



The Barnett Group

The Corona Crisis:

NEWS YOUR COMPANY CAN USE

14 July 2020

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Pandemic Updates.

[Grim projection: 200,000 deaths in U.S. by Election Day](#)

In the U.S., the recent surge in infections and Trump policies prompt a serious reassessment by forecasters, who now see no end in sight for the coronavirus crisis. As the United States surpasses 3 million coronavirus infections, forecasters are updating their models to account for the recent resurgence and reaching a grim consensus: the next few months are going to be bad. [Click Forecast](#)

[The New York Times: Internal CDC documents warn full reopening of schools is 'highest risk' for coronavirus spread](#)

Federal materials for reopening schools say that fully reopening schools and universities remained the “highest risk” for the spread of the coronavirus. “What it tells us is left to its own devices, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (the CDC) can do a pretty good job in compiling a comprehensive document that shows the complexity of what institutions are facing,” said Terry W. Hartle, a senior vice president of the American Council on Education, which represents 1,700 college and university presidents and higher education executives. “The good news is, this is very thoughtful and complete,” he added. “The bad news is, it’s never been released.” [Click School Openings](#)

[Airborne Coronavirus: What You Should Do Now](#)

The coronavirus can stay in the air for hours via tiny droplets in the stagnant air, infecting people as they inhale, mounting scientific evidence suggests. Highest risk areas are in crowded indoor spaces with poor ventilation, and may help explain super-spreading events reported in meatpacking plants, churches and restaurants. [Click Airborne COVID](#)

[Johns Hopkins Launches New Tracker For School Reopening Plans](#)

The university’s site tracks where each state currently stands on safety, health and academic help. Johns Hopkins University (JHU) in Baltimore is monitoring which states have addressed 12 criteria, including safety and academic measures, in their school reopening plans. So far, 43 states and the District of Columbia have released reopening plans, though they don’t necessarily involve in-person instruction until some level of safety is assured. The criteria include safety protocols, such as mask and social distance requirements, as well as “ethics and equity” plans, including special help for disadvantaged children. Schools will have to address the health and safety of students and staff as well as how to “make up for the losses in learning, health and support systems” caused by school shutdowns, according to a JHU statement. [Click Hopkins Tracker](#)

[FDA expands list of hand sanitizers to avoid due to methanol risk with more being recommended for recall](#)

The FDA now lists on a chart [59 varieties of hand sanitizer](#) that should be avoided, some which have already been recalled, and other products being recommended for recalls as they may contain the potentially fatal ingredient. All of the products seem to have been produced in Mexico. [Click Beware of these Sanitizers](#)

['YOU CANNOT FIGHT THE PANDEMIC WITH LIES' -- ANGELA MERKEL](#)

Trump, as well as Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and Russia's Vladimir Putin, "must have felt his ears burning" when the German Chancellor demolished their approaches to the coronavirus in a speech Thursday. "As we are experiencing firsthand, you cannot fight the pandemic with lies and disinformation any more than you can fight it with hate or incitement to hatred," Merkel said. Merkel and Trump "were destined to clash." A former scientist, she is cool, cautious, self-contained, fact-oriented and quiet despite her toughness." [Click No Lies](#)

[Disney World reopens as coronavirus cases surge in Florida](#)

Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom reopened last Saturday, while Epcot and Disney's Hollywood Studios will follow this week. The reopening comes as a huge surge of Floridians have tested positive for the new coronavirus in recent weeks. On Saturday, there were about 10,000 new cases reported, according to state statistics. Many cities and counties around the state have recently reinstated restrictions that had been lifted in May, when cases seemed to drop. [Click Disney](#)

[Report on Program with Dr. Rebecca Katz, Director, Director of the Center for Global Health Science and Security at Georgetown University Medical Center and Dr. Jason Furman, former Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors. This program is from a series by The Asia Group, a strategic consulting firm seeking excellence for companies working in Asia, 13 July 2020.](#)

Dr. Katz

- Seeing 60,000 cases per day in the U.S., one in 100 Americans have tested positive, probably closer to 9-10 who have not tested;
- 80% being released from hospitals continue to be affected/ symptomatic;
- More super spreader events; military cases have doubled (16,000); 36 states where masks are required but enforcement is very uneven;
- 15,000 cases in Florida yesterday; 7500 hospitalized in FL; in LA County, 3500 cases;
- The U.S. has an outdated public health system; according to a [New York Times](#) article---80% of lab results are missing data (Harris County); our health depts still use FAXES and the technology from 20-30 years ago;
- Heavy debate on schools opening, but still don't know how much kids are affected and how they pass it; even the American Academy of Pediatrics had to clarify its message -- shared goal is to get students back, BUT with



appropriate safeguards;

- We know what works e.g. Scotland, NYC no cases yesterday but we have no single unified plan as a nation.

