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## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

March 19, 2020

### Quick Headlines

#### *Administration*

- President Trump signed H.R.6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the “phase two” stimulus package that was passed by the Senate yesterday and the House earlier in the week.
- Trump signed an executive order allowing the government to take broad control over the supply chain and distribution of health care products but has yet to invoke the Defense Production Act.
- The State Department today issued a Level 4 Travel Advisory for all countries, instructing Americans not to travel internationally and urging U.S. citizens abroad to return home.
- ICE is temporarily stopping most of its immigration enforcement to focus on catching criminals.
- Treasury Secretary Mnuchin predicted an upturn in Q3 as vaccine and viral treatment advances come to fruition and a “gigantic” Q4 due to “pent up demand” and a return to normal.
- The FCC signed a request from Verizon to boost network capacity in the short term to help customers during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The U.S. Census Bureau has suspended its field work for the 2020 census until at least April 1.
- EPA has been notified of 10 potential COVID-19 cases. So far, only one is presumed positive.
- A Department of Energy employee based at DOE’s headquarters was diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The Administration moved ahead with raising tariffs on European aircraft.
- The Administration is reportedly considering boosting the number of visas offered to wealthy immigrants who invest money in the United States.
- Trump said he is working with the military to help evacuate Americans stranded abroad.
- The U.S. Government announced the release of \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks at USAID to address coronavirus.
- The Energy Department has requested \$3 billion from Congress to purchase 30 million barrels of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, as well as another purchase in two to three months.
- Trump’s financial advisers are reportedly considering 50-year and 25-year bonds for financing the federal debt.
- White House is halting officials handling the coronavirus pandemic from testifying to Congress.
- White House announced a partnership with NBCUniversal, ViacomCBS, iHeartMedia, and ABC-Walt Disney Television to develop PSAs to educate Americans on coronavirus.

#### *Congress*

- Two House members tested positive for coronavirus: Mario Diaz-Balart (FL) and Ben McAdams (UT). The head of the FAA will self-quarantine after shaking hands with Diaz-Balart a few days prior.
- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) urged Senators to stay close while waiting for the next legislative step; said the third package “will not be the last word.”

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- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) called on President Trump to invoke the Defense Production Act to mass produce and coordinate distribution of critical medical supplies and PPE.
- Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) urged caution on using smartphone location data to address the pandemic.
- Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) urged Bureau of Prisons to allow free video and phone calls for inmates.
- House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) intends for the House not to return to session until they are in a position to vote on a third piece of emergency coronavirus legislation.
- Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) introduced a bill to require states to offer universal vote-by-mail elections in times of emergency.
- Some members are suspending traditional campaign events due to coronavirus, including Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME).
- Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA) urged Treasury Secretary Mnuchin to push the tax filing deadline to July 15, and three Senators introduced legislation, S.3535, that would do the same.
- Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) urged Trump to use Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to place an embargo on crude oil from Russia, Saudi Arabia, and other OPEC nations.

### *State and Local*

- A CDC study found that of the U.S.' first 2,500 recorded cases, 38% of hospitalized patients were between the ages of 20 and 54. 80% of deaths were adults over the age of 65.
- The Labor Department said U.S. jobless claims rose to 281,000 last week.
- The Georgia state legislature was urged to self-quarantine after a state senator tested positive for coronavirus.
- Maryland is planning a special election for the 7<sup>th</sup> district on April 28 as an all mail-in election.
- Alabama's runoff elections will be postponed until July 14.
- The Council of Chief State School Officers is working with the Education Department to pause federal testing requirements for one year.
- Rhode Island's Department of Health announced that out-of-state health care providers can obtain a temporary 90-day license to practice in the state.
- New coronavirus cases in New Jersey nearly doubled to 742 as more testing has been completed; Governor Murphy expects the number of cases to reach "thousands" soon.
- Texas Gov. Greg Abbott limited gatherings to 10 people, closed schools, and limited service at bars and restaurants. He also encouraged local officials to postpone their elections until November.
- New York is now testing 7,500 people per day for coronavirus.

### *International*

- China is reporting no new local coronavirus infections for the first time since the outbreak.
- Italy's death toll reached 3,405, becoming the global highest and surpassing China's reported total.
- The European Central Bank announced a bond-buying program worth 750b Euros (\$820b), stating there are "no limits" to the bank's support for the euro during the coronavirus pandemic.
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel called coronavirus the greatest threat to the nation since WWII.

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- The U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan has been slowed by concerns about coronavirus. The Taliban reportedly promised medical workers safe passage in areas under its control.
- Egyptian authorities revoked a *Guardian* journalist's credentials and decried tweets by *NYT* Cairo chief, saying its coronavirus reporting showed "intentional bad faith to harm Egyptian interests."
- Reuters reported that an EU document alleges a Russian disinformation campaign is publishing information in 5 languages in order to hinder the European response to the coronavirus.
- U.K. schools will close Friday; children of key workers and most vulnerable can still attend.
- The European Union is considering closing its borders to slow the spread of coronavirus.
- Residents in France must download a form justifying a trip outside their house or else face a fine.
- Australia and New Zealand will close its borders to noncitizens starting tomorrow.

### *General*

- The NYSE will end floor trading and shift to fully electronic trading on Monday after a NYSE employee and a member of the trading floor community both tested positive for COVID-19.
- The Dow pulled back above 20,000 today.
- Google's Verily committed to data privacy for users of the platform's COVID-19 testing program.
- Pew Research Center says half of Americans say they have seen fake news related to coronavirus.
- FOX News announced free, unlimited access to national and local news during the coronavirus crisis. The Murdoch empire also launched a site CoronavirusNOW.com.
- The TSA screened fewer than one million travelers on March 17, making it the slowest day at airports since February 1, 2011 when massive blizzards grounded passengers.
- The Smithsonian released distance-learning resources focused on K-12 education for students affected by school closures.
- Crude oil prices dropped to their lowest levels in 18 years, reaching \$20.48 per barrel.
- Shell suspended construction at its ethane cracker plant near Pittsburgh amid coronavirus crisis.
- General Motors is determining whether to make ventilators and other needed medical equipment.
- Toyota joins Ford, GM, and Fiat Chrysler in shutting down production at North American plants.
- Medtronic, one of the biggest ventilator manufacturers, plans to double production capacity.
- U.S. Travel Association says coronavirus will cost U.S. travel sector 4.6 million jobs by end of April.
- The American Association of Port Authorities is seeking \$6.5 billion in grants and direct assistance following a steep decline in port and cruise line traffic.
- The National Association of Manufacturers asked for \$1.4 trillion in loans for manufacturers.
- Dozens of executives of small and mid-sized banks asked lawmakers to delay the implementation of an accounting standard called Current Expected Credit Loss (CECL) until 2024.
- The National Labor Relations Board suspended all union elections until April 3.

