

# COVID-19 Update for Unions

March 26

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to escalate.

**Reported Cases of COVID-19 – from Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center**

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

**March 26 – pm 7:00 PM ET**

**Worldwide –529,093 cases – 23,956 deaths**

**United States –83,507 cases –1,201 deaths (up from 65,778 cases – 942 deaths yesterday).**

**The U.S. now has the most reported confirmed cases in the world, with the number of cases surpassing Italy and China.**

In the U.S., New York City remains the epicenter of the outbreak. As of this morning NYC reported more than 21,000 cases and 281 deaths to date.

In New York City, the first wave of the tsunami has arrived and hospitals are overwhelmed. These report from the NY Times (which I sent yesterday) describe the magnitude of the situation and the appalling conditions that healthcare workers are

facing. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/25/nyregion/nyc-coronavirus-hospitals.html> and

[https://www.nytimes.com/video/nyregion/10000007052136/coronavirus-elmhurst-hospital-](https://www.nytimes.com/video/nyregion/10000007052136/coronavirus-elmhurst-hospital-queens.html)

[queens.html](https://www.nytimes.com/video/nyregion/10000007052136/coronavirus-elmhurst-hospital-queens.html). Similar stories are being reported by doctors and nurses in other hospitals on the front lines.

In addition to New York, New Jersey, California and Washington continue to report large numbers that are still increasing. New emerging hot spots at Detroit, Chicago and Atlanta.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/health/2020/03/26/michigan-detroit-coronavirus-testing-covid-19/2914611001/>

Despite the escalating number of cases and new hot spots emerging, President Trump continues to push to reopen the country and get people back to work after the “15 Days to Stop the Spread” reaches its end this weekend. Today, President Trump sent a letter to governors outlined his plan to reopen the country county by county. <https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-governors-coronavirus-we-have-to-open-up-our-country-2020-3>. Public health experts are opposed to such an action.

In Europe, in Italy and Spain the number of daily deaths has remained high - 662 deaths in Italy and 665 deaths in Spain. Spain has extended its lockdown for another two weeks. Cases in France and the UK are also on the rise.

There are still extreme shortages in personal protective equipment and medical supplies and equipment. Efforts to direct supplies to where there are needed have helped, but are not sufficient to meet the need. Healthcare workers and other workers continue to be asked or required to do their jobs without the protection they desperately need. Some hospitals have disciplined workers who bring in personal equipment to wear. Hospitals are telling the public and the media that workers are being protected. Hospitals have told workers not to speak out about conditions or lack of equipment,

and threatened to discipline workers who do. Today, there were several reports of healthcare workers dying due to COVID infections, including a nurse at the Mt. Sinai hospital in New York City. Workers in other sectors continue to be forced to report to work, often with little or no protection and inadequate measures for physical separation. <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/03/26/coronavirus-michigan-essential-workers/2908895001/>. The UAW reported that another member had died, in addition the two deaths reported earlier this week. <https://uaw.org/covid19-update-3-26-2020/> and <https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2020/03/26/uaw-worker-from-fca-transport-in-sterling-heights-dies-from-coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Last night the Senate unanimously passed the third COVID Response Bill. The House is expected to vote on the bill on Friday.

Here's information and articles on these and other COVID developments:

### **White House/CDC/Government Actions, Advisories and Guidance**

Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing - March 25, 2020

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-vice-president-pence-members-coronavirus-task-force-press-briefing-11/>

### **Mitigation**

Trump tells governors new rules may allow US regions to ease coronavirus restrictions: 'We have to open up our country, I'm sorry'

<https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-governors-coronavirus-we-have-to-open-up-our-country-2020-3>

### **Transmission/Cases**

UAW: Worker from FCA Transport in Sterling Heights dies from coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2020/03/26/uaw-worker-from-fca-transport-in-sterling-heights-dies-from-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Assisted living and Covid-19: the next Kirkland might not be a nursing home-

Stat News

MARCH 25, 2020

[https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/25/assisted-living-covid-19-kirkland-nursing-home/?utm\\_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm\\_campaign=135a5c6735-](https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/25/assisted-living-covid-19-kirkland-nursing-home/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=135a5c6735-)

[MR\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8cab1d7961-135a5c6735-151913713](https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/25/assisted-living-covid-19-kirkland-nursing-home/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=135a5c6735-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-135a5c6735-151913713)

Covid-19's resurgence in Hong Kong holds a lesson: Defeating it demands persistence

Stat News

MARCH 26, 2020

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/26/coronavirus-hong-kong-resurgenece-holds-lesson-defeating-it-demands->

[persistence/?utm\\_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm\\_campaign=135a5c6735-MR\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8cab1d7961-135a5c6735-151913713](https://www.stat.com/newsletters/135a5c6735-MR_COPY_01?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=135a5c6735-MR_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-135a5c6735-151913713)

## **Hospital Capacity, Equipment Shortages**

**That's when all hell broke loose': Coronavirus patients overwhelm US hospitals – CNN**

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/25/health/coronavirus-covid-hospitals/index.html>

**Some health-care workers resist orders to work without adequate protection - The Washington Post**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/some-health-care-workers-resist-orders-to-work-without-adequate-protection/2020/03/25/d39e652c-6e97-11ea-aa80-c2470c6b2034\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/some-health-care-workers-resist-orders-to-work-without-adequate-protection/2020/03/25/d39e652c-6e97-11ea-aa80-c2470c6b2034_story.html)

**Health worker union says it found 39 million masks**

**Washington Post**

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<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/03/26/coronavirus-latest-news/#link-PQYGANI7RFBOPAA5EGKR2FCJ6E>

Note- Today at the March 26 White House Briefing, Vice President Pence announced that the Strategic National Stockpile had distributed 9 million N95 respirators to states. But the SEIU was able to locate four times as many.....

## **Health Care Worker Cases and Deaths**

**NYC Nurse Who Treated COVID-19 Patients Dies as One Hospital Reports 13 Deaths in 24 Hours**

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**NBC New York**

<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/coronavirus/nyc-nurse-who-treated-covid-19-patient-dies-another-hospital-reports-13-deaths-in-one-day/2344831/>

**Two Georgia Medical Workers Die of COVID-19 Amid Critical Shortage of Protective Gear**  
**Democracy Now**

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[https://www.democracynow.org/2020/3/25/headlines/two\\_georgia\\_medical\\_workers\\_die\\_of\\_covid\\_19\\_amid\\_critical\\_shortage\\_of\\_protective\\_gear](https://www.democracynow.org/2020/3/25/headlines/two_georgia_medical_workers_die_of_covid_19_amid_critical_shortage_of_protective_gear)

**St. Louis' first death from COVID-19 was a Red Cross employee; two co-workers also infected**

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**St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

[https://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/coronavirus/st-louis-first-death-from-covid--was-a-red/article\\_94307665-c6e7-5189-8d13-fcebc747ce2e.html](https://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/coronavirus/st-louis-first-death-from-covid--was-a-red/article_94307665-c6e7-5189-8d13-fcebc747ce2e.html)

## **Worker Exposure**

**Michigan employees forced to work amid coronavirus crisis: We're not an essential service**  
**Detroit Free Press**

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<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/03/26/coronavirus-michigan-essential-workers/2908895001/>