



# Current Situation: COVID-19

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May 21st,  
2020 Update

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# Monitoring the Virus

There have been nearly [5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19](#) globally, and about 330,000 related deaths.

## Average Daily Increase High

The average daily number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the past week (about 91,000) is the [highest it has ever been](#). Despite this, the average weekly number of deaths has been decreasing.

## Where Cases Are Rising Fastest

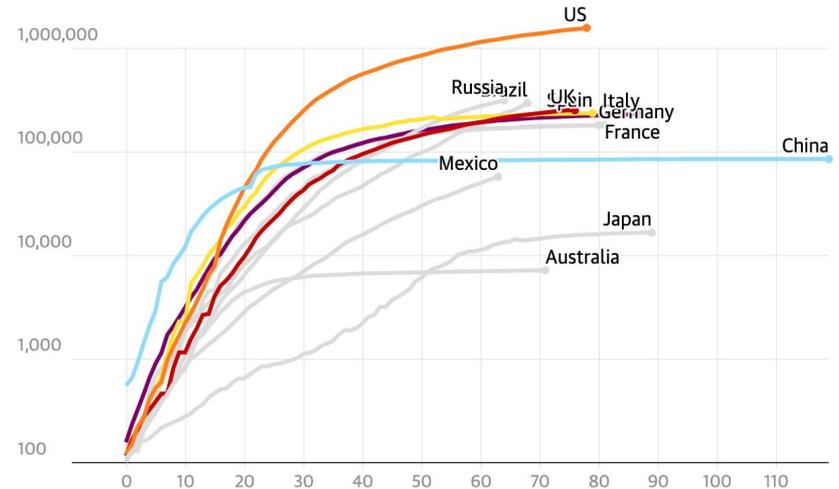
On Thursday, Russia recorded [8,849 new confirmed cases](#), bringing the total to 317,554. In the past month nearly 10,000 hospital workers have been infected.

In the previous 24 hours Brazil has reported almost 20,000 new cases, a [record high for a daily increase](#). This brings the total number of confirmed infections in Brazil to 291,600.