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### BREAKING: Senate Republicans Release Third Stimulus Package

Senate Republicans released text this evening for The Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a third package that was developed in consultation with the Administration. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) named the following Senators as the lead negotiators: Crapo and Toomey (Banking), Alexander (HELP), Grassley and Portman (Finance), Rubio and Collins (Small Business), Wicker (Commerce), and Thune (Leadership). McConnell called for engaging on a Member level immediately, both in the Senate and with the White House.

The four priorities of the bill are:

1. Direct financial help for the American people;
2. Rapid relief for small businesses and employees;
3. Steps to stabilize the economy and protect jobs; and
4. Support for health care professionals and patients.

#### Summary of the CARES Act:

- Provides a total of \$208 billion to the Secretary of the Treasury, through the Exchange Stabilization Fund, to provide sufficiently collateralized loans and loan guarantees to eligible entities, broken out in the following amounts:
  - Up to \$50 billion for passenger air carriers;
  - Up to \$8 billion for cargo air carriers; and
  - Up to \$150 billion for other eligible entities.
- The Treasury Secretary is afforded flexibility to provide collateralized loans and loan guarantees to domestic businesses that have incurred losses as a result of the coronavirus global pandemic.
- Entities eligible for loans or loan guarantees are those for whom credit is not otherwise reasonably available at the time of the transaction.
- An entity is only eligible for relief if the Treasury Secretary determines its continued operations are jeopardized as a result of losses stemming directly from the coronavirus outbreak.
- Interest rates on any loans extended by the Treasury Secretary may be no less than the current average yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturity.
- The legislation explicitly bars the Treasury Secretary from using the funds provided to make grants or direct cash payments to entities.
- The legislation mandates that entities receiving assistance do not increase compensation for, or provide golden parachutes to, executives over a two-year period from the date of enactment.
- The legislation directs the Secretary of the Treasury, to the extent feasible and practicable, to ensure the Government is compensated for the risk assumed in making loans and loan guarantees. To that end, “the [Treasury] Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts under which the Government, contingent on the financial success of the eligible entity, would participate in the gains of the eligible entity or its security holders through the use of such instruments as warrants, stock options, common or preferred stock, or other appropriate equity instruments.”

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### Tax Provisions:

The draft bill includes numerous tax-related provisions, including moving the tax filing deadline to July 15.

The Recovery Checks and Other Individual Provisions include:

- The tax filing deadline is extended from April 15 to July 15. Individuals can also postpone tax payments due from the date of enactment until October 15 with no cap on the amount of payments postponed.
- Recovery checks of up to \$1,200 will be provided for most taxpayers. Married couples filing jointly are eligible for up to \$2,400. Those amounts increase by \$500 for every child. Amounts are based on a taxpayer's 2018 tax return. Checks are reduced for higher income taxpayers.
- It waives the 10% early withdrawal penalty for distributions up to \$100,000 from qualified retirement accounts for coronavirus-related purposes. Taxpayers may recontribute the funds within 3 years without regard to that year's cap on contributions.
- The bill encourages Americans to contribute to churches and charitable organizations by allowing them to deduct up to \$300 of cash contributions whether they itemize or not. It also increases the limitations on deductions for charitable contributions for both individuals (50% limit is suspended for 2020) and corporations (10% limit is increased to 25%).

The Business Provisions include:

- Corporations can postpone estimated tax payments until October 15 with no cap on the amount of payments postponed.
- Employers and self-employed individuals can defer payment of the employer share of the Social Security tax to be paid over the following two years.
- Limitations on a company's use of losses from prior years is relaxed, meaning a loss from 2018, 2019, or 2020 can be carried back five years. It also temporarily removes the taxable income limitation to allow an NOL to fully offset income. It modifies the loss limitation applicable to pass-through businesses and sole proprietors as well.
- Companies can recover corporate AMT credit refunds more quickly.
- It temporarily increases the amount of interest expense businesses are allowed to deduct to 50%.
- Businesses, especially in the hospitality industry, can immediately write off costs associated with improving facilities.
- It allows companies to recover the overpayment of taxes paid on the 2017 repatriation toll charge.
- The provision clarifies that certain foreign subsidiaries should not be subject to excessive tax and reporting requirements.

Resources:

- Full text of the proposal can be found [here](#).
- A section-by-section summary of the tax provisions can be found [here](#).
- A floor speech by Leader McConnell outlining the proposal can be found [here](#).

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### Trump Administration Updates

#### White House Coronavirus Task Force – Briefing

During today's White House Coronavirus Task Force [briefing](#), Trump noted his signing of the coronavirus supplemental package yesterday to provide paid sick leave and medical leave to those affected by the virus. He praised the efforts of the FDA in developing a vaccine and noted they were reviewing drugs used abroad and here for other uses, including a common malaria drug. Vice President Pence noted testing is available in all 50 states, and tens of thousands of tests are being done, with the results going to the CDC. He praised Honeywell and 3M for increasing production of N95 masks and praised construction companies for donating masks. Surgeon General Adams called on millennials and Generation Z people to donate blood.

During the Q&A, Trump noted he hoped companies would not use federal money for executive bonuses or stock buybacks. He said they would address the American Hospital Organization's need for \$100 billion for shortages. When a reporter asked if he was considering an overseas travel ban, he said he was speaking to the State Department and could not comment further. He hoped the reports that China has had no new cases were true. He again criticized China for not reporting the virus sooner. He refused to answer when asked about possible retaliation on China or changing supply lines. When asked about Americans stuck abroad, Trump stated they were working on that issue through military evacuation. In response to a question about Saudi Arabia's actions on oil, Trump said he supported lower gas prices and opposed OPEC, but he did not want to hurt the industry.

