



# Current Situation: COVID-19

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April 9th, 2020  
Update

# Monitoring the Virus

## Italy's Slow Decline

Italy announce about 4,200 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 610 deaths. Although these numbers are lower than earlier this week, the [decline looks to be coming very slowly](#).

## Wuhan's Return to Normal

Life in Wuhan, China, the city where COVID-19 was first detected, seems to be [returning to normal](#). The city was in lockdown for 76 days.

## Iran's Misinformation Struggle

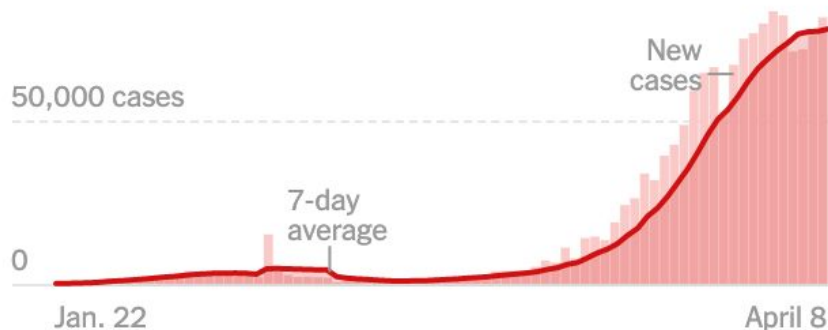
The death count in Iran has passed 4,000. Around 600 people have died from [drinking pure alcohol](#) after hearing it was a cure for the virus.

