

The Washington Post

Photos may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

M2 V1

Mostly cloudy 62/55 • Tomorrow: Morning showers 74/43 B8 Democracy Dies in Darkness THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020 • \$2

WHO declares virus a global pandemic

D.C. calls state of emergency as cases rise

BY JENNA PORTNOY, FENIT NIRAPILL AND DARRAN SIMON

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser declared a state of emergency Wednesday that allows her to enforce quarantines and cancellations to slow the spread of the coronavirus, as major churches and organizations in and around the nation's capital said they would shut down for the rest of the month.

The Episcopal Diocese of Washington and Virginia churches including Washington National Cathedral would close for two weeks. The Washington Convention Center canceled upcoming events and the promoter of the city's Anthem, the 9:30 O'Clock Lincoln Theater and the Music Hall.

Organizers said part of the annual Cherry Blossom parade would be shelved, the Roll Marathon had its start postponed, and the St. Day parade scheduled for Sunday was postponed indefinitely.

More colleges and schools announced plans to close their campuses for cleaning or move to online learning.

Bowser announced six coronavirus cases, including one not linked to any known source of infection, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the District, Maryland and Virginia to at least 33.

She said the city has leased an empty building to use as a temporary hospital wing.

1. ISOLATION REVERBERATION 2:51
 2. BOB AND BUSTER QUIT THE CIRCUS 3:29
 3. FIRECRACKER HILL 4:20
 4. DROP EDGE OF YONDER 2:20
 5. TEISCO'S TANGO 3:09
 6. QUARANTINE DREAM #1 3:27
 7. QUARANTINE DREAM #2 3:44
 8. QUARANTINE DREAM #3 3:28
 9. QUARANTINE DREAM #4 3:45
 10. QUARANTINE DREAM #5 3:42
 11. QUARANTINE DREAM #6 4:26

MICHAEL McCARTY: DRUMS, PERCUSSION
 JIM HOKE: TENOR SAX, PEDAL STEEL
 ROY DICKINSON: BASS 4, 8, 9
 DOMINIC JOHN DAVIS: BASS 10
 TERRY BUFFALO WARE: GUITARS, ORGAN, BASS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11

THANKS TO RONNY ELIOTT FOR INSPIRING "FIRECRACKER HILL" AND DAN FORTE FOR INSPIRING "TEISCO'S TANGO"

NATIONS RAMP UP THEIR RESPONSES

U.S. to clamp down on travel from Europe

BY KATIE ZEJIMA, TIM CRAIG, WILLIAM WAN AND FELICIA SONMEZ

The World Health Organization on Wednesday declared the coronavirus a global pandemic, and municipalities and states are reacting with various measures to slow the spread of the disease, including closing schools and public places.

The United States announced sharply restricted travel from Europe, including suspending flights from 120 countries, beginning Thursday.

Trump said he would restrict international travel and business from the United States, with many of the countries on the restricted list.

The virus will not have a chance against us," Trump said. "The nation is more prepared or more resilient than the United States."

Though Trump repeated his assertion that the risk to most Americans is "very, very low," world leaders condemned Wednesday that the disease almost certainly will become a far worse problem than a global struggle to keep people from traveling and gathering in public spaces.

WHO declaration was a confirmation of the alarm that countries are not working quickly and aggressively enough to fight the virus and that the control measures now in place might have been insufficient.

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More coverage

Not a ballot
 30 days
 Election results
 Biden's campaign
 Biden's campaign
 Biden's campaign

Scaling up his campaign, Biden takes lead over Trump

BY MARY MURPHY
 AND MICHAEL SCHMIDT

A day after another set of polls showed Joe Biden leading Donald Trump in a highly competitive general election, Biden's advisers are taking steps to expand virtually all parts of his campaign operation, from finance, field and com-

Job growth mounts as fear eases

BY ADAM SILGORE AND BEN GOLIVER

The U.S. economy is on a path to rebound, with job growth mounting as fear eases, according to a report from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis Wednesday.

As public health officials and state governments escalated recommendations and orders against large gatherings, sporting events became the most prominent and most prevalent casualties, leaving Americans without one of their primary communal experiences as spring dawned and a pandemic loomed.

In a startling scene, Utah Jazz and Oklahoma City Thunder players at the Chesapeake Energy Center court in Oklahoma City shortly before tip-off after league officials alerted the teams of Utah center Rudy Gobert's positive test.

NBA suspends season; NCAA bars fans from basketball tournaments

The NBA season was suspended Wednesday after the league announced it would shut off all its season since the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

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ARTWORK
STEVE CROSSETT

CREDIT LAYOUT
JEANNIE WARE

Weinstein gets 23-year sentence for sex assaults

BY SHARON JACOBS

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to a 23-year prison Wednesday for sexually assaulting two women, including a landmark case against the once-powerful movie producer whose downfall brought attention to the #MeToo movement.