



The Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort before docking in New York on Monday. The ship has 1,000 beds and 12 operating rooms that could be up and running within 24 hours of its arrival.

Seth Wenig/AP Photo

Virus projections dash Trump’s Easter plan

Could lead to over 100,000 deaths

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The two doctors spread out their charts on the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office. The projections were grim: Even if the U.S. were to continue to do what it was doing, keeping the economy closed and most Americans in their homes, the coronavirus could leave 100,000 to 200,000 people dead and millions infected. And the totals would be far worse if the nation reopened.

Those stark predictions grew even more tangible and harrowing when paired with televised images of body bags lined up at a New York City hospital not far from where Trump grew up in Queens. The confluence of dire warnings and tragic images served to move the president off his hopes for an Easter rebirth for the nation’s economy.

But while Trump sided with the White House doctors over its economists, at least for now, the decision shed light on a West Wing beset with divisions and a commander-in-chief torn between an instinct to embrace the image of a wartime president fighting an invisible enemy and one protecting the nation’s bottom line as he barrels into a bruising reelection fight.

The abrupt change in Trump’s tone was startling: Easter was no longer going to be the sunrise after darkest night. It could be in fact the blackest moment before dawn. “We’re thinking that around Easter that’s going to be your spike. That’s going to be the highest point we think, and then it’s going to start coming down

‘WE SHOWED HIM THE DATA. HE LOOKED AT THE DATA. HE GOT IT RIGHT AWAY. IT WAS A PRETTY CLEAR PICTURE. DR. DEBBIE BIRX AND I WENT INTO THE OVAL OFFICE AND LEANED OVER THE DESK AND SAID, ‘HERE ARE THE DATA, TAKE A LOOK.’ HE JUST SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SAID ‘I GUESS WE GOT TO DO IT.’

Dr. Anthony Fauci, speaking about showing President Trump the grim projections

from there,” Trump said Monday on Fox & Friends. “The worst that can happen is you do it too early and all of a sudden it comes back. That makes it more difficult.”

The bleak forecasts were carried into the Oval Office by Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx, who displayed to Trump projections that, on the low end, could yield 100,000 American deaths from COVID-19. One model showed that deaths could have soared past 2 million had there been no mitigation measures.

“We showed him the data. He looked at the data. He got it right away. It was a pretty clear picture,” Fauci told CNN on Monday. “Dr. Debbie Birx and I went into the Oval Office and leaned over the desk and said, ‘Here are the data, take a look.’ He just shook his head and said ‘I guess we got to do it.’”

But as is often the case with Trump, it also took the power of images to prompt him to act.

Over the weekend, the death count in New York City skyrocketed, the silence of the city’s empty streets shattered only by ambulance sirens. Make-shift medical tents were hastily erected in Central Park. And hospitals, includ-

ing Elmhurst Medical Center in Queens, not far from Trump’s childhood home, were so overwhelmed that patients were lying in hallways and corpses stowed in refrigerated trucks.

“This is essentially in my community, in Queens, Queens, New York,” Trump said. “I’ve seen things that I’ve never seen before.”

Aides likened Trump’s emotional response to his reaction to the 2017 pictures of dead Syrian children that prompted him to give the order for the first air strike of his presidency. And the moment also revealed the sharp divides among those advising Trump, both inside and outside of the West Wing.

For weeks, those in the White House who warned that the doctors’ strict recommendations would cripple the economy — and Trump’s reelection chances — had the president’s ear and pushed him toward the idea of restarting business in the states where infections were low.

Trump’s decision to extend national guidelines to clamp down on activity left them disappointed.

Stephen Moore, a former Trump adviser who had been pushing the administration publicly and privately to roll back restric-

tions in places with low infection rates, said the economic impact would grow worse every day that the shutdown continues, with more bankruptcies and more jobs lost. He had urged Trump to begin to reopen in places like Idaho, Iowa and Nebraska, far from the infection hot spots.

But Trump was swayed by arguments that the fiscal pain would be worse if the economy was reopened and then forced to be shut again.

As in the early, chaotic days of his administration, Trump’s White House has become increasingly siloed in recent weeks, with different working groups functioning separately and sometimes in competition. Members of Trump’s coronavirus task force, led by Vice President Mike Pence and including Fauci and Birx, did not know that Trump would be floating the idea of a quarantine of the New York area over the weekend — and then quickly moved to walk him back, according to three administration officials not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

Oregon health care workers infected amid mask shortage

12 staff members at OHSU test positive for virus

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — Confronted with a lack of protective equipment, health care workers treating coronavirus patients are reusing masks that are supposed to be used once and then discarded and are even making their own — and more are getting infected.

Twelve staffers at Oregon Health & Science University have tested positive for COVID-19, said Danny Jacobs, the president of OHSU — one of the state’s leading hospitals, on Monday. How many more in other facilities in the state might also be infected is unclear.

For most people, the coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in several weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Casey Parr, a respiratory therapist at OHSU, told reporters in a video conference call with Jacobs and others that he wears the same mask for entire 12-hour shifts. He is a father of an infant who’s only a little over 2 months old.

“I’m 35 years old,” Parr said. “For the first time in my life, I’ve considered whether or not I need to write a will.”

Irene Hunt, an in-home health care worker from Springfield, says she hasn’t had a real protective mask since the pandemic began. In the video conference call organized by a labor union, she showed reporters a blue homemade cloth mask she has been using. She works with the elderly who cannot care for themselves and who are among

the most vulnerable to COVID-19.

“Home-care providers are front line health care workers and we have no equipment to protect ourselves,” Hunt said.