TOTAL CASES

**1.5 million+**

DEATHS

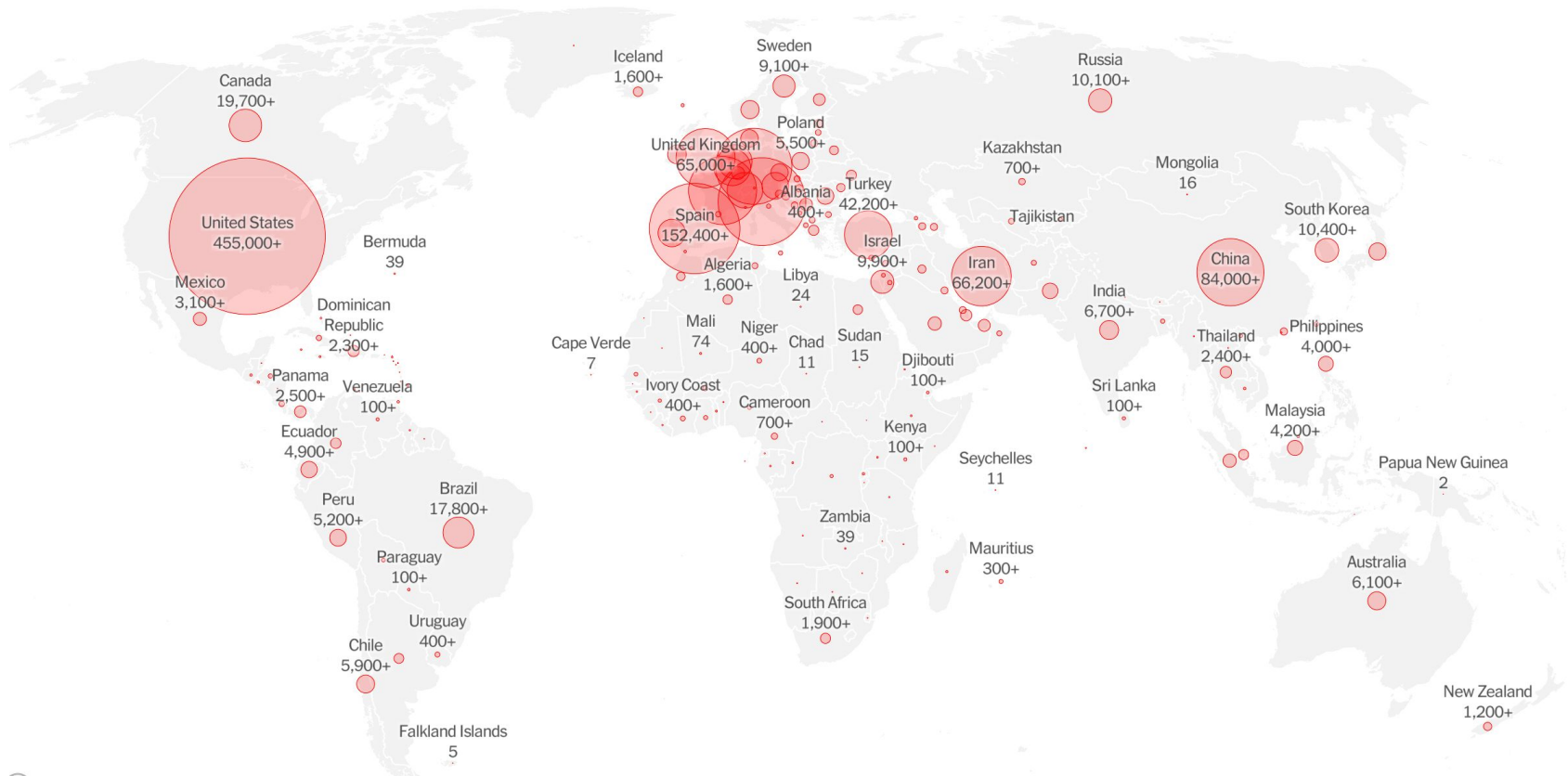
**94,360**



[Source](#)

# Mapping the Spread of COVID-19

**\*Updated April, 2020**



Sources: Local governments; The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University; National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China; World Health Organization. Data for the West Bank and Gaza was reported together by the Palestinian Health Ministry and includes only Palestinian-controlled land. Russia is reporting data for Crimea, a peninsula it [annexed in 2014](#) in a move that led to international sanctions. Data for some countries, like the United States and France, include counts for overseas territories. Japan's count includes 696 cases and seven deaths from a cruise ship that docked in Yokohama.

# COVID-19 in the U.S.

## New York's Flattening Curve

The [number of hospitalizations](#) occurring in New York have flattened. However, number of deaths still continue to rise.

## Nursing Home Dangers

There have been [over 2,700 cases](#) associated with nursing homes or long term care facilities, and the numbers continue to grow.

## COVID-19 Affects Immigration

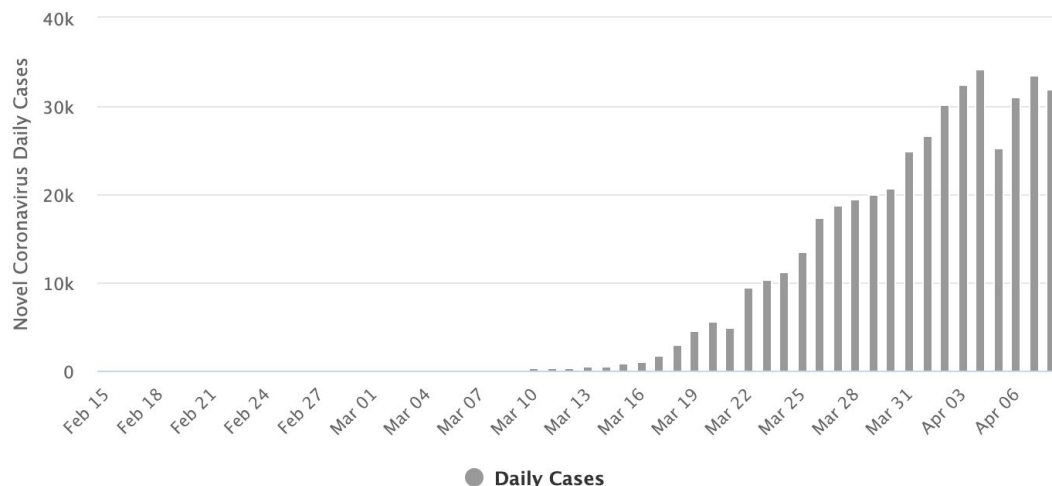
Since March, the U.S. has [expelled over 6,000 migrants](#) at the southern border and shut off asylum rights.

## New Jersey's Confirmed 44,000 Cases

In New Jersey, 43.77% of the 50,588 citizens tested for the virus have [been confirmed positive](#). Officials say the best case scenario is having confirmed cases peak at 86,000.