## Africa Numbers

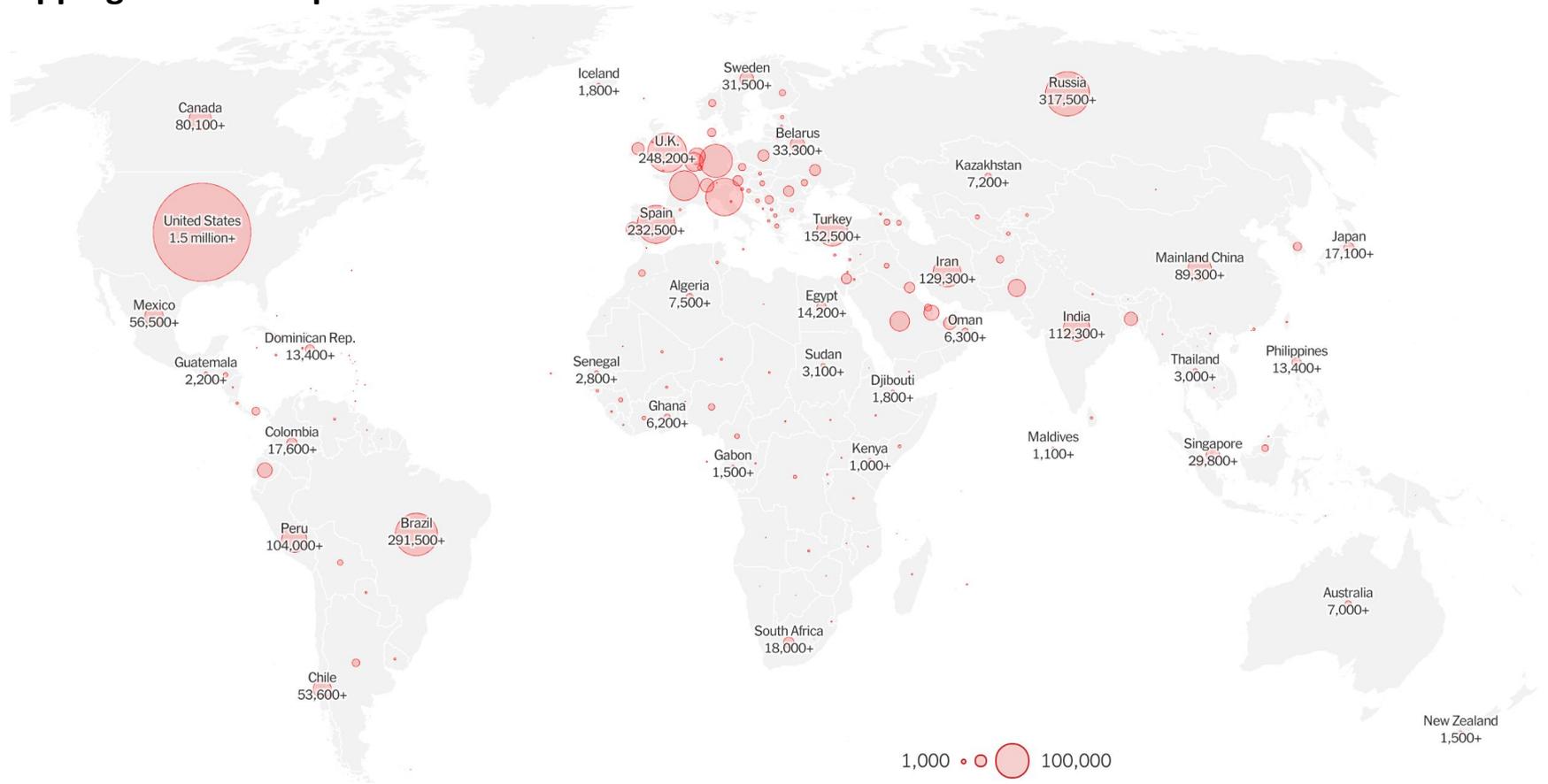
The number of confirmed infections in Africa [has reached over 95,000](#).

Confirmed Cases For Select Countries



[Source](#)

# Mapping COVID-19 Spread



**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. For hot spots: Doubling time is calculated for the last week of cases.

# COVID-19 in the U.S.

There have been [1,556,800 confirmed cases of COVID-19](#) in the US and about 93,600 related deaths.

## States Reopening

All 50 states have [partially reopened](#). However, 18 states have recorded an upward trend in the daily number of new cases.

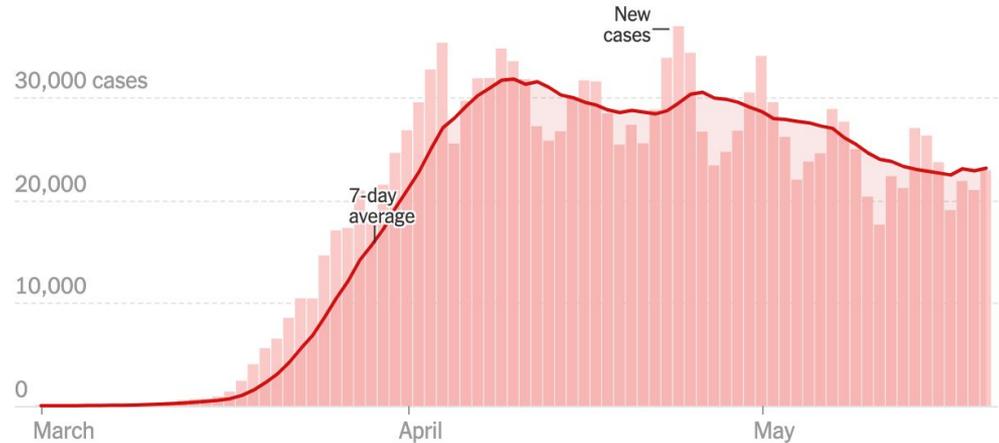
## Contact Tracing

New York has now begun [contact tracing operations](#). Individuals who have been exposed to a person who tested positive will be called.