#### CMS Releases Recommendations on Elective and Non-Essential Medical Procedures

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recommended that all elective surgeries and non-essential medical, surgical, and dental procedures be delayed during the COVID-19 outbreak. CMS said it is critical that health care providers consider whether non-essential surgeries and procedures can be delayed, so they can preserve personal protective equipment (PPE), beds, and ventilators. The agency also said providers should encourage patients to remain home, unless there is an emergency, to protect others while also limiting their exposure to the virus. The recommendations provide a framework for hospitals and clinicians to implement immediately during the COVID-19 response. The recommendations outline factors that should be considered for postponing elective surgeries and non-essential medical, surgical, and dental procedures. Those factors include patient risk factors, availability of beds, staff, and PPE, and the urgency of the procedure. The decision about proceeding with non-essential surgeries and procedures will be made at the local level by the clinician, patient, hospital, and state and local health departments. The recommendations are available [here](#). (CMS 03/18)

#### CMS Issues FAQs on Catastrophic Health Coverage and the Coronavirus

CMS issued Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to clarify coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 by catastrophic health plans. A catastrophic health plan generally may not provide coverage of an essential health benefit before an enrollee meets the plan's deductible. CMS said it will not take enforcement action against any health issuer that amends its catastrophic plans to provide coverage without imposing cost-sharing requirements for COVID-19-related services before an enrollee meets the

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catastrophic plan's deductible. CMS encourages states to take a similar enforcement approach. This action is intended to remove barriers and financial disincentives to COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment. The FAQs align with guidance the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released last week, which provides flexibility to high deductible health plans to provide health benefits for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 without application of a deductible or cost-sharing. The FAQs are available [here](#). (CMS 03/18)

### **FDA Turns to Twitter to Help Track Testing Supply Shortages**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is turning to Twitter for information about shortages in coronavirus testing supplies. Under current law, the FDA cannot require device manufacturers to report shortages in the same way it can for drug manufacturers. FDA Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs Anand Shah tweeted, “@US\_FDA suggests companies make public their inventory, production schedule and a hotline number to address questions regarding availability of reagents and other supplies needed for #COVID19 testing.” The FDA is seeking information about swabs, test kits, instruments, and supplies for transporting and preparing samples for analysis. (Politico 03/18)

### **Kudlow Floats U.S. Government Equity Stakes in Companies Help**

Larry Kudlow, the White House's top economic advisor, said the Administration may consider asking for an equity stake in the corporations that want coronavirus aid from taxpayers. Kudlow cautioned the idea is just one of many, and the ultimate form of coronavirus stimulus would depend on what emerged from negotiations with Congress. Kudlow also said the Administration could go beyond its \$1.3 trillion proposal if the economic impact of COVID-19 becomes worse than anticipated. “The government could step in and take equity stakes in Boeing, United, etc. and take substantial preferred equity positions to stabilize the situation,” wrote Matt Rowe, chief investment officer of Headwaters Volatility. “We need a risk-transfer to stop this liquidity spiral.” The idea of equity stake was used as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, which ultimately turned a profit because of the equity stake it took in companies. (Bloomberg 3/19)

### **Coronavirus Response Could Give Long-Awaited Jolt to Telehealth**

The Trump Administration has used the national emergency declaration and emergency funding package to lift key barriers to virtual care, including rules that limited payments for telehealth visits and blocked the use of popular video messaging platforms like FaceTime over privacy concerns. Many private insurers appear to be quickly following suit, raising the prospect that remote consultation could become the new normal long after the crisis subsides. This week, the Administration lifted restrictions that telehealth boosters have long fought against, arguing they held back much wider deployment of a technology that has been in physician rooms and hospitals for over a decade. During the coronavirus crisis, the goal is to leverage telehealth to prevent further transmission of the illness by keeping patients out of hospitals and exam rooms who do not have the virus or have much milder cases. At least temporarily, Medicare will cover at least part of every telehealth visit, waiving a policy that barred the health care program for seniors from paying for the technology outside of rural areas and for new patients. Medicare also will allow doctors to see patients across state lines virtually to help ease demand on providers swamped by the coronavirus. Separately, federal regulators said providers can prescribe an opioid addiction treatment to new patients through the technology, temporarily green lighting a policy the Administration had been reviewing for some

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time. Telehealth companies have been slammed by a surge in demand, largely from patients worried they have coronavirus. Teladoc, one of the leading U.S. firms, said it has handled 100,000 medical visits in the past week — a 50 percent jump from previous weeks. (Politico 03/19)

### **CDC Has Been Sidelined During Coronavirus Pandemic**

The CDC appears to be on the sidelines of the coronavirus pandemic, with its messages increasingly disrupted or overtaken by the White House. Neither CDC Director Robert Redfield nor Anne Schuchat, the Principal Deputy Director who played key roles in the agency's emergency responses stretching back two decades, including the 2009 influenza pandemic, have appeared on the podium during White House briefings for more than a week. The CDC, which has come under fire because of protracted delays in the rollout of agency-developed test kits, has not conducted its own telephone briefings for reporters in more than a week. Recent CDC recommendations on school closures and mass gatherings were overtaken by different guidelines issued by the White House, creating confusion. Redfield and Schuchat have testified before Congress and briefed members in closed sessions, but top CDC officials have rarely appeared on camera or been quoted in media interviews in recent weeks, and the CDC has not conducted a briefing since March 9. White House events are often scheduled on short notice and often take place around previously scheduled CDC briefings. As a result, the CDC has canceled briefings at the last minute, including one on Tuesday on school closures scheduled with school superintendents. (Washington Post 03/19)

### **CDC Says Healthcare Workers Who Can't Get a Mask Should Use a Bandana or Scarf as a 'Last Resort'**

The CDC suggested that in a crisis, health care workers could cover their faces with bandanas or scarves, even though neither are proven to be effective. In the recently updated guidelines for dealing with mask shortages, the CDC states medical professionals "might use homemade masks (e.g., bandana, scarf) for care of patients with COVID-19 as a last resort" if other equipment is unavailable. The recommendation is "alarming" to medical professionals because there is no evidence homemade masks can protect against the virus. The CDC's own guidelines acknowledge that a bandana or scarf tied around the face is not considered personal protective equipment, noting "their capability to protect [healthcare professionals] is unknown. Caution should be exercised when considering this option." The site also advises that workers should ideally use a full-face shield in combination with a homemade mask. (Business Insider 03/19)

### **CDC Reports Nearly 40% of Those Hospitalized with Coronavirus are Younger than 54**

The CDC stated that more younger people than initially thought are getting seriously ill due to the coronavirus. Data released Wednesday night by the CDC shows that of the 508 patients known to have been hospitalized in the U.S. for COVID-19, about 20% of those were aged 20 to 44, and another 18% were between the ages of 45 and 54. However, COVID-19 is still significantly more dangerous in older patients, as 80% of deaths associated with coronavirus are adults over the age of 65. Less than 1% of deaths were in patients aged 20-54, and zero patients under the age of 19 have died from the virus. (ABC News 03/19)