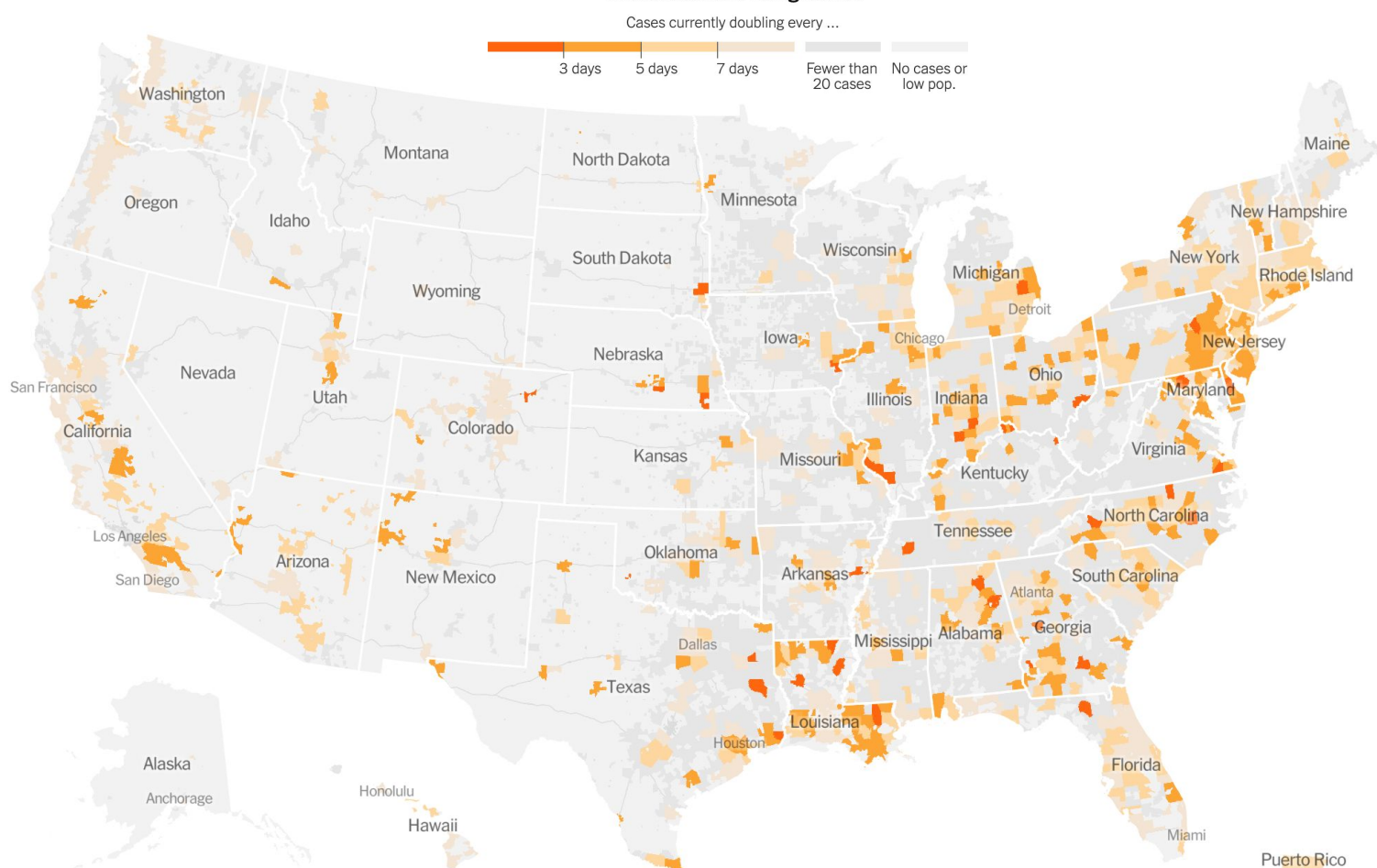
## Daily New Cases

Cases per Day  
Data as of 0:00 GMT+0



[source](#)

## Where cases are rising fastest



Notes: Growth rate shows how frequently the number of cases has doubled over the past week. Growth rate not shown for counties with less than 20 cases.

