

PLEA FOR VENTILATORS AS TRUMP SIGNS AID BILL



FABIO BUCCIARELLI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

The World’s Epicenter

Of the 9,134 deaths from the coronavirus in Italy, more than 1,600 have been in the Bergamo region. Above, Claudio Trivelli, 61, who tested positive. Page A12.

U.K.’s Leader,  
Virus Holdout,  
Tests Positive

By MARK LANDLER  
and STEPHEN CASTLE

LONDON — For weeks, Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain was a defiant holdout among Western leaders in refusing to lock down his country against the spread of the coronavirus. On Friday, he became the first of those leaders known to have contracted the disease.

Mr. Johnson’s diagnosis, confirmed in a test on Thursday, threatened to throw an already rattled British government into turmoil. Fears of a wider contagion grew, as two other senior officials disclosed that they, too, were infected.

And with the heir to the throne, Prince Charles, saying this week that he had fallen ill with the virus, Britain faced the alarming



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
Prime Minister Boris Johnson shared his results on Twitter.

prospect of having to confront its greatest crisis since World War II with several of its leading figures in quarantine.

Mr. Johnson, 55, insisted he would not relinquish his duties. In a remarkable two-minute video posted on Twitter, he used his own case as a sort of teachable moment for the country, appealing to people to work from home and comply with the more drastic social distancing measures he put in place Monday.

“I’ve developed mild symptoms  
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A Cluster Site  
Sees Progress  
After Isolation

By SHARON OTTERMAN  
and SARAH MASLIN NIR

Two weeks ago, an unexpected cluster of coronavirus cases in New Rochelle, N.Y., seemed an unnerving sign that an outbreak that had devastated China and Italy was taking hold in the New York region and could spread rapidly.

The state took drastic measures, including creating a containment zone, which stirred some criticism. But now, the latest data indicates that the measures may be starting to work.

The outbreak, which Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo once said was advancing “unabated” in New Rochelle, has appeared to slow: Over the last four days, only 38 new cases were reported to the county.

“Everybody talks about flattening the curve, and I think that’s exactly what we were able to do in New Rochelle,” said Dr. Sherlita Amler, the Westchester County health commissioner. “We know we can’t stop every single case, but our goal was to reduce the number of cases, and I do think the measures were successful in doing that.”

State and local health officials cautioned that it was too early to declare victory, but the results seemed to show how tough social distancing measures, first adopted here and then imposed around the country, combined with an aggressive testing philosophy, can have an effect on curbing the coronavirus.

The experience in New Rochelle, a small city just north of New York City, has converted early skeptics, including some residents who had chafed at the restrictions.

“In the beginning, it felt like house arrest,” said Samuel Heilman, a New Rochelle resident whose family was among those ordered to self-quarantine on March 3. The families had all attended  
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Lone Objector Fails to Derail Passage by House

By EMILY COCHRANE  
and SHERYL GAY STOLBERG

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Friday signed a sweeping \$2 trillion measure to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, but not before a late objection from a lone rank-and-file Republican forced hundreds of lawmakers to rush back to the capital even as the virus continued to spread through their ranks.

The move by Representative Thomas Massie, Republican of Kentucky, accomplished an extraordinary feat, uniting President Trump and John Kerry, the former Democratic secretary of state and presidential candidate, in a bipartisan moment of outrage against a lawmaker who wanted to force the whole House to take a formal roll-call vote.

Direct Payments to Be  
Made to Americans  
Within Weeks

House Democrats and Republicans teamed up to bring just enough lawmakers back to the Capitol to thwart Mr. Massie’s tactic, and the measure passed on a voice vote. It was a resounding show of support for a bill that lawmakers in both parties said was imperfect, but essential to address a national public health and economic crisis.