### **HHS Officials Acknowledge 'Logistical Challenges' of Federal Quarantine Process**

In the wake of concerns about the federal quarantine process at U.S. military installations, including Travis Air Force Base, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) acknowledged there were "logistical

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challenges” during the quarantine, but the agency was doing what it could to ensure patients’ needs were being addressed. “We recognize this continues to be a challenging and stressful experience for the passengers, and HHS is dedicated to providing support as we work to safely reunite passengers with family and friends,” HHS officials wrote. Following the coronavirus outbreak aboard the Grand Princess cruise ship earlier this month, nearly 2,000 passengers who did not receive testing or tested negative were dispersed to one of four military bases — Travis, Miramar Naval Air Station, Joint Base San Antonio Lackland, and Dobbins Air Force Base— to undergo a 14-day quarantine process. The bases’ role was simply to provide facilities, while HHS officials are responsible for their care. Numerous evacuated passengers have expressed concerns about the agency’s approach to social distancing. (Vacaville Reporter 03/18)

### **Fed Ramps up Bond Buying, Indicating Much Larger Purchases are Likely**

The Federal Reserve is likely to significantly increase its government bond purchases beyond the minimum of \$500 billion amid market strains that sent interest highs in recent days. The Fed purchased \$125 billion in government bonds earlier this week and will buy \$150 billion in these bonds on Thursday and Friday. This means the Fed will have bought more than half of the minimum number of treasuries within one week with little signs of reserving the market downfall. The Fed also approved purchases of at least \$200 billion in mortgage bonds. (WSJ 3/19)

### **A Spanish Translation of President's Coronavirus Guidelines is Still Not Available on the CDC Site**

The Spanish translation of President Trump’s new guidelines to combat the spread of coronavirus is not available in Spanish on the CDC’s Spanish-language site. On the English version of the CDC’s site, a document titled, "The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America" is at the top of the screen, linked with a large yellow banner across the page. Trump introduced the guidelines on Monday and said they were important for everyone to take for the following 15 days. The translated guidelines did not appear to be available on the CDC’s Spanish-language website as of Thursday morning. (ABC News 03/19)

### **Trump Says He Will “Slash Red Tape” to Find Coronavirus Drugs**

President Trump said he will “slash red tape like nobody has even done it before” in a bid to get unapproved coronavirus treatments to patients faster and identify effective drugs. Trump said Thursday he is directing the FDA to expedite testing and possible broader use of some investigational medicines to help treat patients diagnosed amid the coronavirus pandemic. The drug in question is chloroquine, sold under the brand name Aralen and in generic form. It is also available in a different formulation as hydroxychloroquine under the brand name Plaquenil. In both its chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine formulations, it is approved as a treatment for rheumatoid arthritis. The term “expanded access,” which is interchangeably used with compassionate use, is an FDA regulatory pathway for people to use investigational treatments if there are no other approved options available in some life-threatening circumstances. There are currently no FDA-approved treatments or vaccines for the novel coronavirus. (WSJ 03/19)

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### House and Senate Updates

#### Alexander and Pallone Push to Include Ban on Surprise Medical Bills in Stimulus

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) are pushing to have their bill to address surprise medical bills included in the stimulus bill in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Alexander and Pallone said the savings from their bill could help provide additional funding to community health centers beyond the May 22 funding expiration date. Congress has been working to address the issue of surprise medical bills since last year. The focus on the COVID-19 response stalled that effort. Alexander and Pallone had sought to include their bill in the year end package passed last year but were unable to do so given the opposition of the provider community. (WaPo 03/19)

#### Senate Democrats Seek \$10K in Debt Relief for Each Student Loan Borrower

As part of the trillion dollar stimulus package, Senate Democrats Chuck Schumer, Patty Murray, Sherrod Brown, and Elizabeth Warren released a proposal that would cancel monthly federal student loan payments during the coronavirus emergency and provide each federal student loan borrower with a minimum of \$10,000 worth of loan forgiveness. The Trump Administration lowered the interest rate on all federally held student loans to zero percent starting March 13 "until further notice." Senate Democrats' plan would codify that policy and expand it to cover federal student loans held by private lenders. (Politico 03/19)

#### Grassley to Propose \$1,200 Payments as Part of Economic Plan

Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA) wants to give taxpayers as much as \$1,200 to help blunt the economic effects of the coronavirus, according to a plan he is set to release today. It will include a check to most taxpayers, tax deferments, and other financial flexibility tools. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told Fox Business Network today that the administration wants to get stimulus payments of \$1,000 per adult and \$500 per child out in the next three weeks. Congress has already passed two bills focused on economic relief due to the coronavirus, with a third currently in the works. (Politico 03/19)

#### Senate Democrats Ask FCC to Create Pandemic Web Portal for Consumers, Students

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) today pressed the FCC to create a portal on ways to help consumers during the coronavirus pandemic, emphasizing the need to connect students as schools close nationwide. She was joined by Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and Gary Peters (D-MI). They added the portal should include "contacts for telecommunications providers, links to maps of publicly available Wi-Fi hot spots, and information about federal and corporate assistance to those without broadband internet, and to work with media outlets to distribute this information to those who are not already online." The FCC consolidated its COVID-19 efforts on one webpage. Its responses include waiving certain rules for its E-Rate subsidy program for schools and libraries and allowing broadband providers to donate Wi-Fi hot spots and other gear, which earned praise from House Republicans. (Politico 03/19)

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### State and Local Updates

#### Trump Tells Governors to Step Up Efforts to Get Medical Supplies

At today's daily press briefing, President Trump encouraged governors to obtain the critical equipment their states need to fight the coronavirus pandemic themselves. Trump said, "The federal government is not supposed to be out there buying vast amounts of items and then shipping. You know, we're not a shipping clerk." Governors had been seeking greater federal intervention over concerns the outbreak will overwhelm local health care systems if ventilators, hospital beds, face masks, and other necessities are not soon furnished in significantly greater numbers. (Politico 03/19)

