



The Barnett Group

The Corona Crisis:

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15 June 2020

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Pandemic Updates

[Coronavirus Cases Spike Across Sun Belt as Economy Lurches into Motion](#)

As of Saturday, coronavirus cases were climbing in 22 states amid reopenings. On Saturday, Florida saw its largest single-day count of cases since the pandemic began. Oregon has failed to contain the spread of the virus in many places, leading the governor on Thursday to pause what had been a gradual reopening. And in Texas, cases are rising swiftly around the largest cities, including Houston, San Antonio and Dallas. [Click COVID Surge](#)

[Chinese Capital Reinstates Curbs as Coronavirus Resurfaces](#)

After nearly two months with no new infections, Beijing officials have reported 79 cases over the past four days, the city's biggest cluster of infections since February. The return of the coronavirus has shrouded Beijing, home to the headquarters of many big corporations, in uncertainty at a time when China is trying to shake off the economic torpor caused by the disease. "The containment efforts have rapidly entered into a war-time mode," senior city government official Xu Ying told a news conference. [Click COVID Resurges in China](#)

[COVID-19 Could Bring Bias in AI to Pandemic Level Crisis](#)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has taken over our lives. While there are countless benefits of AI, bias in the programming of AI -- conscious and unconscious bias --- could be determining who keeps their job, what news we see -- even who lives or dies -- without our even knowing it. So critical to recognize and deal with this now! [Click AI Bias](#) (For more info, contact Miriam Vogel, Miriam.vogel@equalai.org)

[Fresh Concerns about AI Bias in the Age of COVID](#)

While companies are increasing using artificial intelligence (AI), to speed treatment and a vaccine, important populations are being completely disregarded. "Experts worry that the economy's sudden halt has driven resource-strapped companies and institutions to increasingly rely on algorithms to make decisions in housing, credit, employment and other areas. "It's the next pandemic," said Miriam Vogel, CEO of the nonprofit EqualAI. [Click AI Bias in COVID](#)

[Why Pfizer May Be the Best Bet to Deliver a Vaccine by Fall](#)

On the first Monday of May, Pfizer dosed the initial batch of healthy American volunteers in Baltimore with an experimental Covid-19 vaccine it developed with Germany's Bio-NTech. The following day, in an interview from his home in suburban Scarsdale, New York, CEO Albert Bourla pointed out that it normally takes years to accomplish what Pfizer had just done in weeks. "How fast we moved is not something you could expect



from the big, powerful pharma,” he said. “This is speed that you would envy in an entrepreneurial founder-based biotech.” [Click Pfizer](#)



[Why are the Rates of Coronavirus Deaths Far Lower in Many Female-Led Countries?](#)

Death rates from the coronavirus were compiled for 21 countries around the world, 13 led by men and eight by women. The male-led countries suffered an average of 214 coronavirus-related deaths per million inhabitants. Those led by women lost only one-fifth as many, 36 per million. In the U.S., that would have meant 102,000 American lives would have been saved out of the 114,000 lost. “Countries led by women do seem to be particularly successful in fighting the coronavirus,” noted Anne W. Rimoin, an epidemiologist at U.C.L.A. “New Zealand, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Norway have done so well perhaps due to the leadership and management styles attributed to their female leaders.” [Click Women Lead](#)

[‘Long Overdue’: Lawmakers Declare Racism a Public Health Emergency](#)

Before COVID, doctors and health experts were raising alarms that systematic racism is itself a pervasive, deadly pandemic – one that kills both instantaneously and insidiously, burdens Black and Brown Americans with generational trauma, contributes to higher rates of infant mortality and heart disease, and even speeds up the aging process. [Click Racism](#)

[Without Safe Migration, Economic Recovery Will be Limited](#)

With more than 50,000 travel restrictions in more than 200 countries, an unprecedented mobility crisis is emerging. The global system of mobility and travel has been returned to its factory settings. A privilege that so many of us take for granted, and others struggle to access, has been temporarily withdrawn. How - and when - we decide to reboot it will be critical to the future health of our populations, but also the future economic and social health of our countries. [Click Migration](#)

Report on a Program with CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield and CDC Deputy Director for Infectious Disease, Dr. Jay Butler, CDC Media Telebriefing, 13 June 2020

Robert Redfield: The CDC’s COVID-19 response is now in its sixth month. While we are making progress, we have a lot of work ahead as we reopen America. CDC, like the scientific and public health institutions around the world, continue to learn a great deal about this new virus. We focus on how it has spread among people, how it is highly transmissible, and how people who are asymptomatic or presymptomatic can also contribute to spreading.

- Wanted to thank the American people for “basically being selfless in taking on the precautions that we have requested of social distancing, wearing a face covering, and hand hygiene to protect the most vulnerable from the threat of COVID-19.”
- Dr. Redfield said that people are eager to return to normal activities and ways of life. “However, it’s important that we remember that this situation is unprecedented and that the pandemic has not ended.”