“I want to thank Democrats and Republicans for coming together and putting America first,” Mr. Trump said on Friday as he signed the legislation in the Oval Office.  
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But by then, the spark of bipartisanship appeared to have faded. While the legislation was the product of a compromise among Republicans, Democrats and the administration, Mr. Trump did not invite any Democrats to the White House to celebrate its enactment, as is typical.

The measure is unparalleled in its scope and size, touching on every aspect of the country in an effort to send help to desperate Americans, provide aid to hospitals combating the disease, and bolster an economy forced to slow or shut down altogether to minimize the spread of the pandemic.

In weeks, it will send direct payments of \$1,200 to individuals earning up to \$75,000, with smaller payments to those with incomes of up to \$99,000 and an ad  
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‘We Have Lost It All’: Millions Reel From Sudden Unemployment

This article is by Sabrina Tavernise, Audra D. S. Burch, Sarah Mervosh and Campbell Robertson.

WASHINGTON — So much has changed so quickly for Joseph Palma that he barely recognizes his life.

On Tuesday last week, he was going to work, helping passengers in the customs area of the Miami airport. The next day, he was laid off without severance or benefits. Five days later, he moved back in with his 59-year-old mother, loading his bed and his clothes into the back of his friend’s pickup truck.

Now he is staring at his bank account — totaling about \$3,100 — and waiting on hold for hours at a time with the unemployment office, while cursing at its crashing website.

“I’m feeling scared,” said Mr. Palma, who is 41 and nervous about the \$15,000 in medical debt he has from two recent hospital stays. “I don’t know what’s the ending. But I know I’m not in good shape.”  
For the millions of Americans



ALYSSA SCHUKAR FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A normally bustling Washington street. Service industry workers have been hit hard by shutdowns.

who found themselves without a job in recent weeks, the sharp and painful change brought a profound sense of disorientation. They were going about their lives, bartending, cleaning, managing

events, waiting tables, loading luggage and teaching yoga. And then suddenly they were in free fall, grabbing at any financial help they could find, which in many states this week remained locked

away behind crashing websites and overloaded phone lines.

“Everything has changed in a matter of minutes — seconds,” said Tamara Holtey, 29, an ac  
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The Gray Grip on Power

President Trump is 73. Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. is 77. And many of the voters providing them with their greatest momentum are eligible for Social Security. PAGE A21

Subway Fire Kills Worker

A No. 2 train operator died near the north end of Central Park in an early-morning blaze that the police are investigating as possible arson. PAGE A24

University Fires Opera Star

The University of Michigan dismissed the voice teacher David Daniels, who faces a sexual assault charge. PAGE A24



INTERNATIONAL A19-20

Turkey Ends Khashoggi Inquiry

Efforts to hold Saudi officials accountable for the journalist’s killing continue, but punishment is unlikely. PAGE A19

Rift Over Iran Strategy

A Pentagon directive orders planning to destroy an Iranian-backed militia, but a U.S. general notes the risks. PAGE A20

BUSINESS B1-7

Now Closed, and Boarded Up

Around the world, gilded retailers have been on lockdown in recent weeks. In the United States, many are also covering storefronts with plywood. PAGE B7

Givers of Aid Seek Help

Upended by the outbreak, nonprofits are laying off workers and reaching out to stretched donors. PAGE B1

Magnifying a Class Divide

For the rich and the poor, child care options, internet access and extra living space can mean starkly different outcomes in coping with disruptions to daily life during the pandemic. PAGE B1

THIS WEEKEND

A Moment for Black Artists

Black art, history and political life are converging in a way not seen in decades. We asked 35 African-American luminaries to discuss a work or a peer from the last 20 years. Arts & Leisure.

Barks, Meows and More

Are cats your fancy? Do dogs delight you? Our special section for young people features plenty of pictures, trivia and games, all geared toward pet owners in The New York Times for Kids.

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Roger Cohen

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ARTS C1-6

Awaiting the Aftermath

The pandemic has shut down museums and galleries, and canceled an entire way of life for contemporary artists. What will the future hold? PAGE C1

