

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Whole-of-America Response

Sunday, April 19, 2020

“AS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ALWAYS SHOW IN CHALLENGING TIMES, WHEN HARDSHIP COMES, AMERICANS COME TOGETHER. WE RISE TO THE CHALLENGE.”
- VICE PRESIDENT PENCE

Topline Briefing Points and Messages

- On April 16, President Trump released [Guidelines for Opening America Up Again](#), providing a plan for rolling back social distancing measures and reopening the country’s economy in several phases, depending on location.
 - Under the guidelines, states will need to meet six metrics that include demonstrating a downward trajectory of COVID-19 cases over a 14-day period and a robust system for testing health care workers before they can proceed to a phased opening.
 - The guidelines also outline state responsibilities to have in place before moving into a reopening plan: protecting workers in critical industry, particularly protecting the most vulnerable, those who live and work in senior care facilities, and having a plan for testing symptomatic individuals with a focus on vulnerable populations.
 - The federal government will continue to work with governors across the country to ensure that they have the equipment and the supplies and the testing resources to reopen safely and responsibly.
- As of **April 18**, FEMA, HHS, and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping: 55.8 million N95 respirators, 77.1 million surgical masks, 6.1 million face shields, 11.4 million surgical gowns, 564 million gloves, 10,998 ventilators and 8,450 federal medical station beds.
 - FEMA continues to expedite movement of commercially pre-sourced and commercially procured critical supplies from the global market to medical distributors in various locations across the U.S. through [Project Airbridge](#).
 - On **April 17**, Vice President Pence issued a letter to the nation's governors summarizing all the medical equipment and supplies that have been distributed to each state from FEMA between the first of this month and April 14th through Project Airbridge and through the commercial supply network.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the [Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\)](#), an immediate relief program that provides \$19 billion in support to farmers and ranchers, maintains the integrity of our food supply chain and ensures access to food for those in need.
 - Direct support to farmers and ranchers provides \$16 billion based on actual losses for agricultural producers.
 - USDA will partner with regional and local distributors to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products. The distributors and wholesalers will provide these items to food banks, community and faith-based organizations and other non-profits serving people in need.

Supply Chain Task Force

- The FEMA/HHS Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force increases supply of medical supplies and equipment to front line healthcare workers.
 - Supply is executed through a four-pronged approach: Preservation, Acceleration, Expansion, and Allocation, to rapidly increase supply today and expand domestic production of medical supplies and equipment to increase supply long-term.
- As of **April 18**, [Project Airbridge](#) has completed 64 flights with an additional 50 scheduled for a total of approximately 114 flights.
 - On **April 18**, four flights landed in Chicago.
 - Two flights are tentatively scheduled to land today (**April 19**) in Chicago.
 - It is important to note that any number of variables can affect international flight schedules, causing unexpected delays, cancellations or variations in final cargo quantities.
- Through Project Airbridge, the following supplies have been delivered from overseas manufacturers to the U.S. and into private sector supply chains from March 29 to April 18:
 - More than 760,000 N95 masks
 - More than 527 million gloves
 - More than 43.5 million surgical masks
 - More than 6.3 million surgical gowns
 - Nearly 1.9 million thermometers
 - More than 562,000 face shields
- FEMA established the airbridge to shorten the time it takes for U.S. medical supply distributors to get commercially pre-sourced and procured personal protective equipment and other critical supplies into the country for their respective customers.
 - FEMA covers the cost to fly supplies into the U.S. from overseas factories, cutting the time it takes to ship supplies from weeks to days. FEMA does not have detailed visibility on PPE amounts until cargo is loaded.
 - As part of the current agreement with distributors, 50 percent of supplies on each plane are directed by the distributors to customers within hotspot areas with the most critical needs. These areas are determined by HHS and FEMA based on CDC data.
 - FEMA is providing distributors with up-to-date information on the locations across the country hardest hit by COVID-19 or in most need of resources now and in the future.
 - The remaining 50 percent is fed into that distributors' normal supply chain and onto their customers across the U.S. in order to not disrupt the current supply chain system.
- The strategy to allocate medical supplies and equipment is based on COVID-19 disease activity and its effects, as well as the need to facilitate distribution of limited supplies to areas where resources are needed most urgently.
 - Leveraging quantitative data sets provided by FEMA, HHS, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), FEMA's National Resource Prioritization Cell combines these data streams, analyzes the available COVID-19 disease activity data to determine current and potential future areas that most urgently require resources.
 - The team of experts works through this process every 96-hours to ensure resource prioritization recommendations are driven by the best available or most current data.