Dr. Furman

- The U.S. economy went down in March-April but recovered 1/3 of its losses; but no other wealthy country is close to where US is in cases;
- Most economic data shows that small business is down and consumer spending went down, rose up and is down again
 - Americans have responded to national news so that people in New Hampshire cut spending when they saw a rise in cases in Arizona and Florida;
 - *We've seen that a lot is determined on consumer behavior not government policies;*
- Stock market seems unfazed. If consumer spending down by 10%, predict S&P going down but Federal Reserve has been bolstering policies;
- All looking to next round of Congressional legislation
 - Unemployment funding ends on July 31; has been helping economy in short run, some increase in labor hiring but not a lot. (Walmart, Amazon have been able to hire even though bonus of \$ 600 per week.) The \$ 600 has maintained disposable household income, also ends July 31. There are 31 million people receiving the \$ 600.
 - Actually, there are no conversations on the Hill.
 - Furman expects a bill of about \$ 1.5 trillion to pass at the end of July.
 - .
- Federal debt as share of GDP has gone up in WWII, the financial crisis; now (assumes \$ 2.5 trillion in economic aid);
 - Debt by the end of decade will probably be 130% of GDP;
 - Difference is that now, interest rates are lower and financial markets think these will decline further over the next decade;
 - In first nine months of 2020, deficit up hugely but interest pays are low;
 - If interest rates stay on low side then even with higher debt to GDP, interest rates will stay low.
- Monetary policy: Not much more the Fed can do (interest rates are zero, balance sheets are low, muni spreads are low)



Testing, Treatments, Vaccines and Contact Tracing _

[Pfizer, BioNTech's coronavirus vaccines get FDA's 'fast track' status](#)

U.S. pharmaceutical giant [Pfizer](#) and German biotech firm BioNTech have received 'fast track' designation from the U.S. drug regulator, the companies said on Monday. The candidates, BNT162b1 and BNT162b2, are the most advanced of at least four vaccines being assessed by the companies in ongoing trials in the United States and Germany. If the ongoing studies are successful, and the vaccine candidate receives regulatory approval, the companies said they expect to make up to 100 million doses by the end of this year and potentially more than 1.2 billion doses by 2021-end. [Click Pfizer, BioNTech](#)

[Is Your State Doing Enough Coronavirus Testing?](#)

An average of **658,000 people per day** were tested in the U.S. over the past week, according to data collected by the Covid Tracking Project, far below the current nationwide target of **1.7 million daily tests**. The target, which is based on a methodology developed by researchers at the Harvard Global Health Institute, is different for each state and varies over time as infection rates change. [Click Testing](#)

[U.S. contact-tracing efforts on Covid-19 falter on privacy worries, technology gap](#)

Countries such as South Korea have curbed the coronavirus by using contact-tracing phone apps, but the U.S. has stalled in its own efforts because of privacy concerns and other hurdles. One of the biggest challenges, experts told a congressional panel last week, is dispelling the unease people feel about the government or private companies gaining access to their personal data. [Click Contact Testing](#)

[A plasma shot could prevent coronavirus. But feds and makers won't act, scientists say](#)

Scientists have devised a way to use the antibody-rich blood plasma of COVID-19 survivors for an upper-arm injection that they say could inoculate people against the virus for months. Using technology that has been proven effective in preventing other diseases, the injections could potentially protect millions of lives, the doctors and other experts say. Federal officials have twice rejected requests to discuss the proposal, and pharmaceutical companies — even acknowledging the likely efficacy of the plan — have declined to design or manufacture the shots. The lack of interest in launching development of immunity shots comes amid heightened accusations of the federal government's sluggish pandemic response. [Click Plasma](#)