#### States and Cities Face the Prospect of Severe Budget Shortfalls

Oklahoma's second-largest city is an oil town, and with crude oil prices dropping near 20-year lows, some of Tulsa's biggest employers cannot make a profit. "We really don't know what the impact will be," says James Wagner, Tulsa's finance director. Tulsa relies on sales taxes for two-thirds of its general fund revenue. "Just in the last two months, we are \$1.8 million behind budget, in terms of what we budgeted for our sales taxes," Wagner says. "Those numbers came in low even before COVID-19 really hit." It is bound to get worse and not just for Tulsa. Last week, before many businesses shut down, Seattle — a pandemic hot spot — was projecting a shortfall of \$110 million in revenue, or 7 percent of its general fund. That would be a major hit, but now it seems like an optimistic figure. In New York, the only state with a fiscal year (FY) beginning April 1, state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli estimates the crisis could cost the state up to \$7 billion in lost revenues for FY2021. The anticipated downturn will have serious consequences for state and local budgets. Most revenue sources that governments rely on — personal income, corporate income, sales, capital gains, and gas taxes — are bound to take a hit. On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Labor will release weekly figures for initial jobless claims. Already, several states are reporting that unemployment applications have increased ten-fold or more from a week ago. By Wednesday, Ohio received nearly 78,000 unemployment claims, compared with 5,430 for last week - nearly a 1,500% increase. (Governing 03/19)

#### School Superintendents Call on Congress to Support Testing, Accountability Waivers

Directors of statewide superintendent associations across the nation are calling on Congress to support "statewide, narrow-in-scope" waivers for assessments and accountability requirements as schools shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic. The directors sent a letter to leaders of education committees in the House and Senate, urging them to give Education Secretary Betsy DeVos the authority necessary to grant such waivers. They noted this was not a reason to step away from their responsibility to educate, but rather that the requirements be adjusted to reflect the unique circumstances facing schools today. Last week, the department announced it would consider targeted, one-year waivers of testing and accountability requirements for schools. (Politico 03/19)

#### 'Learning Loss May Be Profound' as Schools Close Doors

The coronavirus outbreak could close many U.S. classrooms for the rest of the school year, spurring a blow to kids' math and reading skills, a decline in test scores for years to come, and a scramble for some to even finish high school. Kansas schools that shuttered through the end of the school year likely are just the first,

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with governors in California, New Jersey, and Ohio signaling the same is possible. Many schools initially announced closures for a short period, but with warnings from the White House growing more dire, shutdowns are extending — even though the CDC says it is not certain that will halt the spread of the virus. Testing is being postponed or scrapped entirely as schools switch to remote learning and figure out how to distribute school meals. The impact of the closures on children from lower income communities raises the greatest concern, but all students will suffer. Schools in other countries have smoothly moved to remote learning, but the U.S. faces barriers not only in computer access but getting those services to students quickly and equitably. The Education Department last week announced it would consider targeted one-year waivers of testing and accountability requirements for schools, but there is interest in a national testing waiver. The Council of Chief State School Officers has been advocating for an expedited testing waiver process to reduce the burden on states. (Politico 03/19)

### **Governors Brace for Coronavirus Budget Cliff as Tax Dollars Evaporate**

Governors of both parties are calling on President Trump and Congress for billions in federal aid and reductions in red tape. During the last recession, in 2008, California rewrote its budget three times in less than a year because projections quickly went into the dustbin within months of printing a new spending plan. Leaders in states across the nation are bracing for a similar year of tentatively drafting documents, knowing the situation will be unclear until the world emerges from hibernation. Unlike the federal government, states and cities must balance their budgets yearly. Some states, like California, may be better prepared to weather the storm, sitting on a surplus and \$20 billion reserve fund built after lessons learned from the last downturn. But others will have to cut programs for the first time in years. Illinois, for instance, does not even have a rainy day fund. States such as New York are talking about building contingencies into their spending plan. Trigger cuts, a well-worn tool during the last recession, are entering the conversation. Washington, of course, can use its borrowing powers where states cannot, as it did during the last recession with a massive public works package intended to create jobs and buoy local economies. Congress and the Administration are discussing a package of more than \$1 trillion in stimulus, and state and local leaders are pressing for federal aid to support sectors from transportation to dining. (Politico 03/19)

### **New Jersey Transit Tells Congress It Needs \$1.25B Bailout**

New Jersey Transit, which runs one of the nation's largest commuter transportation networks, has lost 88% of its ridership and needs a \$1.25 billion federal bailout to survive. "New Jerseyans are staying home, heeding the messages of President Trump and Governor Murphy. They are staying off the roads and they are staying off transit," agency CEO Kevin Corbett wrote Thursday to the state's congressional delegation. Corbett said the agency, which operates the nation's third-largest commuter rail line and a statewide bus network, expects the full impact of lost fare revenue and unavoidable costs associated with the coronavirus to lose the agency \$1.25 billion by the end of FY2021, which starts July 1. That figure, Corbett said, does not include long-term impacts or the potential damage done if the state is unable to continue providing a subsidy to the agency and if funding from the state's gas tax-financed Transportation Trust Fund dries up. Those two revenue sources account for 36 percent of the agency's operating budget. (Politico PRO 03/19)

### **Additional States Open Special Enrollment Period**

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Connecticut announced it is reopening its state exchange for a brief special enrollment period to help address the COVID-19 pandemic. Colorado's exchange is waiting for approval from the governor for a COVID-19 special enrollment periods. Several states have already announced reopening their state-based exchanges. (Inside Health Policy 03/18)

### International Updates

#### Coronavirus Crisis Cash Threatens EU Green Plans

In order to prevent their economies from collapsing amidst the coronavirus panic, various EU governments are infusing their economies with cash. That, however, is fueling fears that propping up factories, airlines, carmakers, and other companies will undermine the EU's Green Deal. Pascal Canfin, the French chair of the European Parliament's environment committee, fears "a priority will replace another priority." His concern is not about short-term cash injections to keep companies and shops afloat during the crisis, but that governments will take investment decisions that will lock in pollution and derail clean energy investments aimed at making the bloc carbon neutral by 2050. Other EU governments — including Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and Poland— have all announced multi-billion-euro stimulus packages. (Politico 3/19)

#### Virus Pushes U.S.-Chinese Relationship Toward Fracture

The relationship between the United States and China is on the verge of imploding as both sides seek to assign blame for the origin of the virus and exchange tit-for-tat recriminations on other fronts, including expelling journalists. The fallout from the global pandemic jeopardizes the recent trade deal and could undermine future global stability given the importance of both countries to international trade. The spread of the virus could also lead to long-term shifts in how the U.S. and China are viewed through the eyes of other countries. China has begun offering aid to other countries crippled by the virus to showcase its global leadership amid a slow, limited U.S. reaction. (Politico 3/19)