DAILY BRIEFING POINTS: COVID-19 WHOLE-OF-AMERICA RESPONSE

- Since **April 12**, three flights have been completed to expedite shipments of approximately 10 million FEMA-procured N95 masks from 3M. The first 2 million have arrived in the U.S. and additional flights are being scheduled for the balance.
- To date, 8.5 million N95 masks from the Department of Defense have been distributed to cities prioritized by the White House Task Force; an additional 1.65 million were delivered to New York, Michigan, and Illinois.
- Another 3.4 million DoD N95 masks were shipped to distribution centers in five states for further movement to Veterans Affairs medical centers across the nation.
- The Defense Logistics Agency awarded a contract to Battelle for sixty N95 Critical Care Decontamination System units for the sanitation and reuse of N95 respirators.
 - Nine systems have been deployed: two to New York and one each to California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Washington. Systems are en route to Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.
 - Additional units are planned for deployment across the U.S. by early May.
- The Supply Chain Task Force is working with private sector companies to help augment the supply chain by facilitating conversion of their manufacturing lines to produce PPE such as masks, gowns and other items in need.
- The Task Force is also connecting companies with suppliers of high demand materials required to produce PPE. For instance, the Task Force connected Medline, a company that manufactures hand sanitizer, with the Renewable Fuels Association and Plastic Industry Association. These partnerships will allow Medline to continue hand sanitizer production.
- The Strategic National Stockpile has begun shipping doses of hydroxychloroquine to locations in New York State, California, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Kentucky, Louisiana, Florida, Missouri, South Dakota, Texas, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, West Virginia, and the Department of Veterans Affairs by request.

By the Numbers

- Forty-two states, four territories and more than 37 tribes have issued stay-at-home orders.
- All 50 states, five territories, and Washington, D.C., have been approved for major disaster declarations to assist with additional needs identified.
- As of **April 18**, FEMA and HHS have provided or are currently shipping 10,571 ventilators from the Strategic National Stockpile and the Defense Department to: Alaska (60), Arizona (100), California/LA County (170), Colorado (100), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (25), Connecticut (350), Delaware (50), District of Columbia (200), Florida (200), Georgia (150), Guam (55), Illinois (600), Indiana (100), Louisiana (350), Maryland (470), Massachusetts (400), Michigan (700), the Navajo Nation (50), Nevada (150), New Jersey (1,558), New York (4,400), Oregon (140), Rhode Island (100), Washington (73) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (20).
 - Governor Brown of Oregon sent the state's 140 ventilators directly to New York; and,
 - Governor Inslee of Washington returned 427 of the state's 500 ventilators to the SNS to be deployed to areas of greatest need.
 - Governor Newsom of California is sending 500 state-owned ventilators to medical hotspots across the country through Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMAC). States that will receive these ventilators include New York (100), New Jersey

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(100), Illinois (100), Maryland (100), Delaware (50), Washington, D.C. (50), and Nevada (50).

