

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Whole-of-America Response

Thursday, April 23, 2020

“THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN BE ASSURED THAT FROM PHASE 1 FORWARD, ALL THE WAY THROUGH PHASE 3 AND REOPENING, WE’RE GOING TO BE HELPING TO GUIDE THE STATES TO FOCUS ON THE MOST VULNERABLE, BEGINNING WITH OUR SENIORS WITH SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS.”

- VICE PRESIDENT PENCE

Topline Briefing Points and Messages

- On **April 16**, President Trump released [Guidelines for Opening Up America 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 federal government will continue to work with governors across the country to ensure they have the equipment, supplies and testing resources to reopen safely and responsibly.
- In order to help Americans return to work, the federal government will distribute cloth facial coverings for critical infrastructure workers who do not need medical-grade personal protective equipment (PPE) for their daily work.
 - The facial coverings will be delivered in a phased approach for infrastructure workers, first responders and food producers. Prioritization will also be to areas with the highest COVID-19 infection rates.
 - Distribution will be based on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s analysis of priority infrastructure sectors and will include food production and distribution, energy, water and wastewater treatment, essential transportation and logistics, first responders, communications, hazardous materials management, manufacturing of medical supplies, and sanitation and disinfection supplies.
 - The first phase includes distribution of more than 19 million facial coverings.
 - HHS anticipates production of 6.5 million facial coverings each week for the next month.
- As of **April 22**, FEMA, HHS, and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping: 66.9 million N95 respirators, 96.9 million surgical masks, 6.6 million face shields, 13.8 million surgical gowns, 727 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](#).
- The U.S. has now processed 4.69 million samples, which is more total tests than the following nations combined: Australia, Austria, Canada, France, India, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

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

- States should be making full use of the vast testing resources available to them, to include leveraging the full capacity available through commercial laboratories in addition to the capability provided through state laboratories.
- HHS and FEMA have expanded items supplied by the [International Reagent Resource \(IRR\)](#) to help public health labs access free diagnostics supplies and reagents.
- 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.
- 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.

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 22**, Project Airbridge has completed 74 flights with an additional 40 scheduled, or in transit, for a total of approximately 114 flights.
 - Three flights landed yesterday, **April 22**: two in Chicago and one in New York City.
 - Four flights are scheduled to land today, **April 23**: three in Chicago and one in Los Angeles.
 - 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.
- The Airbridge program delivers PPE to the point of greatest need through prioritized distributor supply chains nine times faster than movement by sea.
- 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 22:
 - More than 768,000 N95 respirators
 - More than 670 million gloves
 - More than 61 million surgical masks
 - More than 7.4 million surgical gowns
 - More than 2.1 million thermometers
 - 562,000 face shields
- On **April 17**, Vice President Pence issued a letter to the nation's governors summarizing the medical equipment and supplies that have been distributed to each state from FEMA from April 1 – 14 through the airbridge program and the commercial supply network.
- Project Airbridge delivers PPE to the point of greatest need through prioritized distributor supply chains nine times faster than movement by sea.
 - FEMA covers the cost to fly supplies into the U.S. from overseas factories, cutting the time it takes to ship commercially pre-sourced and procured supplies from weeks to days. FEMA does not have detailed visibility on PPE amounts until cargo is loaded.

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

- The prices of the airbridge flights vary, but on average each flight cost is approximately \$750,000 to \$800,000, depending on the carriers and cargo being air lifted.
- 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.
- Since **April 20**, four flights carrying a total of 7.3M FEMA-procured N95 masks from 3M have landed in Chicago.
 - The masks will be distributed to prioritized areas as determined by FEMA and HHS.
- 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 Illinois, Michigan and New York.
- 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 60 N95 Critical Care Decontamination System units for the sanitation and reuse of N95 respirators.
 - Eleven systems have been deployed: two to New York and one each to California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, and Washington. Systems are en route to Arkansas, California (second unit), Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Texas (two units).
 - Additional units are planned for deployment across the U.S. by early May.
- The Strategic National Stockpile has begun shipping doses of hydroxychloroquine to locations in California, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, South Dakota, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, 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.

