



[The United States Surpasses 100,000 Coronavirus Fatalities](#)

This week, the United States reached a grim milestone in the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, as over 100,000 Americans have now died from the virus. The U.S. has not only the highest fatality total, but also the highest number of confirmed cases in the world – making up more than 30% of the global total. The death toll from COVID-19 in the United States now exceeds the total casualties suffered by American military personnel in every conflict since the Korean War. Despite this, many states across the country are entering into the initial stages of reopening their economies. New Jersey is the only state to not begin doing this in some capacity, with all 49 other states starting the process of restarting to a degree. The United States is currently reporting over 1.7 million infections in addition to the 100,000+ dead. However, top infectious disease experts believe the numbers to be even higher due to undiagnosed cases, and people dying of symptoms brought on by the virus. Additionally, it is thought that many cases of COVID-19 were misdiagnosed, or not diagnosed at all during the early stages of the virus.

Critics have accused the Trump Administration of moving too slowly to combat the spread of the virus, and being complicit in its rampant spread. A model from Columbia University showed that the United States could have avoided roughly 54,000 deaths had the country entered lockdown two weeks sooner. According to the study, had cities locked down on March 1st, and social distancing measures been enacted on the same day, a majority of the coronavirus deaths in the United States could have been avoided. President Trump has frequently extolled his administration's success in fighting the virus, and continues to push for states to reopen, despite warnings from experts about a potential second wave of the virus.

As stay-at-home orders expire in states across the country, many governors are opting not to renew them. Instead, phased reopenings are being implemented, with certain restrictions. Some non-essential activities, such as going to restaurants and bars are permitted in some states, with others continuing to restrict such activities. The federal government has released guidelines for states to follow as they reopen. Included in these guidelines is a recommendation to proceed with reopening as long as confirmed cases and deaths are decreasing over a 14-day period. However, there are detractors who argue that the country is reopening too soon, and a second wave of the virus is likely to occur. Some leading epidemiologists have warned that without continued social distancing, a second wave of the virus is likely to occur in the Fall. According to these warnings, increased testing and supply of personal protective equipment is vital to preventing another wave, in addition to the development of a vaccine.

Worldwide, the virus has infected more than 5.6 million people and killed over 350,000. Europe has recorded about 170,000 deaths, while the United States reached more than 100,000 in less than four months. The global fatality total is widely believed to be significantly higher than reported, with experts saying that many victims died of COVID-19 without ever being tested for it.