



# Current Situation: COVID-19

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April 23rd,  
2020 Update

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# Monitoring the Virus

## A Decline in Europe

The death rate in the UK is expected to start declining in the next couple of weeks. The UK has also announced its [plans to expand testing](#) to all key workers.

Italy's daily death toll [has risen slightly](#), but new cases continue to fall.

In Ireland, [hospital admissions have fallen](#) by 60%.

## Middle East

Turkey has become [the coronavirus hot spot](#) in the region as its total number of cases passes Iran.

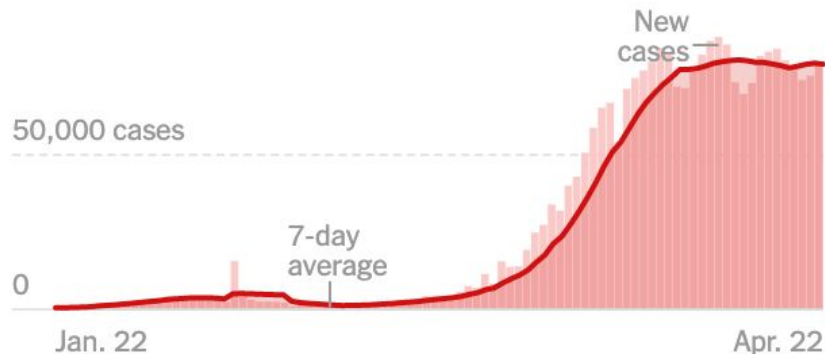
In Israel, the Ultra-Orthodox community has [been the hardest hit](#) by the pandemic.

TOTAL CASES

**2.6 million+**

DEATHS

**181,363**



[source](#)

# COVID-19 in the U.S.

There are over [850,000 confirmed cases](#) of COVID-19 in the United States.

## California Stops Protest Permits

In the interest of public health and safety, California has announced they will [not be issuing permits for protests](#) at state facilities.

## UAE to Donate to U.S.

The United Arab Emirates has agreed to [donate coronavirus test kits](#) to the United States.

## Tyson Plant Closing

A Tyson meat processing plant in the state of Washington has announced its [plans to temporarily stop production](#).

