Political reactions:

… talk first, think later …

U.S. President Donald Trump has ordered U.S.-based company 3M to stop exporting masks. Two experts explain what this means for Canada. One day later, OOPS….

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WASHINGTON -- One of America's largest manufacturers of medical face masks rode to Canada's rescue Monday, forging an agreement with the White House that allows it to provide millions of its precious N95 respirators to the U.S. market without sacrificing supply bound for north of the border.

10 hours ago - Trump and 3M reach deal to allow N95 face *masks* to be exported to *Canada*. US officials had stopped shipment at 3M factory after Trump invoked Defense Production Act to halt exports to Canada and beyond...

Minnesota-based 3M, which has been at the centre of a clash with President Donald Trump and his administration over the company's reluctance to abide by orders to prioritize American demand for the masks, confirmed plans to continue to fill orders in Canada and Latin America.

The manufacturer 3M has reached a deal to continue sending N95 **masks** to **Canada** after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered to stop all exports not destined to America. Social Development Minister Ahmed Hussen says **Canada** made clear that medical supplies should be unimpeded moving across the border.

Note: Canada is the only supplier of a key ingredient in these masks.

Most of my relatives in Canada have expressed complete disgust with President Trump. The same opinion was also expressed in other foreign countries where I have visited.

**It could be worse…**

**2020 April 1**

Before this, there was the problem of two Holland-America line ships heading to Port Everglades, Florida. The Florida Governor first said that only Florida residents would be allowed to get off the ship:

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said his state would only accept the Floridians aboard a Holland America cruise ship seeking to dock after eight passengers tested positive for coronavirus and over 190 onboard have reported flu-like symptoms. According to CNN, DeSantis said his state would take the roughly 49 Floridians off the ship—from more than 300 Americans onboard —citing Florida’s 30 percent hospital bed availability. “We are going to be willing to accept Floridians on board... My understanding is most of the passengers are foreign national,” he said Wednesday. “My concern is that we have worked so hard to make sure we have adequate hospital space in the event of a COVID-19 surge, we wouldn’t want those valuable beds to be taken because of the cruise ship.” President Trump previously said he would discuss the handling of the ship’s arrival with DeSantis. It will [dock in Fort Lauderdale sometime this week after crossing the Panama Canal](https://www.thedailybeast.com/cruise-ship-with-four-dead-and-two-confirmed-coronavirus-cases-given-ok-to-dock-in-florida). Fort Lauderdale’s mayor also said he would speak to Holland America's CEO to work out a potential solution.

Four people have died on the Zaandam after it left Argentina in early March. It was first denied entry to Chile, but was later given the green light to go through the Panama Canal even though ships with coronavirus cases were initially not permitted. The Holland America ship is reportedly among more than a dozen cruise ships stranded at sea after ports have denied them entry.

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What is not mentioned here are the 400 Canadians also on the ship! They are conveniently described as “foreign national”. Doesn’t the Governor realize how many Canadians spend a portion of the year in Florida? It is also dangerous for that many people to spend the extra time on the ship for it to get to a Canadian port. Since when is Florida not a part of the United States? What about all those people to go to Florida to board cruise ships? A few days later, all passengers were allowed to leave the ship in Port Everglades. In this case, even the Republican party supported allowing the ship passengers to leave.

**It could be better…**

**Sweden is trying a different approach:**

<https://www.economist.com/europe/2020/04/04/why-swedes-are-not-yet-locked-down>