[Source](#)



# Large Industries Face Cuts

## Oil Production Cuts

Russia and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has decided to [cut the production of oil](#) by 10 millions barrels a day for May and June.

Traders still doubt whether these cuts will help the decrease in demand that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused.

## Severe Airline Passenger Drop

Airlines have been one of the hardest hit industries during the pandemic. According to statistics, the number of passengers traveling by plane [has dropped 96%](#). Airbus has [cut the production of planes](#) by one third.



# U.S. Economic Developments

## Unemployment High

[16.7 million people](#) filed for unemployment in the last three weeks.

## Economic Recovery

President Trump is preparing to announce the creation of a [second task force](#) centered solely on reopening the economy.

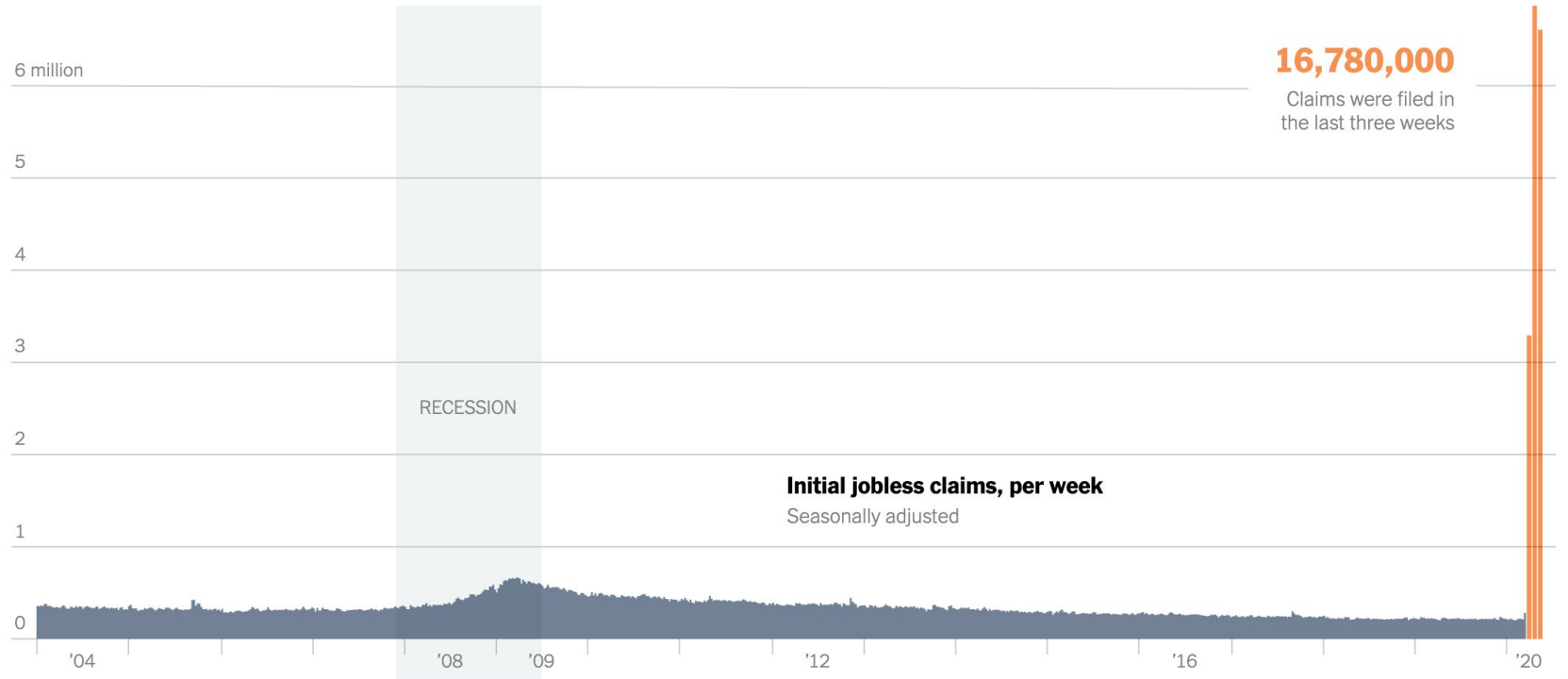
The Federal Reserve has revealed [plans to release an additional \\$2.3 trillion](#) in programs to help the economy. The loans would be for businesses with up to 10,000 employees and an annual revenue less than \$2.5 billion with deferred principal and interest payments.