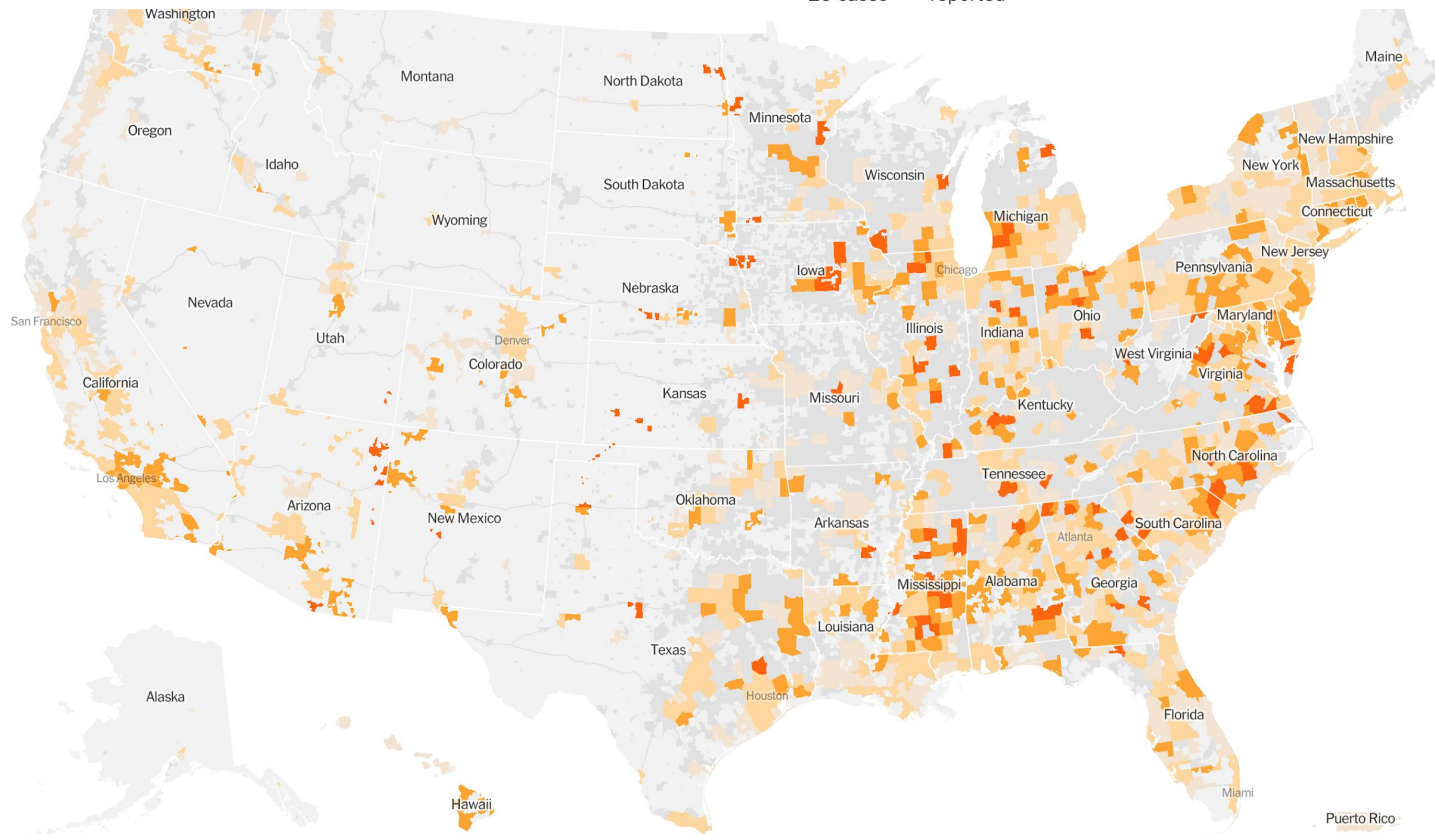
## House Vote

The House is set to vote today on the [480 billion coronavirus relief package](#) for small businesses.



## Where cases are rising fastest

Cases currently doubling every ...



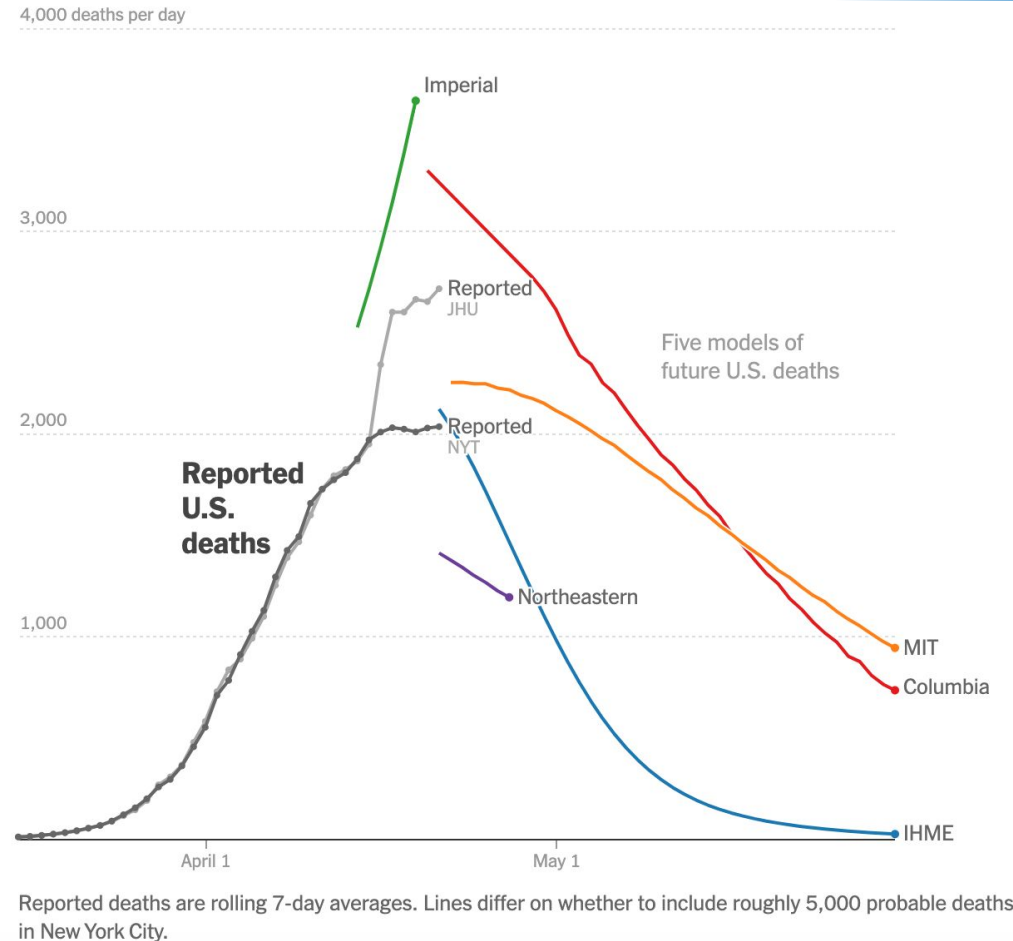
Note: Growth rate shows how frequently the number of cases has doubled over the previous seven days. Growth rate not shown for counties with fewer than 20 cases. [Source](#).