- The federal government has approximately 9,055 total ventilators available: 8,855 in the Strategic National Stockpile; 200 from the Department of Defense.
- As of **April 18**, FEMA has obligated \$5.7 billion in support of COVID-19 efforts.
- FEMA currently has 3,038 employees supporting COVID-19 pandemic response out of a total 20,443 agency employees ready to respond to other emergencies should they occur.
- As of **April 18**, 80 agencies across 27 states, the District of Columbia, one tribe and one U.S. territory have sent 189 text messages via the Wireless Emergency Alert system; 48 messages to broadcast stations via the Emergency Alert System.
- To date, the President has approved 44 National Guard requests for federal support for the use of National Guard personnel in a Title 32 duty status, with seven requests pending approval.
 - Pursuant to this approval, the federal government will fund 100 percent of the cost share for National Guard orders up to 31 days. These orders of duty must be effective no later than April 20.
 - This approach allows National Guard members to receive additional benefits associated with 31-day deployments and allow states additional time to issue new orders.
 - More than 28,748 National Guard troops have activated to help with testing and other response efforts.
- To date, CDC, state, and local public health labs and other laboratories have tested more than four million samples.
 - To date, the federal Community Based Testing Sites have screened more than 100,088 individuals.
- The U.S. Public Health Service deployed more than 1,500 officers in support of nation-wide efforts to mitigate the virus' potential spread.
- The U.S. Military working with HHS has deployed thousands of personnel to design and build 79 temporary hospitals and alternate care facilities with 33,786 projected beds in 22 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded contracts for the design and build of 30 alternate care facilities in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.
 - As of **April 18**, 1,815 USACE personnel are activated to support the COVID-19 mission, with more than 15,000 personnel engaged in additional response efforts.

FEMA and HHS Response

- FEMA, HHS, and our federal partners work with state, local, tribal and territorial governments to execute a whole-of-America response to COVID-19 pandemic and protect the health and safety of the American people.

FEMA

- On **March 13**, President Trump declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Stafford Act
 - 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories, and 37 tribes are working directly with FEMA.

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- A tribal government may choose to be a subrecipient under a state that has chosen to be a recipient of FEMA assistance, or choose to be a direct recipient of FEMA.
- All 10 Regional Response Coordination Centers and emergency operations centers in all states and territories are active and supporting response efforts across the country.
- Requests for assistance, especially for critical supplies, should be routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. The most efficient way to identify critical gaps and get results:
 - Consistent with the principle of locally executed, state managed, and federally supported response, requests for assistance at the local and county levels should first be routed to their respective state.
 - Any needs that cannot be met by the state or tribe should then be sent to the respective FEMA regional office. FEMA regions will direct requests to the FEMA NRCC in Washington, D.C. for fulfillment.
- HHS and FEMA have expanded items supplied by the [International Reagent Resource \(IRR\)](#) to help public health labs access free diagnostics supplies and reagents for COVID-19 testing.
 - Consolidating testing supplies under the IRR simplifies the resource request process for states and territories and alleviates the burden on public health labs on needing to work with separate suppliers for swabs, reagents and other diagnostic testing supplies.
- HHS and FEMA deployment of ventilators from the stockpile have helped ensure that hospitals in states such as New York have not run out of ventilator capacity while working to save lives.
 - The federal government has adopted a process to manage allocation of federal ventilator resources to ensure the right number of ventilators are shipped to the right states to sustain life within a 72-hour window.
 - Emergency managers and public health officials submit requests for ventilators to FEMA/HHS, providing detailed data on total medical/ hospital beds; total acute care (ICU) beds; normal occupancy; predicted surge occupancy; and number of ventilators available in the state.
- On **April 15**, FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor [issued a letter to the nation's emergency managers](#) outlining lessons learned from the first 30 days of FEMA leading the “Whole-of-America” response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
 - Lessons learned addressed preservation and prioritization of scarce resources; use of data-driven decision making; utilization of key federal medical staff, Federal Medical Stations and Large-Format Alternative Care Sites; mitigation efforts to flatten the curve; strengthening the supply chain; as well as the importance of busting myths.
 - This guidance is a follow-on to the Administrator's [first letter to emergency managers](#) on March 27, which requested key actions and outlined critical steps for the initial COVID-19 response
- On **April 15**, FEMA's Office of Equal Rights issued a [bulletin outlining best practices](#) to assist state, local, tribal and territorial partners in anticipating and attending to civil rights concerns during the COVID-19 response and recovery.
- On **April 13**, The Department of Homeland Security and FEMA announced the funding notice for an additional \$100 million in supplemental Emergency Management Performance Grant Program funds.
 - The money is available to all 56 states, territories and the District of Columbia as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. All applications must be submitted on [Grants.gov](#) by April 28.

