**TIMELINE OF THE CORONAVIRUS**

**Nov. 17, 2019:** The first Wuhan case was reported by the South China Morning Post.

**Dec. 8, 2019:** WHO’s website states this was first confirmed case of the virus.

**Dec. 20, 2019**: The total number of confirmed cases in China had reached 60.

**Dec. 27, 2019:** A doctor from Hubei Province told China’s health authorities that the disease was caused by a new coronavirus.

**December 30:** In Wuhan, Dr. Li Wenliang, and several of his colleagues did an online posting warning of the emergence of a SARS-like illness. They were arrested by local security police on charges of “spreading rumors”

**Dec. 2019:** “The government of Taiwan attempted to warn the U.N.-led World Health Organization (WHO) of the deadly potential of the Wuhan coronavirus, but the WHO failed to share to the world.” <https://www.breitbart.com/asia/2020/03/23/taiwan-world-health-organization-mostly-ignored-coronavirus-warnings-in-december/>

**Dec. 31, 2019:** China reports the discovery of the coronavirus to the World Health Organization.

**January 1, 2020:** Chinese officials were instructed to destroy both the viral test results and samples.

**January 6:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a travel notice for Wuhan, China

**January 7:** The CDC established a coronavirus incident management system to better share and respond to information about the virus.

**January 11:** The CDC issued a Level I travel health notice for Wuhan, China.

**<January 14:** [China](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/china/index.html) imported more than two billion masks and 25 million pieces of protective clothing from overseas before the [coronavirus](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/coronavirus/index.html) outbreak reached pandemic levels

**January 14**: WHO tweets the Chinese have found no evidence of human-to-human transmission

**January 15:** **First US resident** was diagnosed with the Wuhan coronavirus, per CDC.

**January 17:** The CDC began implementing public health entry screening at the 3 U.S. airports that received the most travelers from Wuhan – San Francisco, New York JFK, and Los Angeles.

**January 19:** The WHO tweets: “An animal source seems the most likely primary source with some limited human-to-human transmission occurring between close contacts.

**January 20:** Dr. Fauci announces the National Institutes of Health is working on a vaccine

**January 21:** The CDC activated its emergency operations center to provide ongoing support to the coronavirus response. They still believed the risk of spread was “low”.

**January 23:** The CDC sought a “special emergency authorization” from the FDA to allow states to use its newly developed coronavirus test.

**January 26:** Taiwan banned flights from Wuhan, making it the first country to do so.

**January 27:** The CDC issued a level III travel health notice urging Americans to avoid all nonessential travel to China due to the coronavirus.

**January 29:** The White House announced the formation of the Coronavirus Task Force to help monitor and contain the spread of the virus and provide updates to the President.

**January 30:**

* **The World Health Organization:**
	+ [**declared**](https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/30/health/coronavirus-who-public-health-emergency-international-concern-declaration/index.html)**a public health emergency** of international concern.
	+ Tweets: To date, new person-to-person transmission outside of [China](https://twitter.com/hashtag/China?src=hash) has been limited.

**January 31:** The Trump Administration:

* **Declared the coronavirus a public health emergency.**
* Announced Chinese travel restrictions.
* Suspended entry into the United States for foreign nationals who pose a risk of transmitting the coronavirus
* The Department of Homeland Security took critical steps to funnel all flights from China into just 7 domestic U.S. airports.

**February 2:** New York City Health Commissioner **Oxiris Barbot** accused Trump of being a **racist**

**February 3:** The CDC had a team ready to travel to China to obtain critical information on the novel coronavirus, but were in the U.S. awaiting permission to enter by the Chinese government.

**February 4:** President Trump vowed in his State of the Union Address to “take all necessary steps” to protect Americans from the coronavirus.

**February 6:** The CDC began shipping CDC-Developed **test kits** for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus to U.S. and international labs.

**February 7:**

* USAID, facilitated by the US State Department, sent 17.8 tons of donated medical supplies to the Chinese people
* NYC “Health Commissioner” Oxiris Barbot: “We’re telling New Yorkers, go about your lives, take the subway, go out, enjoy life”

**February 9:**

* The White House Coronavirus Task Force **briefed governors** from across the nation at the National Governors’ Association Meeting in Washington.
* New York City China’s New Year parade in Chinatown takes place

**February 10th: NYC Mayor DeBlasio On MSNBC:** “We want to encourage” New Yorkers going out. “If you’re under 50 & you’re healthy, which is most NYers, there’s very little threat here. This disease, even if you were to get it, basically acts like a common cold or flu. And transmission is not that easy.”

