

U.S. COVID-19 deaths surge to new record high as 4,500+ people die in 24 hours



New York, April 17 (RHC)-- Deaths from COVID-19 in the United States surged to another record high Thursday, nearly doubling to surpass the previous record set just a day before. Four thousand five hundred ninety-one U.S. residents died over a single 24-hour period, with another 31,000 newly confirmed coronavirus cases across the United States.

Worldwide, over 145,000 people have died of COVID-19, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

At the White House, President Trump on Thursday outlined federal guidelines for states to reopen their economies, saying it was up to individual governors to decide when and how to relax social distancing measures.

Trump told governors in a conference call Thursday: "You're gonna call your own shots" — reversing his claim last Monday he has "total" authority to tell states when and how to reopen.

Medical professionals say it's far too early to reopen schools, businesses and large gatherings without spawning a new surge in COVID-19 cases. They say a massive increase in testing and contact tracing

capacity is needed before social distancing measures can be relaxed.

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