U.S. coronavirus cases surpass 400,000 with more than 14,500 deaths

New York, April 9 (RHC)-- The United States reached 400,000 confirmed coronavirus cases on Wednesday according to the Johns Hopkins University tally, a grim milestone that comes as the death tolls continue to rise in hot spots in what experts expect to be the country's deadliest week so far.

The U.S. set another record with 1,850 deaths in a single day on Tuesday, the highest single-day total of any country. By Wednesday, more than 14,500 deaths had been reported nationwide.

Italy and Spain both still outpace the U.S. in total deaths, with roughly 17,000 and 12,000 respectively.

U.S. health officials have warned that between 100,000 and 200,000 people in the country are likely to die from COVID-19, the disease the virus causes. But officials said this week that despite the grim totals, there are signs that the death toll may not be as high as expected if mitigation efforts continue.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the virus a global health emergency on January 30th and a pandemic on March 11th. The U.S. had its first known case of the novel coronavirus in January. By March, U.S. health officials warned of a serious threat to the public.

States began issuing shelter-in-place orders and cancelling classes in an effort to "flatten the curve," or limit the spread of the virus to give hospitals a chance to treat those infected.

The U.S. Congress passed on March 27th a significant $2.2 trillion rescue bill, called the CARES Act to aid prevention efforts and offer a lifeline to struggling businesses and individuals.

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