

# *Trump declares ultimate authority to reopen the United States*

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Washington, April 14 (RHC)-- In the U.S., a group of Northeastern states — New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Rhode Island — have announced that they are developing a coordinated plan to end coronavirus lockdowns and reopen schools and businesses.

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker became the first Republican to join the effort when he announced later on Monday he had joined the discussions. On the West Coast, California, Washington and Oregon said they would create a similar framework.

Donald Trump lashed out following the announcement and declared he has the power to override governors. He told reporters gathered at the White House: "The president of the United States calls the shots." When asked by a journalist by what authority, Trump replied: "Well, I have the ultimate authority." Trump also said Monday he would reopen the country "based on a lot of facts and a lot of instincts."

In other news, in the U.S. state of Virginia, an evangelical pastor who defied stay-at-home orders to hold packed services died of COVID-19. Bishop Gerald Glenn told his congregation on March 22nd: "I firmly believe that God is larger than this dreaded virus. You can quote me on that." One member of his

congregation noted that now her pastor contracted the virus and is staying at home with his Lord in heaven.

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