeepers and international police will be suspended until June 30.

[International Court of Justice extends suspension of all judicial meetings or hearings](#) until May 31st.



Terrorism & Stability

[The Euro-Gulf Information Centre](#) held a panel discussing “Terrorism in the Time of Coronavirus”

A panel of experts discussed how a global crisis can be utilized by extremist and terrorist groups.

Short Term Impact

Extremist groups view the pandemic as validation which can further motivate the organization.

Some groups are trying to gain legitimacy and are using the crisis to gain favor, by following WHO guidelines or trying to take care of their community.

Long Term Fears

The economic crisis and high levels of unemployment, especially among youth, can cause resentment and cause radicalization as a result.

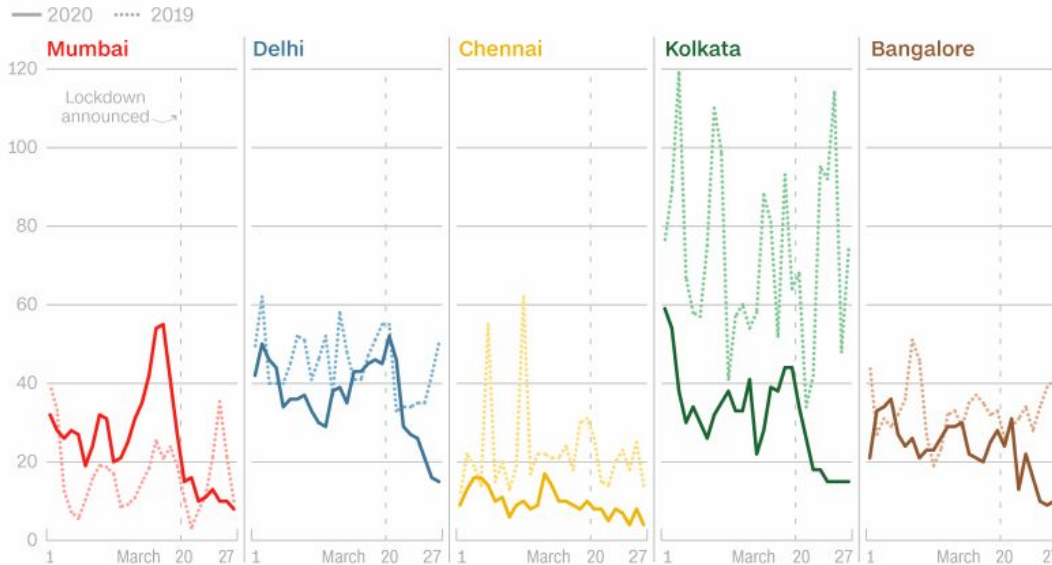
As attention is focused on relief efforts and rebuilding, other nations might not see warning signs creating space for groups such as ISIS to resurge.

[For more detail on the series, click here.](#)

Pollution Levels Fall in India

NO₂ levels fell dramatically after India's lockdown

Average daily nitrogen dioxide emissions in March, micro grams per square meter



CNN

Sources: Centre for Research on Clean Air and Energy; Central Pollution Control Board
Graphic: Natalie Leung; Natalie Croker, CNN

Environmental Benefits

In New Delhi, government data shows [the average concentration of PM 2.5 plunged by 71%](#) in the space of a week.

Activists are calling for the government to move to cleaner energy as India has one of the highest rates of respiratory disease in the world, and the world's highest number of tuberculosis cases.

[Source](#)

Proper Use of Face Masks

Medical Masks vs. Cloth Masks

Both the [WHO](#) and [CDC](#) advise that medical masks should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders as there is a shortage of supply.

Using Cloth Masks Safely

[Some nations](#) have mandated wearing face masks in public whereas others have not taken such measures.

In the Czech Republic, a movement called [#Masks4All](#) highlights the benefits of widespread mask usage, but notes it is an additional measure ☐ not a replacement for [WHO safety guidelines](#).

The [CDC recommends](#) wearing cloth face coverings in public settings especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

WHEN TO USE A MASK

For healthy people wear a mask **only if you are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection**

Wear a mask, **if you are coughing or sneezing**

Masks are effective only when used **in combination with frequent hand-cleaning** with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

If you wear a mask then you **must know how to use it and dispose of it properly**



World Health
Organization



Spotlight on Health Workers

WHO estimates a global shortfall of 5.9 million nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“One of the lessons I hope the world learns from COVID-19 is that we must invest in nurses and midwives.”

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general, World Health Organization



“Nurses and midwives are the backbone of every health system: in 2020 we’re calling on all countries to invest in nurses and midwives as part of their commitment to health for all.”

- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General

This information is current as of April 8th, 2020.
Further updates will be sent in future briefings.



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