**February 11:** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) expanded a partnership with Janssen Research & Development to “expedite the development” of a coronavirus vaccine.

**February 12:**

* The U.S. shipped **test kits** for the 2019 novel coronavirus to approximately 30 countries who lacked the necessary reagents and other materials.
* The CDC was prepared to travel to China but had yet to receive permission from the Chinese government.

**February 14:**

* The CDC began working with five labs to conduct “community-based influenza surveillance” to study and detect the spread of coronavirus.
* **China’s President** announced accelerating **bio-safety regulations at their labs**.

**February 18:** HHS announced it would engage with Sanofi Pasteur in an effort to quickly develop a coronavirus vaccine and to develop treatment for coronavirus infections.

**February 21:** WHO continues to defend China by tweeting: "The measures [China](https://twitter.com/hashtag/China?src=hash) & other countries have taken have given us a fighting chance of containing the spread”

**February 24:** The Trump Administration sent a letter to Congress requesting at least $2.5 billion to help combat the spread of the coronavirus.

**February 26:**

* **1st Coronavirus press briefing** by President Trump and task force. He stated there were only **15 cases in US**
	+ VP Pence put in charge of the task force
	+ in recent days, the **White House met with over 40 state, county, and city health officials from over 30** states and territories to discuss how to respond to this
	+ HHS Director Azar said: “**The degree of risk has the potential to change quickly**
	+ CDC recommends that the state and local governments should refresh themselves on how they would respond in the event that the situation worsens.

**February 27:** The CDC tweets that per [China](https://twitter.com/hashtag/China?src=hash): “The evidence we have is that there does not appear to be widespread community transmission".

**February 29:**

* The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allowed certified labs to develop and begin **testing** coronavirus testing kits while reviewing pending applications.
* The Trump Administration:
* Announced a level 4 travel advisory to areas of Italy and South Korea.
* Barred all travel to Iran.
* Barred the entry of foreign citizens who visited Iran in the last 14 days

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**March 3:**

* The CDC lifted federal restrictions on coronavirus testing to allow any American to be tested for coronavirus, “subject to doctor’s orders.”
* The White House announced President Trump donated his fourth quarter salary to fight the coronavirus.
* **Per NYC de Blasio:** “I’m encouraging New Yorkers to go on with your lives + get out on the town despite Coronavirus,” (THIS WAS two weeks before comparing the outbreak to a type of world war that required **nationalizing** industries.) “We have a lot of information now, information that is actually showing us things that should give us more reason to stay calm and go about our lives” normally.

**March 4:**

* The Trump Administration announced the purchase of $500 million N95 respirators over the next 18 months to respond to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.
* Secretary Azar announced that HHS was transferring $35 million to the CDC to help state and local communities that have been impacted most by the coronavirus.

**March 6:** President Trump signed an $8.3 billion bill to fight the coronavirus outbreak. The bill provides $7.76 billion to federal, state, & local agencies to combat the coronavirus and authorizes an additional $500 million in waivers for Medicare telehealth restrictions.

**March 9:** President Trump called on Congress to pass a payroll tax cut over coronavirus.

**March 10:**

* President Trump and VP Pence met with top health insurance companies and secured a commitment to waive co-pays for coronavirus testing.
* NYC Health Commissioner **Oxiris Barbot urged Bill de Blasio to begin taking more drastic measures** to control the spread. De Blasio resisted. It took him a week to do so.

**March 11:**

* The Novel Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19, was **declared a pandemic** by the World Health Organization.
* President Trump:
* Announced travel restrictions on foreigners who had visited Europe in the last 14 days.
* Directed the Small Business Administration to issue low-interest loans to affected small businesses and called on congress to increase this fund by $50 billion.
* Directed the Treasury Department to defer tax payments for affected individuals & businesses, & provide $200 billion in “additional liquidity.”
* Met with **American bankers** at the White House to discuss coronavirus.

