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- Feb 11—The disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus has been given the official name COVID-19, WHO announced.
- Feb. 23—Number of cases spikes in Italy.
- Feb. 25—Europe refuses to close borders as Italian coronavirus cases jump.
- Feb. 27—Saudi Arabia closes two holiest shrines of Islam and bans pilgrims from entering the country.
- Feb. 27—Australia enacts emergency response to COVID-19, deeming it a global pandemic (much earlier than WHO).
- Feb. 29—Four residents at nursing home in Kirkland, WA die of coronavirus.
- March 1—Second death near Seattle adds to signs virus is spreading in U.S.
- March 3—The difference between quarantine, isolation, and social distancing explained.
- March 5—First “presumptive positive” case of COVID-19 in Colorado.
- March 5—El Paso County Public Health and local officials give a press conference asking community to use preventive practices to keep selves and others healthy.
- March 6—First El Paso County resident tests positive for COVID-19.
- March 7—Stanford and Denver University move to online classes.
- March 7—Panic-buying of toilet paper evident in Monument ... and everywhere else
- March 9—Pentagon begins social distancing measures amid coronavirus concerns.
- March 9—Ireland cancels all St. Patrick’s Day parades.
- March 10—“Coronavirus: Why You Must Act Now” by Tomas Pueyo, to politicians, community leaders: <https://link.medium.com/YIQNaGTUX4>. Scientists know a huge spike is coming, with tsunami of sick patients, as has happened in the other countries. Variable is undiagnosed cases.
- March 10—Coronavirus sparks European Union nations to close borders - dump “European solidarity.”
- March 10—Many major U.S. universities begin to switch to online classes, dispersing students across the country.
- March 10—Gov. Polis declares a disaster emergency in Colorado due to evidence of community spread.
- March 10—Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro calls coronavirus a “fantasy.”
- March 11—WHO declares coronavirus a worldwide pandemic (instead of an outbreak).
- March 11—National Basketball Association (NBA) cancels season after one player tests positive.
- March 11—President Donald Trump says he will suspend all travel from Europe except the United Kingdom.
- March 11—Italians isolated at home applaud health care workers from their balconies every night at 8 p.m., setting trend for other European countries to show support.
- March 11—China offers medical teams, support to Italy, Foreign Minister Wang Yi says.
- March 12—Coronavirus shuts Statue of Liberty, Cirque du Soleil, Smithsonian museums, Eiffel Tower.
- March 12—Disney World and Disneyland close until end of March.
- March 12—NCAA cancels its 2020 men’s and women’s basketball tournaments.
- March 13—Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends canceling events for more than 250 people and encourages schools to extend spring break.
- March 13—El Paso County School districts announce spring break will start a week early.
- March 13—President Trump declares national emergency.
- March 13—Gov. Polis asks retired doctors, nurses to connect with healthcare work again.
- March 13—El Paso County Public Health information line phone banks open at 719-575-8888.
- March 13—Colorado’s first death is also first person to die of COVID-19 in El Paso County.
- March 14—El Paso County Public Health alert for people who visited Colorado Springs Bridge Center from late Feb. to early March and may have been exposed to COVID-19 during the tournament.
- March 14—Polis suspends ski resort operations.
- March 15—New Orleans police drive cruisers down middle of Bourbon Street to clear out large crowds to prevent spread.
- March 15—U.S. begins to see lists of states that have closed bars and dine-in restaurants.
- March 15—U.S. begins to see lists of states that have closed all schools.
- March 15—CDC recommends postponing events for more than 50 people for next eight weeks.
- March 16—Spain, Lebanon, Canada shut borders.
- March 16—Trump says to avoid groups of more than 10 people.
- March 16—City of San Francisco issues stay at home order.
- March 16—Polis issued statewide Public Health Order 20-22 suspending dine-in services at all restaurants, bars, theaters, gymnasiums, and casinos in the state for the next 30 days. Food takeout and delivery will be permitted under the order.
- March 16—Pikes Peak Library District closes physical locations.
- March 16—A 21-year old soccer coach dies of COVID-19 in Spain. When he went to doctor with coronavirus symptoms, he discovered that he also had leukemia.
- March 17—Italy’s death rate jumps 16% in 24 hours.
- March 17—Researchers at Imperial College London projected that around 250,000 people in Britain would die if “chains of transmission” for the virus weren’t immediately slowed or broken.
- March 17—Israeli President Netanyahu announced that the highly secretive Shin Bet internal security service would soon begin deploying its highly sophisticated counter-terrorism technology to help curb the spread of COVID-19.
- March 17 - Thousands of students on extended spring break due to school closures flock to Florida beaches, ignoring coronavirus concerns and social distancing recommendations.
- March 17 - IRS delays tax season by 90 days.
- March 17 - Amazon seeks to hire 100,000 workers to meet delivery demands.
- March 17 - Voters in Illinois asked to bring their own pens to the ballot box for primaries.
- March 17 - U.S.: 5,600 confirmed cases, 100 deaths. Colorado: two deaths, 160 confirmed cases.
- March 17 - UC Health in Colorado Springs has set up outside tents to make room for screening in preparation for influx of patients.
- March 17 - UCCS extends remote learning to end of school year.