Return to Work and Play

[CDC: One Stop Shop Toolkits](#)

The CDC has published the complete toolkits for everyplace from schools to work places and football fields. Loads of good information in one click. [Click Toolkits](#)

[NHL return-to-play update: Game schedule, testing plans, players opting out and more](#)

The National Hockey League (NHL) will return from its monthslong pause. The postseason will be played out with [a 24-team format](#), and 12 teams from the Eastern Conference skating in Toronto and their Western Conference counterparts heading to Edmonton, Alberta. Opinions vary but many are saying that this could be a great playoff season although there are questions on how the season will look like. [Click NHL](#)

[WHO Director-General: Opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 13 July 2020](#)

In an informative and heart-felt address, the WHO Director General outlined “four situations playing out across the world at the moment.” 1) The first situation is countries that were alert and aware – they prepared and responded rapidly to the first cases e.g. the Mekong region, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Africa. 2) The second situation is countries in which there was a major outbreak that was brought under control through a combination of strong leadership and adherence to key public health measures. Leaders in this situation are opening up their societies on a data-driven, step-by-step basis, with a comprehensive public health approach, backed by a strong health workforce and community buy-in. 3) The third situation is countries that overcame the first peak of the outbreak, but having eased restrictions, are now struggling with new peaks and accelerating cases. 4) The fourth situation is those countries that are in the intense transmission phase of their outbreak. The epicentre of the virus remains in the Americas, where more than 50% of the world’s cases have been recorded. [Click WHO DG](#)

[Biden's doctrine: Erase Trump, re-embrace the world on climate and COVID](#)

Foreign policy will look drastically different if Joe Biden defeats President Trump in November, advisers tell Axios — starting with a Day One announcement that the U.S. is re-entering the Paris Climate Agreement and new global coordination of the coronavirus response. “If Trump's presidency started the “America First” era of withdrawal from global alliances, Biden's team says his presidency would be the opposite: a re-engagement with the world and an effort to rebuild those alliances — fast.” [Click Biden](#)

Report on Program with Dr. Rebecca Katz, Director, Director of the Center for Global Health Science and Security at Georgetown University Medical Center and Dr. Ray Yip, The Gates Foundation. This program is from a series by The Asia Group, a strategic consulting firm seeking excellence for companies working in Asia, 13 July 2020.

Dr. Rebecca Katz

- Globally, there are 13 million cases, 572,000 deaths;
- The U.S. has about 3 million cases and 134,000 deaths.
- There are 83,000 cases in District/ Maryland/ Virginia (DMV).
- States in the southeast, south and West Coast are on fire. There has been a surge of cases in Tulsa linked to the Trump political rally, ICUs are running out of PPE.
- There are reports that three major labs in the U.S. are reporting increases in turn around time. 4-6 days to get test results. 12-24 hours for highest priority patients, in hospitals. Shortages of swabs, free agents and surgical gowns.
- The WHO has declared that the virus could be airborne, in response to public health officials, nonetheless, the Trump Administration announced that the US will withdraw from the WHO in 2021.

Dr. Ray Yip

- There are several early leads now in Phase 2, completed or actively preparing for Phase 3;
- Currently in Phase 3 is the vaccine from Oxford University and AstraZenica;
- Warp Speed Project: Preparing for manufacture, with risks assumed by USG; Vax R was added about end of June, using a virus as vector like Oxford and J&J vaccines; some are working to make a room temp stable vaccine;
- Two days ago added Pneumovax which was given \$ 1.6 billion, largest check and will make the spike protein;
- In China there are now 10-12 companies with potential vaccines; Cansino hoping to go into Phase 3; CNBG deal with UAE for trial;
 - Military in China already using Cansino
 - DNA vaccine being used, not in Warped Speed program
- One month ago in China, had another outbreak. But as of a few days ago, they crushed it
 - Did aggressive testing (4 million people tested)
 - At their Health Ministry, draft emergency plan for deploying vaccine
 - Cansino: using virus as vector, insert piece of the DNA of virus
- Testing: TREMENDOUS utility, one week turn around loses
 - Two ways: work with people who are unaffected and use vaccine to CONTROL; easier to control, only 3-5% of population
 - Big companies are saying that they cannot scale up testing; but there are a number of university hospitals that can test and are sitting idly;

- Alternative is just collecting saliva and there are currently two dozen such tests that the EU has approved;
- The FDA has approved smaller PCR machines (like China and Korea); still four hour turn around;
- Still others (at MIT) using crisper method (10-15 minutes);
- What the U.S. needs now is the higher level political will to make this all work.