#### Trudeau: Canada-U.S. Border to Close to Nonessential Travel on Friday Night

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the Canada-U.S. border will likely close to nonessential travel on Friday night to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Trudeau is quoted as saying the two governments "are continuing to work on the fine-tuning of the agreement." Tourism and recreational travel are currently off limits, but trade and deliveries of food, fuel, and medicine will continue. Canadians currently in the U.S. will be permitted to enter, but if Canadians appear at a land border with coronavirus symptoms, they will be placed in quarantine. (Politico 3/19)

#### Dutch Health Minister Resigns One Day After Fainting in Parliament

Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare, and Sport Bruno Bruins has resigned, the Dutch government said. Bruins, who was responsible for the Netherlands' COVID-19 response, fainted during a parliamentary session. Bruins tweeted last night he had been suffering from "faintness because of over-exhaustion and intensive weeks." He said he was doing better and looking forward to "getting back to work to fight the corona crisis." Until a new appointment is made, Minister Hugo de Jonge will take over responsibilities. (CNN 3/19)

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### French Study Finds Anti-Malarial and Antibiotic Combo Could Reduce COVID-19 Duration

A new study published in the International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents has found early evidence that the combinations of hydroxychloroquine, a popular anti-malaria drug known under the trade name Plaquenil, and antibiotic azithromycin (aka Zithromax or Azithrocin) could be especially effective in treating the COVID-19 coronavirus and reducing the duration of the virus in patients. The patient mix included in the study included six who showed no symptoms, 22 who had symptoms in their upper respiratory tract (symptoms like sneezing, headaches, and sore throats), and eight who showed lower respiratory tract symptoms (mostly coughing). Twenty of the 30 participants in the study received treatment, and the results showed that while hydroxychloroquine was effective on its own as a treatment, when combined with azithromycin it was even more effective by a significant margin. (Tech Crunch 3/19)

### Coronavirus Border Traffic Jams Risk Food and Health Supplies

The pandemic has brought the Schengen zone to the brink of collapse. Half of the Schengen Area's 26 member countries have instituted new checks on their internal borders in order to put up barriers against the spread of coronavirus. These new checks mean heavy restrictions on the way people and goods move, which is creating problems for keeping hospitals and supermarket shelves stocked. (Politico 3/19)

### Netflix Is Slowing Down In Europe To Keep The Internet From Breaking

Netflix will reduce streaming quality in Europe for at least the next month to prevent the internet from collapsing under the strain of skyrocketing usage due to the coronavirus pandemic. The company said it would reduce the bit rate of its video streams for 30 days. The European Commission said while there has been a sharp increase in internet usage, no outages or adverse effects have so far been reported. EU officials said they would work with the regulator that oversees electronic communications in the bloc to set up a special reporting mechanism to monitor internet traffic and respond to capacity issues. (CNN 3/19)

### 'A Generation Has Died': Italian Province Struggles to Bury its Coronavirus Dead

Coffins awaiting burial are lining up in churches, and the corpses of those who died at home are being kept in sealed-off rooms for days as funeral services struggle to cope in Bergamo, the Italian province hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. As of Wednesday, COVID-19 had killed 2,978 across Italy, all buried or cremated without ceremony. Those who die in hospitals do so alone, with their belongings left in bags beside coffins before being collected by funeral workers. The situation in Bergamo has become so intense that on Wednesday, the army was brought in to move 65 coffins from the cemetery in Bergamo and take them to Modena and Bologna in Emilia-Romagna. (The Guardian 3/19)

### Israeli Spies Source up to 100,000 Coronavirus Tests in Covert Mission

Israel's secretive Mossad intelligence agency launched a covert international operation this week to fly in up to 100,000 coronavirus testing kits, although the effort may have been in vain as critical parts were reportedly missing. Domestic news outlets reported the operation took place in secrecy because the kits were acquired from at least two unnamed countries that do not have good diplomatic relations with Israel, meaning the government could not openly buy them. (The Guardian 3/19)

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### British PM: We Can 'Turn the Tide' on Coronavirus Crisis

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson stated the UK can “turn the tide” on coronavirus within 12 weeks. He said trials on a vaccine were expected to begin within a month. Johnson ruled out closing public transport in London but pointed out people in some parts of London are not following the government’s guidance on social distancing and warned he would enforce to keep Londoners apart if necessary. (BBC 3/19)

## General Updates

### BGR’s Governor Haley Barbour Imparts Lessons from Katrina and Other Mega-Disasters

Haley Barbour, former governor of Mississippi, former chairman of the Republican National Committee, and founding partner of BGR Group, imparted some lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural disaster in American history. He wrote that every mega-disaster has a “fog-of-war component,” and no government can solve every problem that may arise. He noted that every governmental entity involved in the response to Katrina made some mistakes, including Mississippi, which he led at the time. However, he wrote, “Ultimately, the federal government did a whole lot more right than wrong during Katrina.” He stressed, “Getting things done during disasters means setting partisanship aside.” He praised President Trump for his actions, including with New York Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Barbour urged taking care of oneself through proper personal hygiene, self-quarantine, social distancing, and avoiding crowds, and he also stressed the importance of helping others, including family, friends, and neighbors. He cited his mother’s adage, “Crisis doesn’t create character; crisis reveals character.” (RealClearPolitics 03/19)

### Politico Holds Healthcare Briefing on COVID-19

Politico held a healthcare briefing on COVID-19 with Mark McQuillan, POLITICO Pro Financial Services Editor, Victoria Guida (Financial Services), Tanya Snyder (Transportation), and David Lim (Health Care). Guida noted the economy is already feeling a strong negative impact, with no growth this quarter and possibly a minor contraction. She said a recession was inevitable, but the real question is how bad it will be. She noted they would not know how long the economic downturn would be until the virus is contained. Lim noted the US is struggling heavily to stand up the amount of testing necessary, in part caused by shortages of things like synthetic swabs, reagents, and PPE for lab workers. He cited Singapore, South Korea, and China as examples where they were able to stand up testing more quickly than the United States. However, the FDA is facilitating testing by cutting down materials needed to test patients and removing red tape. They discussed the preferred access to testing that some groups, like the eight NBA teams, are receiving. Snyder discussed the phase three stimulus package in Congress, which is targeting various industries. She noted the Administration has proposed \$50 billion of loans with some strings attached to the airline industry, but Democrats want more backstops, labor protections, longer term limits on CEO pay, and consumer protections like bigger airplane seats and protections against baggage fees and itinerary change fees. Some are even hoping to attach emission reduction requirements. The participants agreed New York is a bellwether for how other states might approach the Administration for help. (Politico 03/19)