# U.S. COVID-19 Models

There are five different forecasts predicting the U.S. death rate for the following month.

While most models show that the U.S. is currently at or passed the peak number of deaths, there are differences on how high the peak will get.

All models are based on the assumption that social distancing and stay at home order will continue.





# Economic Updates

## EU Revamps Budget Plan

European Union leaders have agreed to review their long-term budget and [create a massive recovery fund](#) to help with economic damages caused by the pandemic.

## China to Boost Investments

Chinese President Xi Jinping has announced [a plan to increase investment](#) in sectors including 5G, artificial intelligence, transport and energy, as well as boosting employment.

## U.S. Plummeting Home Sales

Buyers have grown increasingly wary of signing housing contracts, causing [new home sales to plummet](#).

## Unemployment Record in U.S.

In the past 5 weeks, 26.5 million Americans lost their jobs, making the [unemployment rate about 20%](#).



# Security and Stability Concerns



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# Tensions Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

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## LNA Supporters in Question

Due to the downturn in the global economy, [experts say it is unclear](#) whether foreign supporters will continue to fund Eastern-based renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army.

## China and Taiwan Tensions

In the most recent weeks, China has [escalated the number and intensity](#) of military drills around Taiwan.

## Israel and Hamas Threat

Hamas officials have claimed that Israel will be to blame if there is a [coronavirus outbreak in Gaza](#). They have ordered for Israel to give them more medical equipment.

## UN and EU Against West Bank Annexation

The United Nations and European Union have [warned Israel not to annex the West Bank](#). These warnings come after Prime Minister Netanyahu and Benny Gantz signed a coalition agreement including a clause to annex parts of the West Bank starting July 1st.



# Challenges in the Developing World

## **\$1 Trillion Debt Write-Off**

According to the United Nations, the developing world will need a [one trillion dollar debt write-off](#) to help with the economic damages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[According to the UNCTAD](#), 64 low income countries currently spend more to cover their debt than on their own healthcare systems.

## **Job Loss in Africa**

It is predicted that [around 1/3 of all jobs in Africa](#) will be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Malaria Deaths Could Rise**

The WHO has reported that malaria deaths in Africa [could potentially double](#) during the pandemic.



*"This is a world where defaults by developing nations on their debt is inevitable."*

Richard Kozul-Wright, Director of UNCTAD's  
Division on Globalisation and Development  
Strategies

# Countries Continue to Open



Dubai has [opened its restaurants and cafes](#), as well as resumed public transportation.

The Czech Republic government has [eased its restrictions](#) on free movement as well as lifted its bans on international travel.

South Africa is planning on [beginning its phased opening on May 1st](#) by lifting travel restrictions and allowing some industries to resume operations.

[Vietnam has begun relaxing](#) its restrictions as new COVID-19 cases begin to plateau.

# COVID-19 Research

## New York Antibody Study

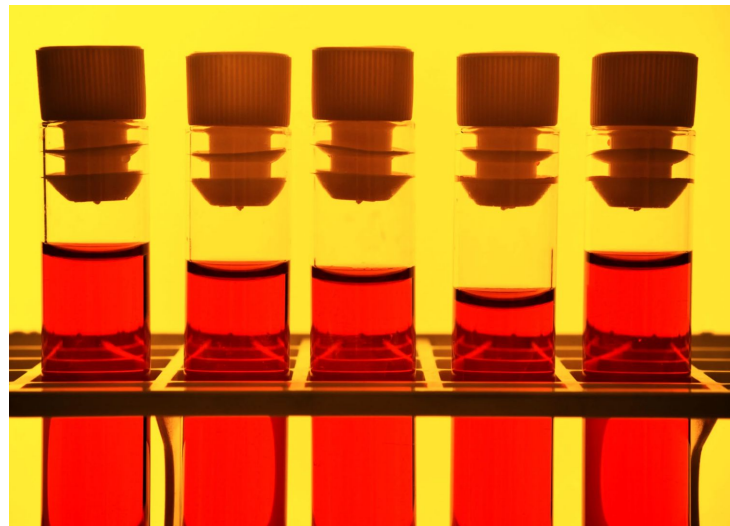
New York [has tested 3,000 people](#) and found 13.9% to have coronavirus antibodies. This could mean the number of people who have been infected is much greater than previously expected.

## Red Cross to Provide Antibody Tests

The American Red Cross [will begin to offer antibody tests](#) to people who are likely to have had COVID-19 and would be interested in donating plasma.

## China's Remdesivir Study

[A recent study in China](#) on Gilead's remdesivir has shown it to have no effect on the treatment of COVID-19 patients.



This information is current as of April 23, 2020. Further updates will be sent in future briefings.



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