Her eyes filled with tears as she described not seeing her daughter for days because she is afraid she might get the virus and unknowingly pass it on to her youngster, who is being cared for by Hunt’s 70-year-old mother in law.

Meanwhile, health care workers have been using masks that should be tossed after each use for entire shifts, raising the possibility that infections could be carried patient to patient.

“We are currently working 12-hour shifts and we are asked to only use one surgical mask per shift,” said Alicia Holihan, a nurse at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend, in Springfield. “Last week we were just approved to use cloth mask and that is not acceptable. We need this essential equipment to be able to handle the surge and anticipate all the people that are going to be coming in.”

After being used for an entire shift, some nurses and other hospital employees have been storing their mask in a paper bag or rubber container for 72 hours, to ensure that if the coronavirus got onto it it will die off, before using the mask again.

“We’re seeing safety standards and supplies drop across the state and everyone is scrambling,” said Kevin Mealy, spokesman for the Oregon Nurses Association.

Gov. Kate Brown has asked the Trump administration for more protective gear but has been provided with less than half of what is needed.

“It is absolutely unacceptable,” Brown told reporters on the call. “We need the federal government to step up.”

APPLIANCE PACKAGE DEALS



Over 30 YEARS IN CLATSOP COUNTY



APPLIANCE AND HOME FURNISHINGS

529 SE MARLIN, WARRENTON

503-861-0929

HOURS OPEN: MON-FRI 8-6 * SATURDAY * SUNDAY 10-4

We Service What We Sell



Mattresses, Furniture & More!

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
						
49 38	49 37	49 37	47 37	50 39	53 39	53 39
Mostly cloudy, showers	A couple of showers	A brief shower or two	Cloudy, a little rain	Mostly sunny; chilly	Cloudy, rain possible	Mostly cloudy

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

Temperatures

High/low	52/47
Normal high/low	55/40
Record high	73 in 1964
Record low	28 in 1938

Precipitation

Sunday	0.70"
Month to date	4.25"
Normal month to date	7.01"
Year to date	29.29"
Normal year to date	24.65"

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight’s Sky: Before midnight, emerging in the eastern horizon, is Spica, of Virgo.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:57 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:43 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:06 a.m.
Moonset today	2:18 a.m.

	First	Full	Last	New
				
	Apr 1	Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 22

TODAY’S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
5:41 a.m.	7.9	1:09 p.m.	0.9	
8:02 p.m.	5.6	none		
Cape Disappointment	5:31 a.m.	7.4	12:32 p.m.	0.9
7:35 p.m.	5.5	none		
Hammond	5:37 a.m.	7.6	12:51 p.m.	0.7
7:52 p.m.	5.6	none		
Warrenton	5:36 a.m.	8.3	12:53 p.m.	1.0
7:57 p.m.	6.0	none		
Knappa	6:18 a.m.	8.1	12:52 a.m.	2.9
8:39 p.m.	5.9	2:10 p.m.	0.8	
Depoe Bay	4:40 a.m.	7.5	12:02 p.m.	0.9
6:56 p.m.	5.7	11:36 p.m.	4.2	

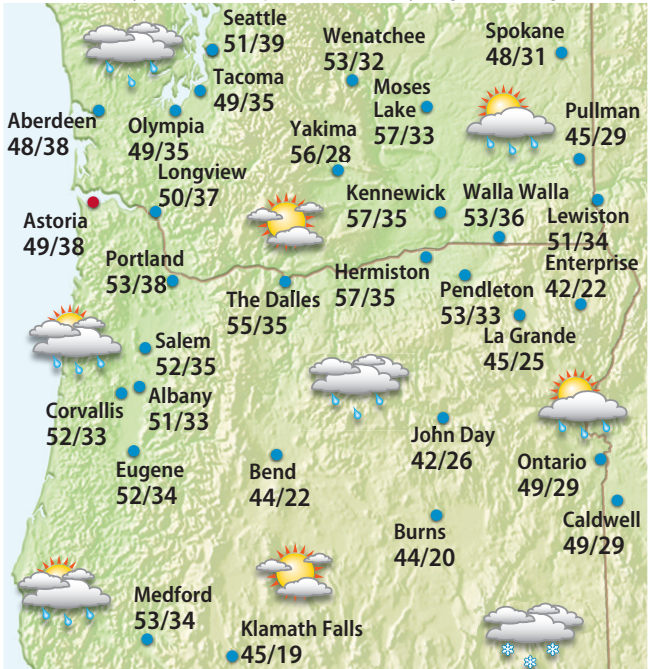
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	61/44/t	64/45/pc
Boston	42/32/c	46/36/c
Chicago	43/34/c	50/37/pc
Dallas	69/50/pc	70/56/pc
Denver	67/37/s	64/37/pc
Honolulu	80/69/pc	81/69/pc
Houston	83/55/pc	78/59/s
Los Angeles	76/54/pc	74/57/s
Miami	90/73/pc	90/68/pc
New York City	48/38/c	52/40/pc
Phoenix	84/63/pc	87/61/c
San Francisco	63/47/s	61/46/s
Wash., DC	59/44/c	57/42/c
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.		

AccuWeather - DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	46/23/sh	43/20/sf	North Bend	51/38/sh	50/36/sh
Brookings	51/37/pc	50/38/pc	Roseburg	53/36/sh	53/34/sh
Ilwaco	48/41/sh	49/39/sh	Seaside	48/39/sh	49/36/sh
Newberg	51/35/sh	50/32/sh	Springfield	51/35/sh	50/33/sh
Newport	48/37/sh	48/35/sh	Vancouver	51/38/sh	50/36/sh