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- On **April 12**, FEMA [issued guidance](#) on the framework, policy details and requirements for determining the eligibility for FEMA reimbursement of states purchasing and distributing food to meet the immediate needs of those who do not have access to food as a result of COVID-19 and to protect the public from the spread of the virus.
- On **April 9**, FEMA announced that it is [suspending rent for disaster survivors](#) living in FEMA-purchased temporary housing units in California, Florida, North Carolina and Texas. The temporary suspension means residents will not have to pay rent in April, May or June.
- On **March 26**, FEMA issued a [request for quotation](#) for vendors who have medical equipment and supplies to sell to the agency. The RFQ can be found on www.sam.gov.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agencies and Offices

- On **April 13**, HHS announced five new contracts for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act (DPA), to General Electric, Hill-Rom, Medtronic, ResMed, and Vyair, as well as two other contracts for ventilator production, to Hamilton and Zoll.
 - Combined with contracts with [General Motors](#), [Philips](#) and [GE](#) rated under the DPA issued last week, the contracts will provide a total of 187,431 ventilators by the end of 2020.
 - The thousands of ventilators delivered to the Strategic National Stockpile starting this month, continuing through the spring and summer, will provide more capacity to respond to the pandemic as it evolves.
- Beginning **April 10**, [HHS and FEMA are working with states with federal Community-Based Testing Sites](#) to clarify whether sites want to continue as they are now, or transition to full state control.
- On **April 10**, HHS began delivering the initial [\\$30 billion in relief funding](#) to providers in support of the national response to COVID-19, with \$26 of the \$30 billion expected to be delivered to providers' bank accounts the same day.
- On **April 10**, HHS Secretary Azar sent a follow up letter to hospital administrators, reinforcing the need for data to be provided daily to facilitate planning, monitoring, and resource allocation in response to COVID-19.
- On **April 8**, HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration [awarded more than \\$1.3 billion to 1,387 health centers](#). These centers will help communities across the country detect coronavirus; prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19; and maintain or increase health capacity and staffing levels to address this public health emergency.
- On **April 6**, HHS [announced it will release \\$186 million in additional CDC funding](#) to state and local jurisdictions with accelerating or rapidly accelerating COVID-19 cases to support response activities and surveillance capabilities.
- On **March 24**, HHS [announced \\$250 million in grants](#) from the Administration for Community Living to help states, territories and tribes provide meals to older adults.
- Also on **March 24**, HHS [awarded \\$100 million](#) to support HHS health resources and services administration-funded health centers across the country to address screening and testing needs, acquire medical supplies and boost telehealth capacity.
- HHS identified [\\$80 million dollars specifically for tribes](#), tribal organizations, and tribal health service providers.
- On **March 21**, HHS awarded contracts to five companies to purchase approximately 600 million N95 respirators over the next 18 months.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- The nation's [Slow the Spread](#) campaign continues through **April 30**. CDC [recommends that everyone use a cloth face covering](#) in community settings to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- CDC continues to encourage use of [personal protective equipment optimization strategies](#) for healthcare providers to optimize resources, deal with limited resources, and make contingency plans or alternative strategies when supplies are limited.
- On **April 8**, CDC issued [additional guidance](#) to help ensure critical infrastructure workers can perform their jobs safely after potential exposure to the virus.
- On **April 3**, CDC launched [COVIDView](#), a weekly report that summarizes and interprets key indicators from a number of existing surveillance systems.
- On **March 28**, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services sent a letter to the nation's hospitals requesting they report data to HHS, CDC, and the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Patient Impact and Hospital Capacity Module. These daily reports include bed capacity and supplies.
- On **March 17**, CDC issued a Level 3 [Travel Health Notice for cruise ship travel](#). CDC recommends that all people defer travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide. On April 10, CDC extended guidelines for an additional 100 days.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- FDA approved a Phase-3 clinical trial using a rheumatoid arthritis drug for treatment of severe COVID-19 pneumonia.
- FDA has granted [30 Emergency Use Authorizations](#) of commercially available diagnostic tests, including one antibody test to be used in hospital laboratories.
- On **April 16**, the FDA [announced an expansion of testing options](#) through use of synthetic swabs – with a design similar to Q-tips – to test patients by collecting a sample from the front of the nose.
- On **April 14**, the FDA issued a consumer update: [How You Can Make a Difference During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#), outlining ways to help such as donating blood or saving PPE for frontline workers.
- On **April 3**, the [FDA announced](#) a new national effort to bring blood-related therapies for COVID-19 to market as fast as possible.
 - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) will collaborate with American Red Cross and three companies on [the development of convalescent plasma and hyperimmune globulin immunotherapies](#) to make safe and effective treatments available.
- On **March 28**, FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) to allow hydroxychloroquine sulfate and chloroquine phosphate products donated to the Strategic National Stockpile to be distributed and used for certain hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

