



[Latest Domestic Updates on the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

The impact of the coronavirus has continued to be felt across the United States, as confirmed cases and deaths from the virus mount. Across the country, only twelve states have not enforced a state-wide lockdown, meaning over 297 million people in 38 states are ordered to stay home and follow social distancing procedures. People are generally permitted to leave their homes for “essential” trips, such as going to the grocery store, the doctor, or to exercise. All non-essential businesses are also closed, with no definitive date to re-open. Correspondingly, 6.6 million people filed for unemployment last week, the highest level ever recorded and more than double what was projected. With people losing their jobs and therefore their insurance, President Trump floated an idea last month to open a special enrolment period for the Affordable Care Act. However, the administration has decided against that idea and will not be allowing uninsured Americans to purchase healthcare during the coronavirus pandemic. A \$2 trillion stimulus package to jumpstart the economy was passed in Congress last week, and some lawmakers, led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, are pressing another piece of legislation to supplement that stimulus package.

The United States is currently reporting over 200,000 cases of the coronavirus and over 5,000 deaths. The most heavily affected states are New York, New Jersey, California, and Michigan. New York has over 60,000 more cases than New Jersey, which in turn has over 10,000 more cases than California. The United States officially surpassed China for the most cases in the world, although China has been accused of intentionally misreporting the number of cases. A senior U.S. official warned that even by following strict social distancing measures, between 100,000 and 240,000 Americans could die from the coronavirus. That number scaled upward to between 1.5 and 2.2 million deaths if people did not follow social distancing regulations. In a press conference, President Trump called the statistics “sobering” and urged people to stay home and follow the stay-at-home orders given by state governments.

Despite President Trump toying with the idea of reopening federal enrolment periods for the Affordable Care Act, the federal exchanges will remain closed. However, states such as New York and California have reopened their state enrolment periods to address the mounting number of cases in their states. Over six million people have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus, and that number will likely only continue to increase. In two weeks, the impact of the virus has had a bigger effect on the American economy than the worst months of the 2008 financial crisis.

The stimulus package signed into law by President Trump last month is designed to address the economy, including direct payments to Americans, but some lawmakers are pushing for more legislation to build upon what has already been passed. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Trump have found rare common ground on which they both endorse the idea of an additional relief package centered around infrastructure. Speaker Pelosi said she hoped to start meaningful work on legislation “shortly” after the House returned. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin also said that he is in “ongoing dialogue” with Congressional Democrats over additional stimulus measures, including an infrastructure plan.