Managing the Illness Around the World

[Coronavirus report: India reports record spike as cases double in South Africa](#)

India reported a record spike in coronavirus cases on Saturday, taking the national total to more than 800,000 and pushing several states to bring back lockdowns, despite the punitive economic cost. Now the world's third-worst affected country by case load, it reported a spike of 27,114 cases on Saturday, although mortality rates have been lower than in other badly affected countries with confirmed death toll now 22,123. [South Africa](#), which had one of the strictest lockdowns in the world but started easing it under economic pressure, has also seen confirmed cases double over the past two weeks, with extreme inequality exacerbating the outbreak. [Click India](#)

[China's CanSino in talks for COVID-19 vaccine Phase III trial overseas](#)

"We are contacting Russia, Brazil, Chile and Saudi Arabia (for the Phase III trial), and it's still in discussion," Qiu Dongxu, executive director and co-founder of CanSino, told an anti-viral drug development conference in Suzhou, in eastern China. He said its Phase III trial was likely to start "pretty soon," and the company plans to recruit 40,000 participants for the test. [Click China](#)

[Egypt dealing with COVID-19 impacts by increasing investments: Planning minister](#)

Egyptian Minister of Planning and Economic Development Hala El-Said says that Egypt has dealt with the uncertainty imposed by COVID-19 by increasing public investments by 70 percent in health, education, sanitation, housing, communications and technology, agriculture and irrigation in the FY2020/2021 budget. El-Said said that in the FY2020/2021 budget, communication and information technology investments have been increased by 300 percent, agriculture and irrigation by 245 percent, sustainability investments by 30 percent and renewable energy investment by 100 percent. [Click Egypt](#)

[India's Biocon secures approval to use drug on coronavirus patients](#)

India's Biocon Ltd has received regulatory approval for its drug Itolizumab to be used on coronavirus infected patients suffering from moderate to severe respiratory distress, the biopharmaceutical company said in a statement on Saturday. The drug, which is also used to cure the skin disease psoriasis, was cleared by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for usage in India. "The randomised control trial indicated that all the patients treated with Itolizumab responded positively and recovered," said Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, the firm's executive chairperson. [Click Biocon](#)

Time to Relax

[Lincoln Center: New Performances All Summer Long](#)

From [Carousel](#) to Puccini and a performance of "Us," loads of interesting performances from Lincoln Center. Enjoy! [Click Lincoln Center](#)

[Planning a perfect weekend \(or an approximation thereof\)](#)

Here are some ideas for the next weekend from [The New York Times](#). Begin with binge-streaming. The article mentions "[Taboo](#)," on Hulu. Or "you could to make [a virtual visit to the Pergamon Altar](#) in Berlin. (Cool tour!) You could make [salmon burgers](#) afterward, and you could download tracks for a DJ-approved [dance party](#) (above), and Christopher Buckley has a new satirical novel out, "[Make Russia Great Again](#)." Here's where you find those diversions and tons of other ideas. [Click At Home](#)

[The Best Movies and TV Shows to Stay In and Stream](#)

Everything else might be closed, but streaming is full on. There are a humongous amount of choices and this article provides a road map of new arrivals, old favorites and everything in between. [Click Streaming](#)

Smiles (Yes, it's satire)

[I. Trump Warns That Social Distancing in Schools Would Make It Harder for Students to Cheat Off One Another's Papers](#)

The Borowitz Report, [The New Yorker](#)

[Click Harder to Cheat](#)

[II. Americans Overwhelmingly Favor Sending Trump Back to School in Fall](#)

The Borowitz Report, [The New Yorker](#)

[Click Trump Back to School](#)

[III. Putin Admits Taking SATs for Trump](#)

The Borowitz Report, [The New Yorker](#)

[Click SATs](#)