



[President Trump and Multiple Administration Officials Contract COVID-19](#)

Over the course of the past week, multiple members of the Trump administration, including President Trump, have tested positive for COVID-19. News of the cluster in the White House first broke late last week when it was revealed that Hope Hicks, a senior advisor to the president, was COVID-19 positive and had been in close contact with President Trump and the First Lady, both of whom tested positive in the following hours. Additionally, White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien, and presidential advisor Kellyanne Conway, among others, have all tested positive for the virus. The outbreak is thought to have originated at a Rose Garden ceremony announcing the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. The president was taken to Walter Reed Military Hospital on Friday afternoon after his oxygen levels dipped and he reported having a fever, and returned to the White House on Monday but has received criticism for not taking the proper precautions to protect Secret Service and West Wing staff from also potentially contracting the virus.

Of the confirmed cases among members of the administration, President Trump's was seemingly the most serious. While at the hospital during the weekend, the president was administered a strong cocktail of antibiotics, including dexamethasone and remdesivir, both of which have generally only been used to treat severe cases of COVID-19. This seemingly contradicts the official stance of the White House that Trump's case was mild. The president took to social media on several occasions while at the hospital to declare he was feeling well, and even took a drive in the presidential SUV to greet well-wishers who had congregated outside.

The outbreak in the White House came at an extremely inopportune moment for President Trump, with his bid for re-election in serious jeopardy, according to the latest polls. The president has been keen to downplay the threat of the virus in recent months, but his contraction of it, coupled with the inconsistent messaging from the White House, has only served to create confusion. Since the president's contraction, the White House has been reluctant to release information on when exactly he last tested negative, who else he was in contact with, and whether or not Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden was exposed to the virus during the presidential debate last week. The erratic messaging is consistent with the Trump administration's larger response to the pandemic, and has fostered an atmosphere of distrust in the administration as a result.

In addition to members of the Trump administration, multiple high-level lawmakers have tested positive for the virus following the Rose Garden ceremony to announce the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. Republican Senators Ron Johnson (WI), Thom Tillis (NC), and Mike Lee (UT) all contracted the virus, and photos have shown all three of them in close contact with individuals who are known to be COVID-positive. Additionally, Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Ben Sasse (R-NE) are both self-quarantining after being in close proximity to COVID-positive individuals. The outbreak in the GOP caucus poses a major problem for President Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell as they attempt to ram through Barrett's confirmation before the election. The Senate will not meet this week as a result of the positive tests, and further spread of the virus among Republicans could derail Barrett's confirmation if multiple members are in quarantine and thus unable to vote to confirm her.