Jay Butler: “The more closely you interact with others, the longer the interaction lasts and the greater the number of people involved in the interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.”

- The CDC released two online resources (on June 12) to help people make decisions about how to resume activities.
- Practical tips are offered in the resources: For example, when dining out, see if there is an option to sit outside or ensure that the tables are at least six feet apart so you can maintain social distancing. If you decide to go to the gym, don’t use items that can’t be cleaned and involve any physical contact that puts you closer than six feet (shaking hands, elbow bumps), if your local library is open, see if curbside pickup is available. And to gather with friends, use single-serve options and maintain social distancing, wear cloth face coverings when possible, practice hand hygiene, and avoid sharing frequently touched items.
- “We are not out of the woods yet.” As states reopen, COVID 19 cases could increase again.
- Looking to fall and winter, we do not know (the status of treatments and vaccine, especially) but we must be prepared for both COVID and the annual influenza. “If anything, we must be overprepared for what we might face later this year.”



Return to Work and Play

These Three Things Are The Likely Legacies Of Life Post-Coronavirus

Likely legacies: 1) The worldwide rise in public and private debts — perhaps unpayable; 2) accelerated digitization of things like office life and education; and 3) at least a partial reversal of China-led globalization. [Click Pandemic Legacies](#)

The Dos and Don'ts of 'Quarantine Pods'

One idea that some families are considering — and that infectious disease epidemiologists think might be a smart way to balance mental health needs with physical safety — is to create quarantine “pods” or “bubbles.” Two or three families agree to socialize with one another but no one else. In a pod, families hang out together, often without regard to social distancing — but outside of the pod, they follow recommended social distancing rules. [Click Pods](#)

Returning to work during COVID-19

More than 20 million Americans are now out of work as a result of the COVID 19, the largest unemployment number since the Great Depression. Many of those who have remained employed and working from home have indicated they are not in a rush to return to the office. That is especially true for some who are receiving more in unemployment than their regular wages. This article describes how people want to return to their normal lives and contribute to the economy, but aren't quite ready to begin. [Click Return to Work](#)

Report on Program by Jason Furman, former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, 15 June 2020. This program is from a series by The Asia Group, a strategic consulting firm seeking excellence for companies working in Asia.

- Jobs report stated that 2.5 million jobs have returned, mostly for furloughed workers. Unemployment rate was UNDERSTATED at 16%, 15 million still on temporary furlough, or 7% of the workforce. And we are in a recession;
- Unemployment insurance claims were 1.5 million, twice as high as highest month ever prior to pandemic;
- The Consumer Price Index is negative for third straight month, VERY unusual; this has not been negative for three months in 60 years;
- Two broad risks to economic impact: 1) the disease itself and 2) how policy makers and consumers respond; Furman thinks Administration has zero desire for another shut down to stop the illness;



- Virus puts a ceiling on economic activity, probably will not decline to our lowest again. However, in general, fiscal policy risks are smaller around the world, larger in US (PPP ends in June; unemployment insurance ends in July; some states end fiscal year; all are macro risks)
- Fiscal possibilities: Good news is that Republicans in Congress understand that state fiscal relief is really needed and unemployment must be extended. White House wants to do MORE because of election but *unrelated to what economy needs*.
- Congressional Democrats have \$ 3 trillion price tag. Furman does not think we need another package that large.
- Economic data in next two months will be positive, that may dampen energy to do anything.
- Rest of the world: Strong correlation between countries that are combatting virus successfully (acted earlier and deeper) and positive economies (Australia, New Zealand as examples).
- China has made massive progress in May, but not near what it normally does; the recent outbreak is smaller but difficult to tell if it will spread again.
- Three groups with different plans: House Dems, Senate Republicans and White House.
- General sense is that people, states, counties need another fusion but White House rejects this proposition.

Testing, Treatments, Vaccines and Contact Tracing

[COVID Vaccine Tracker](#)

Researchers around the world are developing more than 135 vaccines against the coronavirus. There are currently 125 vaccines in preclinical, 8 being tested for safety (Phase 1); 8 in expanded safety trials (Phase 2) and 2 vaccines in large scale efficacy tests (Phase 3). Vaccines typically require years of research and testing before reaching the clinic, but scientists are racing to produce a safe and effective vaccine by 2021. [Click Vaccine Tracker](#)

[CDC: Update on COVID Cases](#)

Updates including numbers by race, gender, age, healthcare personnel and more. [Link CDC Updates](#)



NBA to Test Players and Staff for COVID Every Other Day

Players and "essential team staff" -- any coaches, trainers or medical personnel who will be working with players directly, or will be part of the travel party to Orlando, Florida -- will be administered both a COVID-19 test and an antibody test on June 23. [Click NBA](#)

