CNN

'From worst to first': These states have tamed coronavirus, even after reopening. Here's how they're doing it, and why they can't let up

By Holly Yan, CNN   5 hrs ago

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© John Moore/Getty Images   GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT - MAY 20: A waiter serves patrons at L'escale restaurant on May 20, 2020 in Greenwich, Connecticut. After two months of lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, Connecticut partially reopened some businesses today, one of the last states to begin to do so. Restaurants can now serve patrons at outdoor seating at socially-distanced tables. Employees must wear masks. (Photo by John Moore/Getty Images)

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When Covid-19 suddenly ravaged New York, hospitals looked "apocalyptic." Refrigerated trucks turned into morgues because there wasn't enough space for all the victims.
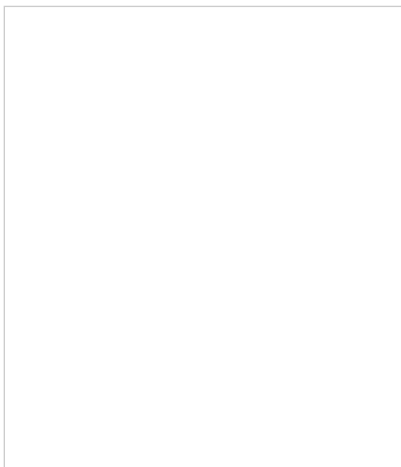
That was March. Three months later, the state had "done a full 180, from worst to first," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

Now, the rates of infection, hospitalizations or deaths have plummeted in New York and several other states -- paving the way for full economic reopenings.

It's the opposite of what's happening in most of the US, where the virus is surging and more than half the states have paused or backtracked their reopenings.

Here's how some states have helped get coronavirus under control -- and what they're doing to make sure it stays that way:

Connecticut

How much the state has improved:

Connecticut has consistently had one of the lowest rates of transmission (R numbers) of any state in the country. An R number represents how many people each infected person is likely to go on and infect, on average.

Connecticut has an R number of about 0.90. That means fewer and fewer people are getting infected in the state.