- March 17 - Doctors wonder if virus will mimic the two waves of the 1918-19 Spanish Influenza, and economists debate whether recovery will be V-shaped or W-shaped. See videos at <https://www.fox21news.com/top-stories/facts-not-fear-primetime-panel-on-coronavirus-pandemic-tuesday/>
- March 18 - Southern Colorado universities cancel May commencement and move to remote learning.
- March 18 - U.S. Navy hospital ships to deploy off coast of New York City and West Coast in preparation for waves of patients.
- March 18 - Dr. Anthony Fauci of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) says, “We cannot do this without the young people cooperating.”
- March 18 —Governor orders Colorado schools closed, limits gatherings to 10 people and directs ski areas to stay shuttered.
- March 18 - Manitou Springs Incline closed.
- March 18 - Blood donations still vitally needed but in short supply.
- March 18 - President Trump talks about invoking Defense Production Act of 1950 to provide vital materials.
- March 18 - City of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China continues to be under total lockdown.
- March 19 - El Paso County has had 11 people test positive, and two deaths.
- March 19 - California issues statewide stay at home order.
- March 19—The Broadmoor Hotel suspends operations until Memorial Day.
- March 20 - Illinois and New York under stay at home orders.
- March 20 - Rocky Mountain National Park closed until further notice.
- March 20 - Panama City Beach among last in Florida to close beaches. Young people warned, “You’re more vulnerable to coronavirus than you think.”
- March 21 - New Jersey under stay-at-home order.
- March 21 - El Paso County’s third death from COVID-19.
- March 22 - Sen. Rand Paul is first senator to test positive.
- March 22 - Polis orders “non-critical workplaces” in CO to reduce in-person workforce by at least 50% to help halt person-to-person spread of the virus by reducing workplace density.
- March 23 - Denver Mayor Michael Hancock issues shelter at home order. Liquor and marijuana stores included as “essential retail” that can stay open.
- March 23—80 million Americans are on virtual lockdown.
- March 23 - El Paso County reports fourth death.
- March 23 - Car makers answer pleas to produce medical supplies
- March 23 - Madrid doctors must prioritize who gets scarce ventilators.
- March 23 - Trump wants to re-open some businesses.
- March 23 - Iran: millions refusing to stay indoors and are traveling for Persian New Year.
- March 23 - U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams warns virus has been silently spreading. “Gathering in large groups is going to accelerate the spread of COVID-19. This week is going to get bad.”
- March 23 - King Soopers holds mass hiring events in Colorado Springs (with social distancing rules).
- March 23 - D.C. mayor brings in National Guard to keep crowds away from city’s cherry blossom trees amid coronavirus fears
- March 23 - India: 1.3 billion people are in lockdown.
- March 23—United Kingdom shut down except grocery stores, medical outlets, and for exercise outdoors. Young people are also getting very ill, too, doctors warn.
- March 24 - Pikes Peak Office of Emergency Management starts Tuesday and Thursday emergency supply collection point for N95 masks and PPE for health care workers. RobinAdair@elpasoco.com
- March 24 - 2020 Tokyo Olympics postponed to 2021.
- March 24—Florida governor catches flak for his refusal to close beaches.
- March 24 - Town of Monument declares disaster emergency, joining El Paso County, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs.
- March 24 - New York City Mayor Andrew Cuomo: “Coronavirus is moving like a bullet train. Where we are today, you will be in three to six weeks. We are your future.”
- March 24 - President Trump calls for country to re-open by Easter, less than 4 weeks away.
- March 24 - New Zealand under lockdown.
- March 24 - Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro accuses state governors of “taking extreme measures, hurting the economy.”
- March 24 - Conference centers, warehouses converted to hospitals in London, New York City. NYC will need 40,000 ventilators soon.
- March 24 - Colorado: 8,064 people tested; 1,086 cases; 147 hospitalized, 20 deaths.
- March 25 - New Orleans emerging as next epicenter.
- March 25 - One-third of world’s population under lockdown.
- March 25 - Charles, The Prince of Wales tests positive, self-isolates in Scotland.
- March 25 - Jobless claims skyrocketing.
- March 25 - Navy sailors test positive at sea.
- March 25 - Chloe Middleton, age 21, dies of virus though has no underlying health conditions.
- March 25 - U.S. Senate approves bipartisan \$2 trillion historic economic stimulus package, a “wartime level of investment in our nation.”
- March 25 - WHO Situation Report 65 says: Global confirmed cases; 413,467. Deaths: 18,433. U.S. confirmed cases: 51,914. Deaths: 673.
- March 25 - In order to minimize the duration of the epidemic, Polis announces Colorado statewide stay at home order March 26 through April 11. Exceptions include leaving to obtain food and necessities, commuting to work if at critical business, seeking medical care, and caring for dependents. Critical businesses are exempt but must comply with 6-foot social distancing requirements. State parks will remain open, but parks that are conducive to public gatherings, such as playgrounds, are closed.
- (April 2-3—A “skeleton crew” of *Our Community News* volunteers plans to meet (but only in groups of four, spread out over 16 hours) to count and pack the 21,000 copies of our newspaper to get them in the mail to you for this April 4 issue. If you are reading this, we must have succeeded.... We will definitely need some help on this for the May 2 issue, also. Please write to editor@ocn.me to find out how you could help.)