

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC For the latest news, go to **tampabay.com/coronavirus**

‘Our Pearl Harbor moment’

America’s surgeon general warns that the worst is yet to come: Tragedies will not just be local, but “happening all over the country.”

BY KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. surgeon general offered some of the starkest warnings yet Sunday as he braced Americans for the worsening fallout from the new coronavirus, warning “this is going to be the hardest and the saddest week of most Americans’ lives, quite frankly.”

The public was advised sep-

arately by the nation’s infectious disease chief to “just buckle down” and that the virus probably won’t be wiped out entirely this year.

The number of people infected in the U.S. has exceeded 336,670, with the death toll climbing past 9,610; more than 3,500 of those deaths are in the state of New York.

Much of the country is under

orders to stay home, and federal officials said that have seen signs that people are listening to the message about social distancing. But the Trump administration is also emphasizing that the worst is yet to come for many communities.

“This is going to be our Pearl Harbor moment, our 9/11 moment, only it’s not going to be localized,” Surgeon General

Jerome Adams said on *Fox News Sunday*. He added: “It’s going to be happening all over the country. And I want America to understand that.”

The blunt assessments show just how much has changed in the weeks since President Donald Trump’s predictions that the virus would soon pass, and his suggestions that much of the

See WARNING, 6A



ALEX BRANDON | Associated Press

U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams issued his dire warnings Sunday as the number of people infected in the U.S. exceeded 300,000 and the death toll rose above 8,400.

INSIDE THE NEWSROOM



MARK KATCHES
Executive Editor

Content increases as delivery changes

Today our newspaper arrives in your inbox — not on your drive-way. We’re on your tablets and phones, laptops and desktops.

As we announced last week, we are delivering the printed newspaper on Sundays and Wednesdays for now.

The local news business was tough enough already. But the unprecedented economic fallout from the coronavirus has prompted this shift.

While we are cutting back on printing and delivery, we’re adding more news and features to our e-Newspaper seven days a week — an exact replica of the printed version that you can access on your tablet, laptop, phone or home computer.

Here is what you can expect in the enhanced e-Newspaper:

- Expanded coverage of popular topics like health and fitness, the environment and personal finance. (With fewer constraints on space, we can bring you more of it.)

- Additional pages of national and international news.
- More color photography and graphics throughout the paper, including a daily World in a Snap page.
- Popular comics like *Beetle Bailey*, *Shoe*, *Hagar the Horrible* and *For Better or For Worse* — in addition to all the comics you’re used to reading in print like *Peanuts*, *Pickles* and *Pearls Before Swine*.

- More perspectives from syndicated columnists and editorial cartoonists every day.

We’re also making some improvements to the Sunday newspaper, our most popular edition.

- The *Perspective* section returns this week, featuring opinions from the *Times*, guest columns, letters to the editor and analysis.
- More good news. We all could use some. We are adding pages to *Floridian* highlighting inspirational stories, acts of kindness, local heroes and ordinary people doing extraordinary things. If you have story ideas, please email Ellen Clarke, our deputy editor for life and culture, at ecclarke@tampabay.com.
- We’ve started a weekly section called *Game Times* that bundles your favorite

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Fighting hunger and shame



Photos by LUIS SANTANA | Times

Above, Community Food Pantry and Feeding Tampa Bay volunteers prepare food. Some first-time visitors are crying and unsure how the process works.

PANDEMIC UPDATES

Aid rolling out for local transit services: Hillsborough and Pinellas bus agencies are to receive millions in federal money. **Page 3A**

Expectant moms carry extra worries: Pregnant women speak of their fear of infection in themselves, their babies. **Focus, 10A**

Lockdown in pictures: Palm Sunday at the Vatican. Life under curfew in Mumbai. Out for fresh air in New York. **World in a Snap, 8A**



Hundreds of bags of groceries filled by volunteers with Feeding Tampa Bay and the Community Food Pantry are ready for pickup Wednesday at Village Presbyterian Church in Tampa.

Difficult times for special-needs kids

Online learning and the upheaval of structure challenges students and parents.

BY MEGAN REEVES

Times Staff Writer

Tracie McHugh has tried everything to make remote learning work for her two boys. But their house isn’t a classroom, and she’s not a teacher.

Before the coronavirus pandemic forced Florida schools to close, André, 6, and Gavin, 8, would pop out of bed to start the day. That changed when home and school became the same place, and now it’s a miracle if any work gets done.

André has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, which he usually gets therapy for at his Manatee County school. Gavin is on the autism spectrum, and the change in routine has them both “totally out of sorts,” McHugh said.

The brothers are among tens of thousands of special-needs students across Tampa Bay who,



Courtesy of Alastair St. Hill

Mandy Minor works with her 8-year-old daughter, Clara, on schoolwork at home. “I imagine, cumulatively, this will have a negative effect on her,” Minor says.

because of the virus, are missing out on services and accommodations that made learning work for them. Schools are trying to keep up, officials say, but some things can’t be replicated remotely.

The switch has disrupted progress some children have made in coping with their disabilities, parents and guardians

say. Gavin, for example, is also diagnosed with a feeding disorder, and without therapy he’s regressed to eating only three foods since schools closed.

Some parents worry they’ll have to keep their kids from moving to the next grade. Others have watched their children have violent meltdowns and are putting off school work just to

get through the day without a fight.

“My stomach has been in knots all day,” Laura McCrary wrote to the *Tampa Bay Times* after helping her son, a 16-year-old Pinellas County student with autism. “We are barely hanging on by a thread.”

About 15,000 students in Pinellas are considered special-needs, according to Lynne Mowatt, head of social services for the school district. Satisfying their federally mandated individualized education plans, called IEPs, is a challenge when teachers can’t be face-to-face, she said.

Some students, for example, are non-verbal, so they can’t speak directly with their teachers. Others have extreme behavior issues that specialists can’t address over the internet, so “reasonableness” is key as teachers work to meet requirements laid out in students’ plans, Mowatt said.

Districts nationwide are awaiting direction from U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy

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Note to readers

Due to a production error, there are no obituaries in today’s e-Newspaper. Obituaries are scheduled to appear every day in the e-Newspaper and in print on Wednesdays and Sundays. We are working to resolve the problem.

Correction

In Miami-Dade County, 31 people have died of the new coronavirus and 243 people have been hospitalized as of Saturday night. A story in Sunday’s edition incorrectly reported numbers for that county.

More sun

8 a.m. Noon 4 p.m. 8 p.m.



67° 79° 84° 76°

30% chance of rain

More, 13A

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