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

- As of **April 22**, FEMA and HHS have provided or are currently shipping 10,563 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 (1,550), 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 ventilators include New York (100), New Jersey (100), Illinois (100), Maryland (100), Delaware (50), Washington, D.C. (50), and Nevada (50).
- The federal government has approximately 10,568 total ventilators available: 9,486 in the Strategic National Stockpile; 1,082 from the Department of Defense.
- As of **April 21**, FEMA has obligated \$5.5 billion in support of COVID-19 efforts.
- FEMA currently has 3,094 employees supporting COVID-19 pandemic response out of a total 20,605 agency employees ready to respond to other emergencies should they occur.
- As of **April 21**, 80 agencies across 27 states, the District of Columbia, one tribe and one U.S. territory have sent 193 text messages via the Wireless Emergency Alert system; 48 messages to broadcast stations via the Emergency Alert System.
- To date, the President has approved 47 National Guard requests for federal support for the use of National Guard personnel in a Title 32 duty status.
 - Pursuant to this approval, the federal government will fund 100 percent of the cost share for T-32 National Guard orders through May 31.
 - More than 33,075 National Guard troops have activated in T-32 duty status, along with 2,699 State Active Duty, to help with testing and other response efforts.
- To date, CDC, state, and local public health labs and other laboratories have tested more than 4.69 million samples.
 - To date, the federal Community Based Testing Sites have screened more than 119,480 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. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded 32 contracts for the design and build of alternate care facilities in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Wisconsin.
 - As of **April 23**, 1,648 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 the Stafford Act.
 - 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories, and 37 tribes are working directly with FEMA.
 - 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 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 20**, President Trump launched the Dynamic Ventilator Reserve Program, an innovative public-private partnership to access up to 65,000 additional ventilators in hospitals across the country that can be redeployed when not in use.
- 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.

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

- 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](https://www.grants.gov) by April 28.
- 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 21**, HHS announced [\\$955 million in grants from the Administration for Community Living](#) to help meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities. The grants will fund home-delivered meals, care services in the home, respite care and other support to families and caregivers, and other support services.
- On **April 20**, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration under HHS began releasing \$110 million in emergency grant funding to strengthen access to treatments for substance use disorders and serious mental illnesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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 Vyaire, 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.

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

- 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.
- 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.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- FDA launched the Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program (CTAP) to speed approval of drugs and therapies. 72 therapies are now being tested, including hydroxychloroquine, and another 211 are in active planning for clinical trials.
- FDA published a [new blog post](#) on the [Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program](#). The program uses every available method to move new treatments to patients as quickly as possible, while at the same time finding out whether the treatments are helpful or harmful.
- FDA has granted [37 Emergency Use Authorizations](#) of commercially available diagnostic tests, including the first diagnostic test using saliva from patients in health care settings, and four antibody tests to be used in hospital laboratories.
- FDA has authorized four mask sterilizations systems to disinfect N95 masks, with one system that can [decontaminate 4 million N95 masks per day](#).
- 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.

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

- On **April 3**, the [FDA announced](#) a new national effort to bring blood-related therapies for COVID-19 to market as fast as possible.
 - HHS 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.
- The FDA released [food shopping information](#) to reassure consumers that there is currently no evidence of human or animal food or food packaging being associated with transmission of the coronavirus that causes 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](#).
 - 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](#).
- As of **April 21**, the U.S. Coast Guard tracked the arrival of one cruise ship in Los Angeles with 115 passengers and 378 crew members onboard. As part of a three-phased debarkation plan, the passengers are scheduled to disembark by April 24. USCG is currently monitoring 77 commercial vessels that have embarked from a coronavirus ports of interest and are scheduled to arrive in US ports in the next 96 hours.
- As of **April 20**, the Small Business Administration's [Paycheck Protection Program](#) has processed nearly \$350 billion in loans to 1.6 million small businesses. More than 4,900 lending institutions have participated in making these SBA-backed loans.
- 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**, 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.
 - The funding includes \$16 billion in direct support to farmers and ranchers based on actual losses as well as funding to purchase and distribute \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy and meat products to food banks, community and faith-based organizations and other non-profits serving people in need.
- 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.
- 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.

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

- On **April 20**, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations, with assistance from Customs and Border Protection Field Intelligence Group, seized 5,300 potentially fraudulent COVID 19 test kits.
- 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 21, the Department of Education is planning to announce an additional \$6.28 billion in funding for institutions to cover costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to COVID-19.
- 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 **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.