



Dear readers,

The following paper is only a sneak peek into what has been happening in parts of the United States up until today. Overall, besides the travel bans almost all schools, public places, restaurants, and many companies are closed. Public life has come to a halt similar to what we are experiencing here in Germany. I sincerely hope you are all well and you will enjoy reading this extremely concise article.

Let's start with a positive news flash. A local bakery received hundreds of orders to deliver 'Thank You' care packages to health care workers in and around Chicago, Illinois (NBC Chicago, March 28, 2020).

It seems crazy now, but just about a month ago, Trump was predicting the U.S. was days away from being "close to zero" coronavirus cases. Today, the country has more than 120,123 confirmed cases, well surpassing Italy's 92,472 cases and China's 81,999 infections according to a count by Johns Hopkins University (NBC Chicago, March 28, 2020).

This week, governors in Texas, Florida, Maryland and South Carolina ordered people arriving from the New York area—including New Jersey and Connecticut—and other virus hot spots to self-quarantine for at least 14 days upon arrival. To enforce this order, Rhode Island State Police have begun pulling over drivers with New York license plates to collect contact information and inform them of the 14-

day mandatory quarantine. In the meantime, police in several cities have been tested positive for coronavirus, stirring fears of spread among first responders. "You have to remember, as police officers ... we can't walk around in biohazard suits," Tampa Police Chief Brian Dugan said in an interview. "We have to be able to get to our guns, our radios, our handcuffs. There's no way for a police officer to work and not potentially be exposed to the virus." (The Washington Post, March 28, 2020).

One month after predicting the U.S. was days away from being "close to zero" coronavirus cases, Trump has increasingly been trying to shift the blame to state and local leaders. Trump—who hours earlier had suggested the need for the devices such as ventilators was overblown—rejected any criticism of the federal government's response. But to the contrary, confirmed U.S. coronavirus-related deaths have doubled in two days, hitting 2,000 on Saturday night (The New York Times, March 28, 2020).

Public health experts widely agree every state in the nation should issue the kind of stay-at-home orders first adopted by the hardest-hit places, such as New York State. And while most states will probably not need to keep the rules in place for months upon months, many health specialists say the lockdowns will need to be kept up for several weeks (NPR.org., March 29, 2020).

New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo (Democrat) anticipates the coronavirus outbreak

in New York state will reach its peak in "14 to 21 days," based on health and science data projections. New York is the hardest-hit state in the United States so far (The New York Times, March 28, 2020).

The 2020 United States presidential election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Will the presidential election have to be postponed? As many states have decided to delay their spring primaries, election professionals and voting experts are anxiously looking ahead to November and warning that the coronavirus pandemic is already threatening the safety and integrity of the next presidential election (Associated Press, March 28, 2020).

For the time being it seems the race will be between sitting President Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden. Experts believe we are in for a tight race, where small tweaks to voting rules could tip the scales or trigger a constitutional crisis. According to an internal government report obtained by CNN, the Trump administration is planning for a pandemic expected to stretch into next year. In a best-case scenario, the pandemic settles down over the summer and the country holds a normal November election. But some experts are anticipating doomsday scenarios that include attempts to postpone the election. If the coronavirus is still spreading uncontrollably in the fall, a delay could be possible, even probable. But the President cannot postpone the election, that power rests with Congress, though



it would require Democrats and
Republicans to work together
(CNN, March 28, 2020).

Put together and partially rephrased by
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