### American Medical Groups Ask for \$100 Billion to Fight Coronavirus

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The American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association sent a letter to lawmakers today urging them to "allocate \$100 billion to front line health care personnel and providers, including physicians, nurses, hospitals and health systems" to fight the coronavirus. Some hospitals are losing up to \$1 million a day, they wrote. They also called for Congress to make sure childcare is available for doctors, nurses, and health care workers and asked for funds to help set up or build new outpatient facilities for patients. In addition, the American Clinical Laboratory Association asked for \$5 billion in emergency funding. (Politico 03/19)

### **Canceled Flights Increase Cargo Burden on Express Carriers**

U.S. express delivery companies are facing increased demand for their services as passenger flight cancellations cascade, meaning fewer planes are carrying cargo. That has left importers of high-value items like medicine or perishable goods such as fish and other food products scrambling to make new arrangements, said John Drake, executive director for supply chain policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The International Civil Aviation Organization said, "There is an urgent need to ensure the sustainability of the global air cargo supply chain and to maintain the availability of critical medications and equipment such as ventilators, masks, & other health & hygiene items which will help reduce the spread of #COVID19." The U.S. Chamber urged the U.S. Government to work with other G-20 nations to establish a global standard to ensure healthy air cargo pilots and crew members are not unable to fly because of local quarantine restrictions. This is deemed urgent by the group given that nearly one-third of the value of U.S. goods exports, or \$494 billion worth, were shipped by air in 2018. (Politico Pro 03/19)

### **Biggest Factory Shutdown Since WWII**

The economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak is shifting from service industries like hotels and restaurants to the manufacturing sector in both the United States and Europe, leading to a shutdown experts say is unlike any seen since the 1940s. Automakers are idling plants in response to the crisis, like China did earlier this year. Among Trump's actions was his invocation of the Defense Production Act, which was established at the time of the Korean War to allow the government to direct industrial capacity. Larry Kudlow said the Administration was already in talks with General Motors to start producing vital ventilators. However, filings show that for the week ending March 14, unemployment benefit claims rose by 70,000 to 281,000. Timothy Guinnane argued the shutdown in the U.S. and Europe follows an encouraging example where life has started to return to normal after a six-week closure in China. These shutdowns, however, are coming after a bad year for manufacturers around the globe, many of which were battered by the impact of trade wars and tariffs. Germany was near recession before the coronavirus outbreak, and U.S. manufacturers saw their production contract by 0.2% in 2019. (Bloomberg 3/19)

### **Consumers Face a Massive Credit Crunch. Lenders Are Still Figuring Out What to Do**

U.S. consumers are facing potentially the biggest credit crunch since the Great Depression. As coronavirus spreads, thousands of those working in the service industry could potentially miss payments on mortgages, credit cards, and other debt. Lenders have not yet reported a rise in missed payments, but lenders like Citigroup and JP Morgan Chase have implemented programs to help with these credit issues. This economic

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slowdown could devastate many U.S. consumers who were already overstretched. Consumer debt balances, including credit cards, auto loans, and student loans are at record high levels. (WSJ 3/19)

### **The Next Coronavirus Financial Crisis: Record Piles of Risky Corporate Debt**

Serious strains are beginning to show in the \$1.2 trillion market for loans to high risk companies. Regulators and economists worry this market is now so bad and risky that it could amplify any economic damage that is caused by COVID-19. Years of low interest rates and easy credit have allowed many companies to borrow lots of capital, building a record \$10 trillion in debt. The center of this risk is a subset of this debt: the \$1.2 trillion dollars in leveraged, high-risk debt. The market has exploded, ballooning by almost 50%, or \$400 billion, since the start of 2015, as investors desperate for the high interest payments these loans provided threw cash at borrowers. The impact of this will likely be long and drawn-out as most of these loans do not come due until 2022. (WSJ 3/19)

### **Medical Device Company Set to Manufacture 1 Million Coronavirus Tests After Receiving FDA Approval**

Abbott Laboratories is the latest company to receive an Emergency Use Authorization to help make up for a lack of testing that has hindered the U.S. ability to track COVID-19. Abbott will ramp up production and produce a million tests per week. The tests will be done on Abbott's m2000 platform, which can run up to 470 tests in 24 hours and is installed in 175 hospitals and labs around the country. Thermo Fisher said Monday the company currently has 1.5 million tests available under the EUA label, and it expects to quickly ramp up production to reach 2 million tests per week. A spokesperson for the company also confirmed production is expected to scale up to five million tests a week at some point in April. FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn said the agency has been in contact with 90 test developers that want to make their tests available through the EUA process. (Newsweek 3/19)

### **The Lamps Are Going Out All Across the Economy**

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's Sunday evening conference call said there would be no Summary of Economic Projections because the forecast is "unknowable." Economically, the current environment is an unknown in which the odds of various outcomes cannot even be quantified. However, the process of producing a forecast still possesses some value, as it can highlight the key assumptions needed to break past the uncertainty. He noted they are slashing their forecast for real annualized GDP growth in Q1 to -4.0%, followed by an even weaker -14.0% in Q2. They see growth partly recovering to 8.0% in Q3 followed by 4.0% growth in Q4. For the full year (Q4/Q4), they now look for growth of -1.5%. This growth profile causes the unemployment rate to rise from the current 3.5% to 6.25% by the middle of the year before easing back down to 5.25% by year-end. That the unemployment rate ends the year substantially higher than the current level should make clear why it would not be accurate to describe this as a V-shaped recovery, even with a strong Q3: that strength is not nearly enough to undo the expected damage to the labor market. As before, they continue to assume that ground zero of the economic weakness is those consumer services with inadequate social distancing: air travel, movies, and sporting events, for example. This group represents around 7% of GDP. They assume activity in this group falls to 63% of normal activity in March, followed by 25% in April, 63% in May, and fully recovers to 100% of normal activity in June. They do not assume a reoccurrence of the virus in the fall. With these assumptions alone,

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this group would subtract 4 percentage points from Q1 growth and almost 11 points from Q2 growth before adding 7 points to Q3 growth. (J.P. Morgan 3/19)