## Unemployment Continues to Rise

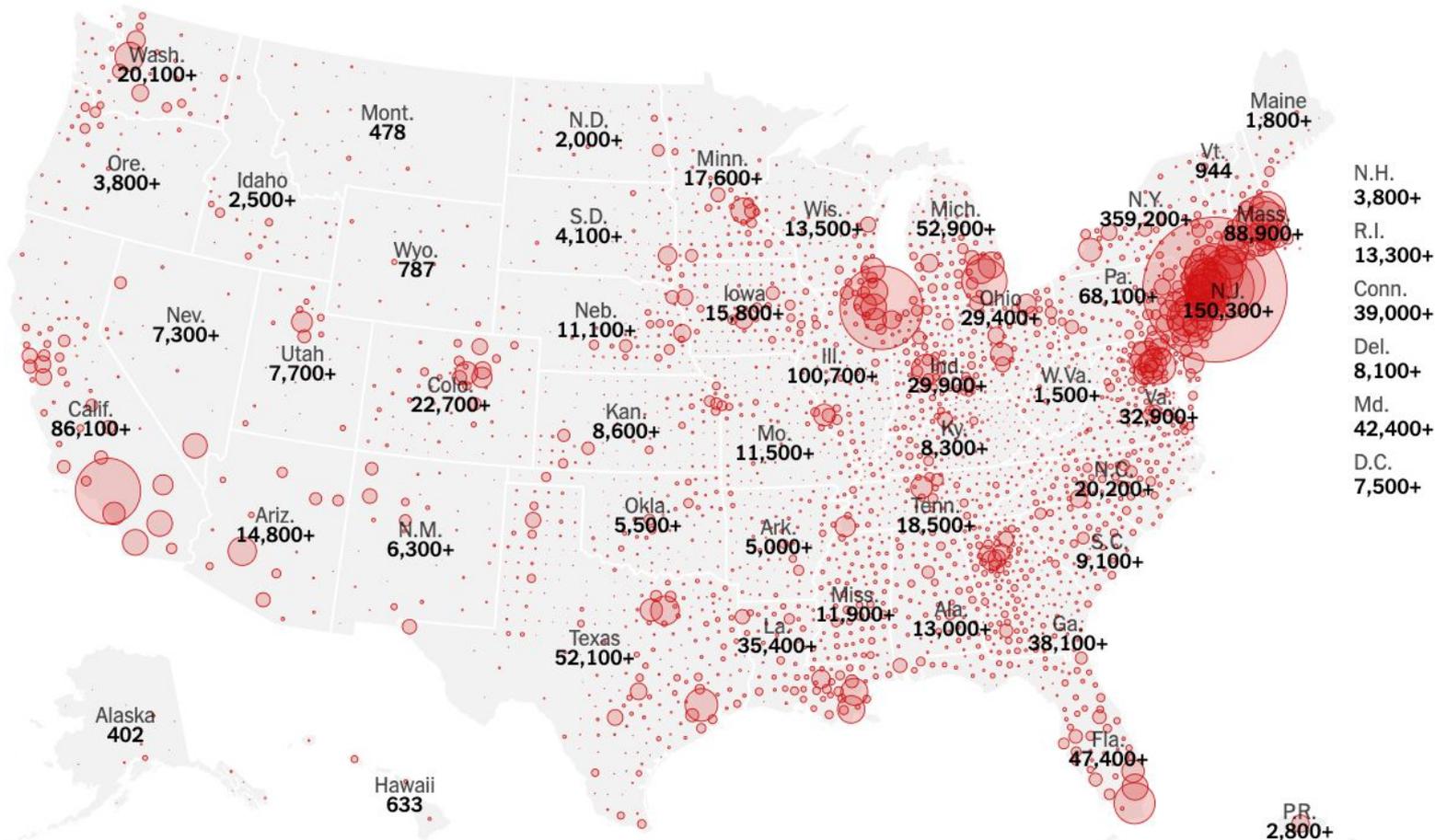
Approximately [2.4 million people](#) filed for unemployment last week. It remains unclear whether the White House will provide additional aid.