CDC: How to Prepare to Go Out

In this article, the CDC reviews what to consider before going out, what safety precautions to take, how to prepare for restaurants, errands, hosting gatherings, and other life activities. [Click Prepare](#)

Managing the Illness Around the World

England's Coronavirus Lockdown Should Not be Further Lifted

The WHO says that until the government's contact-tracing system has proven to be "robust and effective", the lockdown should not be lifted. There has been widespread criticism of the first results of the new tracking operation. [Click England](#)

Latin America Reels as Coronavirus Pandemic Gains Pace

Brazil has reported more than 850,000 cases and 42,000 deaths, second only to the United States. The virus is also spreading aggressively in Chile and Peru, with cases climbing in Mexico, Costa Rica, and Panama. As countries struggle to contain new outbreaks, the looming threat of winter, and other respiratory illnesses like influenza and pneumonia, will complicate matters further. Economic desperation borne out of lockdowns that have dragged on for months is posing its own menace. Protests have broken out over hunger and job cuts. [Click Latin America](#)

Coronavirus: Yemen, Philippines close Missions in Saudi Arabia

Yemeni and Philippine embassies in Riyadh announce emergence of a number of coronavirus cases at diplomatic missions. Saudi Arabia's numbers continue to climb by more than 3,000 cases daily with more than 123,000 confirmed cases and 930 deaths overall.

Russia's Low Virus Death Toll Still Raises Questions in West

The methods that Russia uses to count fatalities during the coronavirus pandemic "could be one reason why its official death toll of 6,948 is far below many other countries, even



as it has reported nearly 529,000 infections, behind only the United States and Brazil.” The paradox also has led to allegations by critics that Russian authorities might have falsified the numbers for political purposes to play down the scale of the outbreak. Even a top World Health Organization official said the low number of deaths in Russia “certainly is unusual.”

[Tracking Africa's Coronavirus Cases](#)

Africa, a continent of 1.2 billion people has confirmed the coronavirus death toll on the continent stood at 6,070, with fatalities including the former President of the Republic of the Congo Jacques Joachim Yhombi-Opango and Somalia's former Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein. Experts warn fragile healthcare systems in many nations could be overwhelmed in the face of a severe COVID-19 outbreak. [Click Africa](#)



Time to Relax

[Starting to Exercise Again After Lockdown](#)

Noting that many people have been sedentary during COVID, getting back into exercise should be done cautiously. Here are steps that should be taken as you ease back into greatly needed exercise. [Click Exercise](#)

[All the Movies You Need for Now](#)

Here we have, all in one place, nearly every movie, every cable station, that everyone could want to watch. [Click Movies](#)



✓ 43 Things to Do This Summer While You're Social Distancing

From learning to face paint, to star-gazing and “rainbow toes,” this article has it all.
[Click 43 Things to Do](#)

Report on Program by former DC Mayor Anthony Williams and former Secretary of Homeland Secretary Michael Chertoff, 15 June 2020

Michael Chertoff:

- As a member of the new DC Commission on Reopening, was tasked with balancing Economy, Equity, and Education. Commission is putting together recommendations to advise Mayor Muriel Bowser on how to reopen;
- Want to be cautious, but not so cautious that we damage economy and lives of DC residents;
- Now in Phase 1, outside eating, inside distancing; if continue to decline, on to Phase 2; however, we will not be back to normal until there is a vaccine;
- Phase 2: Will require two weeks of declining cases with R rate down to one, and when detection, testing, and tracking facilities are adequate;
- One difficult set of decisions on schools and children: When to open, what about recreational activities; children are harder to keep in restrained manner;
- Older people: We can advise people but most will have to make their own judgments;
- What is proper use of federal resources in protests and demonstrations?
Horrifying to see Floyd video, other cases where police have committed homicides. Most of demonstrators were peaceful; primary responsibility in state hands, controls national guard; Federal government only supports state and local enforcement; sometimes guard is federalized; but really at governors requests. DC is not a state, so the President has greater latitude to put federal capacity in but feds are not trained for peaceful demonstrations; but we have capable local police and local national guard can do the job.
- How would you think about reopening borders? Canada-US border opening next week. But must be careful as we are still trying to control spread of COVID.
- How should we think about public safety? When federal prosecutor, Chertoff worked with local police; community policing was popular so that police would walk around and build positive relations with community. Then “broken windows” theory came in saying that if police let small infractions go on, only gets worse. Need to downgrade reactions!
- Use of data analytics to predict behavior? Must be very careful with algorithms and data as a predictive tool, not always capture the story.
- Erosion of autonomy in Department of Justice? Strong norm in DOJ about not having politics as part of decision-making.
- Election: Everyone must vote, do not be intimidated, must be a fair election.

