

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

National Edition

Periodic sunshine in the north. Sunny in the south. Afternoon temperatures in the mid-50s to low 60s. Rain arriving tonight across the north. Weather map is on Page B12.

VOL. CLXIX . . . No. 58,643

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

Printed in Chicago \$3.00

## AID DEAL NEAR AS TRUMP PUSHES TO EASE LIMITS



Customers swarmed a pharmacy Tuesday in Mumbai, India, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced coming restrictions.

### India Orders Three-Week Lockdown for All 1.3 Billion Residents

By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN and KAI SCHULTZ

NEW DELHI — India's prime minister ordered all 1.3 billion people in the country to stay inside their homes for three weeks starting Wednesday — the biggest and most severe action undertaken anywhere to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

"There will be a total ban of coming out of your homes," the prime minister, Narendra Modi, announced on television Tuesday night, giving Indians less than four hours' notice before the order

took effect at 12:01 a.m.

"Every state, every district, every lane, every village will be under lockdown," Mr. Modi said. The breadth and depth of such a challenge is staggering in a country where hundreds of millions of citizens are destitute and countless millions live in packed urban areas with poor sanitation and weak public health care.

Though India's number of reported coronavirus infections remains relatively low — around 500 — the fear is that, should the virus hit as it has in the United States, Europe or China, the consequences would lead to a disas-

### Citizens Scramble After Being Given Under 4 Hours to Prepare

ter far bigger than anywhere else. The nationwide lockdown followed a series of decrees that had been steadily growing more stringent and some people had been expecting Mr. Modi to announce something even more severe, like a nationwide state of emergency and declaration of martial law.

Hours before Mr. Modi's televised address, the long straight boulevards of New Delhi, the capital, resembled deserted racetracks. All the stores in the center of town were shut, but in the poorer neighborhoods just outside of the city, it was a different story.

People were still out, jostling with each other in narrow lanes and still crowding into bus shelters, sleeping eight to a room in shabby tenements, and showing the inability of maintaining social distance.

Long lines of migrant workers

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### President Wants the Economy 'Opened Up' by Easter

By ANNIE KARNI and DONALD G. McNEIL Jr.

WASHINGTON — President Trump said on Tuesday that he wanted to reopen the country for business by Easter, on April 12, despite widespread warnings from public health experts that the worst effects of the coronavirus were still weeks away and that lifting the restrictions now in place would result in unnecessary deaths.

The president said he believed a crippled economy and forced social isolation would inflict more harm than the spread of the virus. But experts have warned that spread could be slowed if businesses remain shuttered and people remain in their homes as much as possible.

Mr. Trump made his comments at a time when large parts of the United States and the world were moving in the opposite direction: India announced a "complete lockdown" of the country's 1.3 billion people. The Olympic Games in Tokyo were postponed for a year. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a lockdown in Britain. And Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York said cases of Covid-19 were doubling every three days, with a peak expected in the third week of April, when an expected 140,000 New Yorkers would need to be hospitalized.

Later Tuesday, at the coronavirus task force's daily news briefing, Dr. Deborah L. Birx, the White House's coronavirus response coordinator, announced that anyone who leaves New York City should self-quarantine when they leave the metropolitan area, where about 60 percent of all the new cases in the country are coming from, to ensure they do not spread it.

Sitting in the Rose Garden for a Fox News "virtual town hall" on the coronavirus earlier in the day, Mr. Trump said he was ready to "have the country opened up" by Easter and easing restrictions he said were responsible for harming a flourishing economy.

"You are going to lose a number

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### \$2 Trillion Plan Adds Oversight Sought by Democrats

By EMILY COCHRANE and NICHOLAS FANDOS

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders and Trump administration officials closed in on a deal on Tuesday on a roughly \$2 trillion economic stabilization plan to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, after agreeing to Democratic demands to add oversight requirements for a \$500 billion government bailout fund for distressed companies.

Negotiators were hammering out the final details of the plan, which is aimed at delivering critical financial support to businesses forced to shut their doors and help to American families and hospitals reeling from the rapid spread of the disease and the resulting economic disruption. With lawmakers and White House officials expressing optimism for an agreement, the measure could be enacted within days.

A crucial breakthrough came when Democrats won concessions from the Trump administration to add strict oversight over



Steven Mnuchin, the Treasury secretary, on Tuesday.

the \$500 billion corporate aid fund, including installing an inspector general and a panel appointed by Congress to monitor it. The vast majority of the fund would go to the Federal Reserve to cover loans.

The measures are similar to those put in place as part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, the centerpiece of the Wall Street bailout enacted in 2008 to respond to the financial meltdown.