**New reported cases by day in the United States**



[source](#)

# Reported cases in the United States



# Economic Updates

## Venezuela Sues Bank of England

Venezuela has filed a [lawsuit of \\$1 billion dollars](#) against the Bank of England due to its refusal to release gold from their vaults. Nicolás Maduro and the Venezuelan government are searching for funds to help repair the economic and health issues stemming from the pandemic.

## Brazil COVID-19 Package

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro is prepared to sign a [\\$10.7 billion coronavirus package](#) for cities and states facing economic damages.

## Japan Recession

Japan's exports decreased 22% just last month and imports have fallen 7% this year. This marks the [worst drop in the past decade](#).



# Security and Stability

## Tensions Between Beijing and Washington

Amid growing tensions between the U.S. and China, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson has [criticised U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as well as U.S. actions following the pandemic](#). Tensions have also risen from the Trump administration reporting a potential arms sale to Taiwan.

The U.S. has also threatened the use of sanctions against China, causing China to [warn of the use of countermeasures](#) in return.

## Palestine Authority Rejects UAE Aid

The Palestine Authority has [rejected medical aid sent to them from the United Arab Emirates](#) because it was sent through the Israeli airport. Palestine Authority officials say sending aid through Tel Aviv is a cover for normalizing ties with Israel.



*“We firmly oppose these bills, and will make a firm response and take countermeasures based on the deliberation of these bills.”*

-Zhang Yesui, Chinese Diplomat

# Humanitarian Issues

## Controversial Law in Bangladesh

Over 20 reporters have been arrested in Bangladesh under a highly controversial law, [the Digital Security Act](#). This has raised many concerns about the limits of free speech.

## Refugee Camps

According to the UN refugee agency chief, the potential for [mass spread in Rohingya refugee camps](#) is very high. However, he reports that coronavirus cases in the camps are under control so far.

## NATO Supplies Qatar

Qatar has [welcomed an initiative by NATO](#) to supply medical and humanitarian supplies to countries in need in support of the UN's work to help with the effects of the pandemic.



# International Travel

## Opening Borders

After easing virus restrictions, [Serbia](#) has reopened its borders. [Cyprus](#) will gradually begin opening in crossing points starting June 8th.

[Greece](#) is looking to start its tourist season June 15th.

[Cambodia](#) has lifted its entry ban from six countries.

[Spain](#) is planning on allowing tourists back into the country at the end of June.

[Italy](#) is preparing to open its borders to select countries starting June 3rd.

## Flights Resume

EasyJet will [resume flights in June](#) with compulsory masks.

Nonstop flights to Europe from San Francisco are [set to resume in June](#).

[Delta](#) has scheduled numerous international flights to resume in June; United Airlines and Delta are both looking to [resume flights to China](#) in June.

Emirates is not planning on resuming flights [until at least July](#).



# COVID-19 and the Environment



## Cyclone Amphan

India and Bangladesh evacuated [over 3 million people](#) prior to Cyclone Amphan on Wednesday. However, fear of contagion prevented some people from evacuating. Hundreds of storm shelters were [not available to people](#) because they had been converted into quarantine facilities.

## Deforestation

In many tropical countries, the [coronavirus pandemic has accelerated deforestation](#). In many of these countries, the government has withdrawn from protecting the forest in order to focus on issues of the pandemic.

# COVID-19 Testing and Treatments

## UK Starts Hydroxychloroquine Trial

UK health workers have begun a study to determine if [hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine are effective](#) at preventing severe symptoms.

## Vaccine Optimism

Labs around the world are developing and testing potential COVID-19 vaccines. According to experts, the virus is unlikely to mutate significantly, which means a vaccine will be very effective. While normal vaccines take many years, [many people are optimistic](#) a vaccine will be ready by 2021.

## Hijacking Cells

Studies show that the [coronavirus hijacks cells and takes over the genes](#) in the invaded cells to change how segments of DNA are read. According to scientists, this is very unique and explains why the elderly have a greater likelihood to die.



This information is current as of May 21st, 2020.  
Further updates will be sent in future briefings.



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