Other Federal Agencies

- American Red Cross and the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) continue to seek blood and convalescent plasma donations. To find where you can donate blood, visit [aabb.org](#).

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- People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus and may be able to help others fighting the infection [by donating plasma](#).
- On **April 17**, the Department of Homeland Security distributed a guide on COVID-19 funding available to law enforcement to stakeholders. This document includes descriptions of programs, eligibility requirements, applications, and application deadlines.
- On **April 17**, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency released version 3.0 of the [Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers guidance](#) to help state and local jurisdictions and the private sector identify and manage their essential workforce while responding to COVID-19.
- As of **April 16**, the U.S. Coast Guard was tracking one cruise ship due to arrive in Los Angeles on April 20 with 111 passengers and 378 crew members onboard. USCG is also tracking 124 cruise ships moored, at anchor, or underway in vicinity of a U.S. port with approximately 9,500 crew members onboard.
- On **April 15**, the White House announced [a collaboration by Schema.org](#) to help Americans find the most up-to-date public health guidance through use of standard tags in website code to make webpages easier to find in online search engine results.
- On **April 15**, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations launched [Operation Stolen Promise](#) to combat COVID-19 related fraud and other criminal activity.
- As of **April 13**, the Small Business Administration's [Paycheck Protection Program](#) has approved 880,000 Paycheck Protection Program loans for \$217 billion. More than 4,400 lending institutions have participated in making these SBA-backed loans.
- On **April 9**, the [U.S. Department of Education announced](#) more than \$6 billion from the CARES Act will be distributed to colleges and universities to provide direct emergency cash grants to college students whose lives and educations have been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak.
- On **April 3**, President Trump issued "[Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use](#)" directing DHS and FEMA, in consultation with the HHS, to use the Defense Production Act to keep scarce medical resources within the United States for domestic use. CBP is assisting FEMA in temporarily detaining export shipments of PPE.
- On **April 2**, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated \$3 billion in CARES Act funding to communities to address COVID-19. The CARES Act provided a total of \$12 billion to HUD.
- On **March 24**, the Department of Justice created a national task force to actively look for and act on hoarding and price gouging.
- Many telecommunication companies are working with the Federal Communications Commission to "[Keep Americans Connected](#)." This pledge is designed to ensure that Americans do not lose their broadband or telephone connectivity during the COVID-19 response.
- The U.S. Department of Labor [announced availability of up to \\$100 million for Dislocated Worker Grants](#) to help address the workforce-related impacts related to COVID-19.