

## **Webinar: Future of trusteeship** Register now ▶

Informing scheme decisions

An event from the Financial Times

FINANCIAL TIMES

Q

HOME WORLD US COMPANIES TECH MARKETS GRAPHICS OPINION WORK & CAREERS LIFE & ARTS HOW TO SPEND IT

Sign In

Subscribe

*my*FT

CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS UPDATE Get 30 days complimentary access to our Coronavirus Business Update newsletter



Get the newsletter now

TIMES

Law firm

Baker McKenzie uses an

**FT Group Subscription** 

To better anticipate client issues

Coronavirus latest: Spain to make

**Latest on Coronavirus** 

masks on public transport compulsory as countries fight to contain the pandemic

Italy's corporate reopening stirs fears Coronavirus tracked: the latest figures over more deaths

Investment biker Jim Rogers desperate to hit the road

+ Add to myFT Coronavirus

## US southern states move to reopen economies

Move comes as Facebook says will remove pages for some lockdown protests





Lockdown protesters gather on Monday in Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania, lobbing criticism against the state's Democratic governor, Tom Wolf © Reuters

Demetri Sevastopulo in Washington and Hannah Murphy in San

Francisco APRIL 20 2020

enacted to tackle coronavirus.

Be the first to know about every new Coronavirus story Get instant email alerts

X

Georgia and several other southern US states are moving to ease

lockdown restrictions as early as this week, as sporadic protests

Brian Kemp, the Republican governor of Georgia, said residents

could visit gyms, hair salons, tattoo parlours and bowling alleys

erupt in other states over the strict measures governors have

from Friday, and could then start going to movie theatres and restaurants from Monday. Henry McMaster, South Carolina's Republican governor, rescinded a ban on residents going to the beach and eased restrictions on

measures. Bill Lee, the Republican governor of Tennessee, said his stay-at-home order would lapse at the end of April. Mr Kemp was one of the last governors to impose a lockdown and his move makes his state one of the first to ease restrictions. Georgia has not met the criteria outlined by the White House last

week when it recommended that a state see a decline in cases for 14

retail outlets to let them reopen if they implement social distancing

The move was slammed by two Democrats — Stacey Abrams, the former minority leader in the Georgia legislature, and Keisha Lance Bottom, the Atlanta mayor — who are both possible running mates for Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.

Editor's note



The Financial Times is

days before starting to reopen.

making key coronavirus coverage free to read to help everyone stay informed. Find the latest here.

to continue to stay at home. Mr Kemp came under intense criticism earlier this month when he acknowledged that he had not realised that people who had no symptoms could still be carrying the virus. The moves to open some states came as Facebook said it would remove pages promoting anti-lockdown protests that did not

Ms Abrams said the decision

was "dangerously incompetent".

Ms Lance urged Atlanta residents

adhere to social distancing guidelines. The company took the decision as a spate of public rallies opposed to the coronavirus measures continued across the US.

Facebook said it would take down content organising antiquarantine protests if they sought to defy social distancing rules in US states. It has already removed content in California, Nebraska and New Jersey, but said events that include clear calls for social distancing would be permitted.

Small protests have erupted sporadically in recent days as a combination of far-right groups and supporters of President Donald Trump have targeted the governors of states, most Democratic-led, with the more severe lockdowns.

capitol building in Harrisburg on Monday against lockdown measures introduced by Tom Wolf, the Democratic governor. Mr Wolf announced on Monday that the state's stay-at-home order would be extended until May 8. Some of the protesters have been emboldened by Mr Trump, who

last week urged followers in a tweet to "liberate" Michigan,

Several hundred people protested outside the Pennsylvania state

such as Pennsylvania. On Sunday Mr Trump refused to condemn the protesters despite the fact that many are not practising the social distancing guidelines that his own administration has recommended should remain in

Minnesota and Virginia — all states with Democratic governors,

Mr Trump said they were "great people" who had "cabin fever" and that they had the right to protest, particularly because some of the governors, including Gretchen Whitmer in Michigan, had gone too far.

The social media company is Recommended battling to crack down on the false information and conspiracy

As it enforces its policy, Facebook said it had contacted state

officials to better understand the scope of their orders related to

theories related to coronavirus that are rapidly spreading on the platform. It also announced a new **US politics & policy** 

accusations of anticonservative bias.

state to curb coronavirus.

Trump cheers as anti-lockdown

protests spread

effect for now.

social distancing.

tool last week that informs users if they have interacted with dangerous Covid-19 misinformation on the platform. At the same time, Facebook risks charges of censorship if it is seen to prevent political discourse — at a time when it already faces In Pennsylvania on Monday cars and trucks honked their horns as protesters, some holding placards that backed Mr Trump, waved

restrictions. The lockdown has been especially devastating to Pennsylvania's

governors to order the closure of non-essential businesses in his

American flags and called on Mr Wolf to ease stay-at-home

economy, in part because Mr Wolf moved earlier than most

Pennsylvania has recorded almost 34,000 cases of Covid-19, the fourth-highest total in the country. The number of people who have died has hit 1,348, giving the rust-belt state, the fifth-highest death toll in the US.

**Coronavirus Business Update** Contact-tracing apps raise surveillance fears

Recommended



the country that urged states to start resuming normal activity only after a 14-day drop in cases. Mr Hogan on Sunday told the television news channel CNN that many of the states where the protests were occurring, including "To encourage people to go protest the plan that you just made recommendations . . . just doesn't make any sense," Mr Hogan said. Follow Demetri Sevastopulo on Twitter: @dimi

Larry Hogan, the Republican

the National Governors

governor of Maryland, who chairs

Association, questioned why Mr

Trump was encouraging dangerous

behaviour against the advice of his

Trump introduced a plan to reopen

health experts. Last week Mr

Martin Wolf: coronavirus could be worst economic crisis since Great Depression

Get alerts on Coronavirus when a new story is published Get alerts **Copyright** The Financial Times Reuse this content Limited 2020. All rights reserved.

## **Latest on Coronavirus**







1 HOUR AGO

Services

FT Live

Share News Tips Sec...

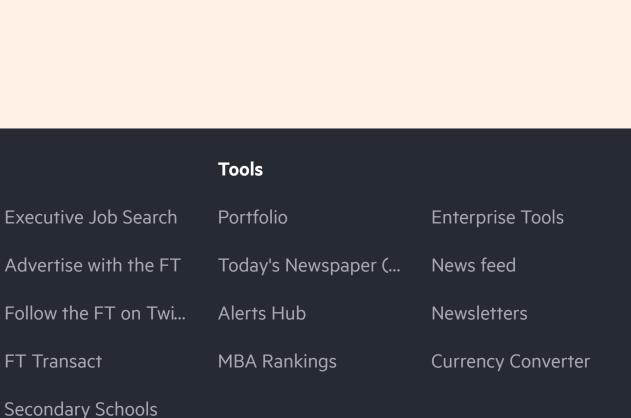
Individual Subscripti...

**Group Subscriptions** 

Republishing







A Nikkei Company

Feedback

Privacy

Cookies

Copyright

Legal & Privacy

Terms & Conditions

Slavery Statement & ...

Support

View Site Tips

Help Centre

Accessibility

myFT Tour

About Us

Follow the topics in this article

+ Add to myFT

**US politics & policy** 

Coronavirus

**Social affairs** 

Facebook Inc

Georgia