Markets around the world rallied on the news that after several days of often contentious talks that left the fate of the stimulus measure in doubt, it appeared to be coming together. The S&P 500 rose more than 9 percent, its biggest gain since 2015.

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### Crisis Response Lifts Governor From Also-Ran to Can't-Ignore

By JESSE MCKINLEY and SHANE GOLDMACHER

ALBANY, N.Y. — Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo awoke before dawn on Tuesday, emerging after a few hours' sleep to board a helicopter to New York City for the coronavirus briefing that has become a daily ritual for him, and the millions of people now watching.

But this event would be different. The outbreak was moving faster than he had expected, with the number of confirmed cases doubling every three days, and he decided he needed to show people — including the White House — how desperate the situation had become.

"What am I going to do with 400 ventilators when I need 30,000?" he said later. "You pick the 26,000 people who are going to die because you only sent 400 ventilators."

The governor repeatedly assured the federal response as slow, inefficient and inadequate, far more aggressively than he had before.

Mr. Cuomo was once considered an also-ran on the national stage, an abrasive presence who made his share of enemies among



Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo is rising as a key Democratic voice.

his Democratic Party peers. He was too much of a pragmatist for his party's progressive wing, too self-focused for party leaders and too brusque for nearly everyone.

But now, he is emerging as the party's most prominent voice in a time of crisis. His briefings — articulate, consistent and often tinged with empathy — have become must-see television. On Tuesday, his address was carried live on all four networks in New York and a raft of cable news stations, including CNN, MSNBC and even Fox News.

In a sign of to what extent Mr. Cuomo has become the face of the Democratic Party in this moment, his address even pre-empted an

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### New York Becomes a Hot Zone, As a 14-Day Quarantine Is Urged

By ALAN FEUER and BRIAN M. ROSENTHAL

Federal and state officials expressed growing alarm on Tuesday about the coronavirus outbreak in New York City, warning that it could reach its peak much sooner than expected and advising people who have passed through or left the city that they should place themselves in a 14-day quarantine.

Dr. Deborah L. Birx, the White House's coronavirus response coordinator, indicated that the health authorities were now treating the New York City region as a coronavirus hot zone, akin to areas of China and Europe overwhelmed by the virus.

Dr. Birx said that about 60 percent of all the new cases in the United States were in the New York City metropolitan area, adding that a surge in cases on Long Island showed that people leaving the city were spreading the virus.

"Everybody who was in New York should be self-quarantining for the next 14 days to ensure that the virus doesn't spread to others no matter where they have gone, whether it's Florida, North Carolina or out to far reaches of Long Island," she said. "We are starting to see new cases across Long Island that suggest people have left the city."

Vice President Mike Pence



Testing workers at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx.

made it clear that New York City was now the nation's coronavirus epicenter: "We have to deal with the New York metropolitan area as a high-risk area," he said, telling New Yorkers, "We are with you."

The White House warning came as Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo offered a grim forecast for the outbreak in New York, saying that it would flood the state's strained hospitals with as many as 140,000 stricken patients in the next few weeks.

Mr. Cuomo said that in New York City, new cases appeared to be doubling every three days. The crisis has already claimed the lives of more than 200 people statewide, and 131 in the city.

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**SLOW RESPONSE** Government inaction is evident in the shortage of crucial equipment. PAGE A9

**OLYMPICS HALTED** Japanese and Olympic officials agreed to delay the Games until 2021. PAGE B9

### New Type of Outbreak Hoarding: Doctors Prescribe for Themselves

By ELLEN GABLER

Doctors are hoarding medications touted as possible cures by writing prescriptions for themselves and family members, according to pharmacy boards in states across the country.

The stockpiling has become so worrisome in Idaho, Kentucky, Ohio, Nevada, Oklahoma, North Carolina, and Texas that the boards in those states have issued emergency restrictions or guidelines on how the drugs can be dispensed at pharmacies. More states are expected to follow suit.

"This is a real issue and it is not some product of a few isolated bad apples," said Jay Campbell, executive director of the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy.

The medications being prescribed differ slightly from state to state, but include those lauded by President Trump at televised briefings as potential breakthrough treatments for the virus, which has killed at least 675 people in the United States and in-

fecting more than 52,000.

None of the drugs have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for that use. Some of them — including chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine — are commonly used to treat malaria, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and other conditions.

Pharmacists around the country have been swapping stories on social media about the spike in prescriptions written by doctors for themselves or their families.

"I have multiple prescribers calling in prescriptions for Plaquenil for themselves and their family members as a precaution. Is this ethical?" one person wrote on Sunday in a Facebook group for pharmacists, referring to a brand name of hydroxychloroquine. Others weighed in — some noting similar experiences — and expressed their hesitancy to dispense such prescriptions.

"I got called a communist for telling a prescriber, who was try-

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