### Clean Energy Groups Seek Tax Credits, Deadline Extensions

Clean energy trade groups pressed Congress for emergency provisions to help compensate for slowdowns in the construction of new projects during the coronavirus outbreak. Groups representing wind, solar, hydroelectric, and energy storage companies urged lawmakers to extend legal guidelines called “start-construction dates” that make new projects eligible for federal tax credits. They urged Congress to pass a new tax credit for energy storage facilities “to help secure the more resilient grid we need in these difficult times.” The industry is one of several petitioning Congress for help as the viral outbreak curtails global trade, and the groups said one of their primary concerns is supply chain disruptions that have the “potential to delay construction timetables and undermine the ability of wind, solar, and hydropower developers to qualify for time-sensitive tax credits.” Congress passed, and the President signed a coronavirus emergency package, but a larger stimulus bill to assist industries and workers is yet to come. (Politico 03/19)

### Democrats and Labor Leaders Wary of Bailout for Airlines

The Trump Administration's plan offers \$50 billion in loans for the airline industry, rather than the combination of grants and loans the industry proposed earlier this week. It also places conditions on executive pay and service requirements. Meanwhile, Democrats and labor leaders warned against giving airlines a "blank check." Sara Nelson, head of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, called the White House plan "a joke:" "No more buybacks. No more bonuses. We need to make sure money goes to workers — period." Several Democrats in Congress also said they will not back the plan unless more conditions are attached to protect workers and consumers. While some Senate Republicans appear to be okay with the prospect, including Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL), who said he did not want to see a "bailout" for the industry but clarified later that loans are "different." The Trump Administration is also asking Congress for \$46 billion in supplemental spending for federal agencies, including money for transportation. The request asks for \$21 million in emergency funding for various DOT programs, as well as nearly \$153 million to support TSA operations. Also included in the request: a \$500 million bailout for Amtrak, in the form of several types of grants, to make up for "estimated revenue losses" through June 30. Meanwhile, a union representing FAA workers clarified the shutdown of the air traffic control tower at Midway airport in Chicago was caused by two technicians testing positive, and three more are awaiting results. "The situation at Midway may be the first, but it most likely won't be the only airport affected," PASS said, calling for the agency to set a "gold standard" for handling outbreaks at airports. (Politico 03/19)

### Coronavirus Affects Energy Companies

FERC and the North American Electric Reliability Corp. are easing some requirements on grid operators in light of coronavirus concerns. "FERC and NERC are using regulatory discretion to advise all registered entities that they will consider the impact of the coronavirus outbreak in complying with Reliability Standards," the organizations announced. However, FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee said FERC will not be second guessing actions companies take to keep the lights on. Multiple companies have raised concerns about "Standards of Conduct" rules that limit interaction between employees of a company's transmission

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and marketing divisions, but specific regulations under consideration have not been detailed. Representatives of the major oil and gas trade associations told reporters they had put in place emergency plans formulated to deal with disasters like hurricanes and previous pandemics. "We have companies that have been through these types of events before, both overseas when Ebola happened and in West Africa back through SARS, MERS and H1N1," said Suzanne Lemieux, emergency response policy manager at oil trade association American Petroleum Institute. "This is not a new planning scenario for our member companies." Parsley Energy said Wednesday it would cut executive pay by at least 50 percent compared to 2019 levels. The company, active in the Permian Basin, said it would reduce planned spending by 40 percent, bringing its 2020 capital budget to less than \$1.0 billion. In addition, Shell announced it would temporarily suspend construction at its ethane cracker plant near Pittsburgh. (Politico 03/19)

### **GoFundMe Created for Industry Workers Struggling Amid Coronavirus Outbreak**

One Milwaukee resident has taken it into his own hands to raise money for struggling industry workers. Due to the rapid spread of coronavirus, many bars, restaurants, and clubs are being forced to shut down. Because of these closures, many Milwaukee residents are struggling to find income. These residents include bartenders, DJ's, servers, and photographers, who are now facing a lack of income, and have no idea when things will go back to normal. Because of this, one man created a GoFundMe page to help raise money for those who need it now more than ever. According to the page, all donations will be distributed to industry friends in need. The creator is starting with 20 people, 10 he selected, and 10 were randomly selected from social media. Once the fund reaches \$10,000, he will pick another 20. (TMJ 4 Milwaukee [03/19](#))

### **Businesses Facing Unprecedented Crisis Over Coronavirus**

U.K. retailers, bus companies, publishers, and cinema chains issued warnings as sales are taking a large hit. The chief executive of Next said they are facing a crisis that is "unprecedented in living memory," as the fashion retailer joined a slew of companies warning of the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic. National Express, the coach and rail operator, suffered a significant drop in passenger numbers in recent weeks across North America, the UK, Spain, and Germany. Its top executives and operational managers are taking pay cuts for the duration of the virus outbreak but expect to be paid back once it is over. Simon Wolfson of Next said, "the industry had not experienced a similar situation since the oil crisis in 1973," and he could not rule out closing Next's shops in the UK, even if such a move was not demanded by the government. German airline Lufthansa said it could not estimate the magnitude of the expected decline in its earnings due to the crisis. Iberia, part of the IAG airline group that includes British Airways, said it was laying off 90% of its workers temporarily. (The Guardian 03/19)

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### Resources

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  1. [Coronavirus Website](#)
  2. [Twitter](#)
2. World Health Organization
  1. [Coronavirus Website](#)
  2. [Twitter](#)
3. [COVID-19 Global Cases by CSSE at Johns Hopkins University \(JHU\)](#)
4. [CNN State-By-State Breakdown of U.S. Coronavirus Cases](#)
5. [The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America: 15 Days to Slow the Spread](#)
6. [USA.GOV - Government Response to Coronavirus, COVID-19](#)
7. [U.S. Department of State Coronavirus Website](#)
  1. [Travel Advisories](#)
8. U.S. Agency for International Development
  1. [Coronavirus Website](#)
  2. [Center for International Disaster Information](#)
9. [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)
  1. [Twitter](#)
  2. [Facebook](#)
10. [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Virtual Toolkit](#)
11. [U.S. Department of Defense Coronavirus Website](#)
12. [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Coronavirus Website](#)
13. [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Coronavirus Website](#)
14. [U.S. Department of Labor Coronavirus Website](#)
15. [U.S. Department of Homeland Security Coronavirus Website](#)
16. [U.S. Department of Energy Coronavirus Website](#)
17. [U.S. Department of Agriculture Coronavirus Website](#)
18. [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
19. [The COVID Tracking Project](#)
20. [Politico Live Tracker State-by-State](#)