*"If the government continues to give the support and people stay home, and if the healthcare experts devise a good plan, there is every reason to think we can be on the road to recovery fairly quickly and it can be a robust recovery."*

- Federal Reserve Chairman [Jerome Powell](#)

# Total Unemployment Claims



Source: Department of Labor • By The New York Times



# US & China Fight to Shape the COVID-19 Narrative

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian responded to the U.S.'s criticism of how China has handled the virus outbreak, saying that [accusations will do nothing to get rid of the virus.](#)

Trump and members of the administration have [repeatedly dubbed COVID-19](#) as the “Chinese virus”, widely seen in Beijing as a way to blame China. In return, Zhao and Foreign Ministry officials have suggested the U.S. military were to blame for bringing the virus to China.

This blame game could potentially undermine [US-China relations](#) diplomatic relations.



*"We hope that the American people will reject certain politicians' actions to politicize the pandemic, stigmatize China, shift public attention and deflect blame."*

# Treatments & Discoveries

## Warm Weather Theory

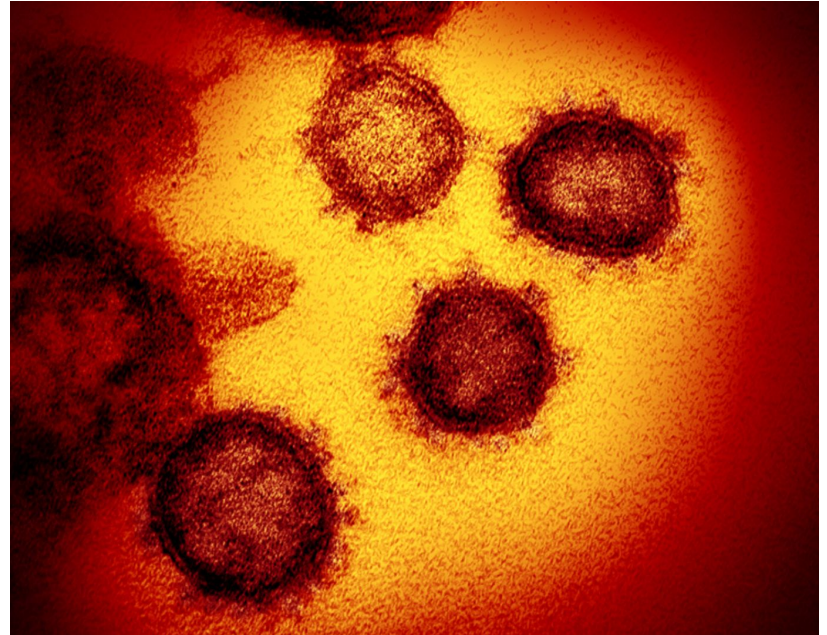
[According to a group of established scientists](#), the theory that warm weather will help lessen the transmission efficiency of the virus may not actually lead to a reduction in the spread of the disease.

## Israel's Placenta Cell Therapy

Israel treated [six critically ill COVID-19 patients](#) with placenta-based cell therapy. They reported a 100% survival rate, as well as improved respiratory parameters in four of the patients.

## Antiviral Treatment

At the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, scientists have developed [antiviral treatment](#) that “shows promise in reducing lung damage”.



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# Global Reactions & Responses

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## Extended Lockdowns and Quarantines

[South Africa](#) extended its lockdown until the end of April.

Spain extended its [state of emergency](#) until April 26th.

[Hungary](#) extended its restrictions on movement “indefinitely”.

Finland extended its [restrictions on movement](#) until May 13th.

Botswana placed [all members of its Parliament](#) into a mandatory quarantine.

[Italy](#) has extended its lockdown until May 3rd.

[Lebanon](#) has extended its lockdown until April 26th.

This information is current as of April 9th, 2020.  
Further updates will be sent in future briefings.



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