**March 13:**

President Trump:

* Declared a **national emergency** in order to access $42 billion in existing funds to combat the coronavirus.
* Announced:
* **Public-private partnerships** to open up **drive-through testing** collection sites.
* A pause on interest payments on federal student loans.
* An order to the Department of Energy to purchase oil for the strategic petroleum reserve.
* The Food & Drug Administration:
	+ Granted **Roche** AG an emergency approval for **automated testing kits**.
	+ Issued an emergency approval to **Thermo Fisher** for a coronavirus test within 24 hours of receiving the request.
* HHS announced funding for the development of two new **rapid diagnostic tests**, which would be able to detect coronavirus in approximately 1 hour.

**March 14:**

* The Coronavirus Relief Bill passed the House of Representatives.
* The Trump Administration announced the European travel ban will extend to the UK and Ireland.

**March 15:**

* The Center for Disease Control and Prevention **no group larger than 50** or more people
* President Trump held a phone call with over two dozen **grocery store executives** to discuss on-going demand for food and other supplies.
* HHS announced it is projected to have 1.9 million COVID-19 tests available in 2,000 labs this week.
* **Google** announced a partnership with the Trump Administration to develop a website dedicated to coronavirus education, prevention, & local resources.
* All 50 states were contacted through FEMA to coordinate “federally-supported, state-led efforts” to end coronavirus.

**March 16:**

* President Trump:
	+ Held a **tele-conference with governors** to discuss coronavirus preparedness and response.
	+ Participated in a call with G7 leaders who committed to increasing coordination in response to the coronavirus and restoring global economic confidence.
	+ Announced that the first potential vaccine for coronavirus has entered a phase one trial in a record amount of time.
	+ Announced **“15 days to slow the spread”** coronavirus guidance
* The FDA announced it was empowering states to authorize tests developed and used by labs in their states. (De-nationalizing)
* Asst. Secretary for Health confirmed the availability of 1 million coronavirus tests, and projected 2 million tests available the next week and 5 million the following.

**March 17:**

* President Trump announced:
	+ CMS will expand telehealth benefits for Medicare beneficiaries.
	+ Relevant Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act penalties will not be enforced.
	+ The Army Corps of Engineers is on “standby” to assist federal & state governments.
* President Trump spoke to **fast food executives** from Wendy’s, McDonald’s and Burger King to discuss drive-thru services recommended by CDC
* President Trump met with **tourism industry representatives** along with industrial supply, retail, and wholesale representatives.
* Treasury Secretary Steve Munchin met with lawmakers to discuss stimulus measures to relieve the economic burden of coronavirus on certain **industries, businesses, and American workers.**
* Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced a partnership between **USDA, Baylor University, McLane Global, and Pepsi Co.** to provide one million meals per weak to rural children in response to widespread school closures.
* The Treasury Department:
	+ Contributed $10bil through the economic stabilization fund to the Federal Reserve’s commercial paper funding facility.
	+ Deferred $300 billion in tax payments for 90 days without penalty, up to $1mil for individuals & $10mil for business.
* The Department of Defense announced it will make available to HHS up to five million respirator masks and 2,000 ventilators.

**March 18:** President Trump announced:

* Temporary closure of the U.S.-Canada border to non-essential traffic.
* Plans to invoke the Defense Production Act in order to increase the number of necessary supplies needed to combat coronavirus.
* FEMA has been activated in every region at its highest level of response.
* The U.S. Navy will **deploy USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy hospital ships**.
* All foreclosures and evictions will be suspended for a period of time.
* Secretary of Defense Mark Esper confirmed:
	+ 1 million masks are now immediately available.
	+ The Army Corps of Engineers is in NY consulting on how to best assist state officials.
* HHS temporarily suspended a regulation that prevents doctors from practicing across state lines.
* President Trump spoke to:
	+ Doctors, physicians, and nurses on the front lines containing the spread of coronavirus.
	+ 130 CEOs of the Business Roundtable to discuss on-going public-private partnerships

**March 19:** **CA** – First state to order “stay-at-home”

**March 20:** **NYC** - de Blasio asks for “shelter in place” but Cuomo resists

**March 21:** **NJ** issued “stay at home”

### **March 22:**

### **NY** Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo issued “stay at home”. He shied away from the language of a shelter-in-place order, which he said evoked images of shooter situations or nuclear war.

* **FL** – First County (Palm Coast) issues “stay at home” – not statewide (Pinellas – 26th)

**March 30:** **USNS Comfort lands in NY**

**April 1:**

* **SAMARITAN’S PURSE** took in first COVID-19 patient in its 65-bed temporary hospital

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**April 2:** NY Gov. Cuomo released the first federally-provided ventilators into hospitals from stock.