

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Whole-of-America Response

Sunday, April 12, 2020

“THANKS TO RAPID WORK BY THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE FDA AND PRESIDENT TRUMP’S VISION FOR AN ALL-OF-AMERICA RESPONSE, INNOVATORS ARE GIVING OUR HEALTHCARE WARRIORS NEW TOOLS NEARLY EVERY DAY TO FIGHT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.”
- HHS SECRETARY ALEX AZAR

Topline Briefing Points and Messages

- 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 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](#).
- Data and information-sharing **are critical** for moving forward in this response and equipping areas expected to be the next medical hot spots.
 - Considering both scarcity of ventilators in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and current capacity of the private sector to meet demand, the federal government has adopted a process to manage allocation of federal ventilator resources to ensure the right amount of ventilators are shipped to the 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.
 - States can send requests outside of the 72-hour window for consideration by the federal government; allocation decisions and/or shipments, however, should not be expected until the state is within the immediate 72-hour window.
 - Hospital administrators across the country are being asked to provide daily reports on testing, capacity, supplies, utilization, and patient flows to facilitate the ongoing public health response.

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 11**, [Project Airbridge](#) has completed 28 flights with an additional 28 scheduled for a total of 56 flights.

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

- Two flights landed on April 11 in Chicago. Cargo included approximately 41 million gloves.
- 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 10:
 - 445,000 N95 masks
 - 130,000 of the N95 masks were purchased by FEMA from the first Airbridge flight, which landed at JFK March 29
 - 257.6 million gloves
 - 25.1 million surgical masks
 - 3.8 million gowns
 - 24,000 face shields
 - 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.
- FEMA established the airbridge to shorten the amount of 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 amount of time it takes to ship supplies from weeks to days. FEMA does not have detailed visibility on PPE amounts until the cargo is loaded.
 - As part of the current agreement with distributors, 50 percent of the supplies on each plane are directed by the distributors to customers within hotspot areas with the most critical needs for those supplies. 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.
- To date, 8.5 million N95 masks from the Department of Defense were distributed to cities prioritized by the White House Task Force; an additional 1.65 million were delivered to New York, Michigan, and Illinois.
- FEMA has awarded a contract with a manufacturer in South Korea to provide approximately 750,000 test kits. Flights carrying the test kits are expected to begin in the next couple of weeks.
 - The test kits will be distributed to states that can process them and have a need to augment their existing testing capability. Urgent needs will be given priority based on medical hot spot analysis.
- 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.
- Since **April 6**, two shipments of critical Hydroxychloroquine medicine have departed the Strategic National Stockpile.

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- The first shipment of nine million tablets is in support of New York City, Chicago, New Orleans and Detroit.
- The second shipment of 10.1 million tablets is intended for St. Louis, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Milwaukee, Miami, Houston, Indianapolis, and Baton Rouge. A portion of this shipment will also support the Veterans Affairs Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy and the Department of Defense.

By the Numbers

- Forty-two states, four territories and more than 37 tribes have issued stay-at-home orders.
- All 50 states, 4 territories, and Washington, D.C., have been approved for major disaster declarations to assist with additional needs identified.
- As of **April 11**, FEMA and HHS have provided or are currently shipping 10,448 ventilators from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and the Defense Department to: Alaska (60), Arizona (100), California/LA County (170), Colorado (100), Connecticut (150), Delaware (50), Florida (200), Georgia (150), Guam (30), Illinois (400), Indiana (100), Louisiana (350), Maryland (470), Massachusetts (400), Michigan (700), the Navajo Nation (50), Nevada (150), New Jersey (1,658), New York (4,400), Oregon (140), Washington (500) 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 is returning 400 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 (100), Illinois (100), Maryland (100), Delaware (50), Washington, D.C. (50), and Nevada (50).
- The federal government has approximately 6,924 total ventilators available: 6,724 in the Strategic National Stockpile; 200 from the Department of Defense.
- Department of Defense deployed 70 ventilators with USNS Mercy, 52 ventilators with USNS Comfort, and 36 ventilators with three Army field hospital personnel supporting Seattle and New York City.
- As of **April 9**, FEMA and HHS have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping: 38 million N95 respirators, 32.6 million surgical masks, 5.5 million face shields, 4.7 million surgical gowns, 30.3million gloves, 212,000 coveralls, 10,448 ventilators and 8,600 federal medical station beds.
- FEMA obligated \$5.2 billion in support of COVID-19 efforts.
 - Obligations on April 11 included \$77.2M for New York to provide a scalable medical capability to include staff, equipment, and supplies to assist with medical care at alternate care facilities.
 - FEMA currently has 2,901 employees supporting COVID-19 pandemic response out of a total 20,550 agency employees ready to respond to other emergencies should they occur.
- As of **April 11**, 72 agencies across 25 states, the District of Columbia, one tribe and one U.S. territory have sent: 164 text messages via the Wireless Emergency Alert system; 42 messages to broadcast stations via the Emergency Alert System.

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- To date, the President has approved 38 National Guard requests for federal support for the use of National Guard personnel in a Title 32 duty status. Thirteen requests are pending approval.
 - Requests approved include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
 - 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 two weeks from the date of the Presidential Memorandum on April 6.
 - This approach will allow National Guard members to receive the additional benefits associated with 31-day deployments as well as allow each state additional time to issue new orders.
 - Nearly 24,400 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 2.29 million samples.
 - To date, the federal Community Based Testing Sites have screened more than 84,500 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 received 28 mission assignments totaling approximately \$1.7 billion to design and build alternate care sites in Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, District of Columbia, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, the Navajo Nation, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.
 - As of **April 12**, 2,163 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

- On **March 13**, President Trump declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Stafford Act
 - 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories, and 29 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.
 - FEMA activated all 10 Regional Response Coordination Centers to support ongoing response efforts across the country. Emergency operations centers in all states and territories are activated.
- 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:

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- 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.
- FEMA/HHS are delivering supplies and ventilators using its logistics supply chain management system to procure and track commodities to supplement state and tribal purchases.
 - FEMA issued a [request for quotation](#) on **March 26**, for vendors who have medical equipment and supplies to sell to the agency. The RFQ can be found on www.sam.gov.
 - On **March 21**, HHS awarded contracts to five companies to purchase approximately 600 million N95 respirators over the next 18 months.
 - As of **April 5**, the FEMA/HHS Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force is validating responses from 11 manufacturers to identify viable supply sources for additional PPE.
- On **April 11**, 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.

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

- HHS is releasing \$160 million dollars in additional CDC funding to dozens of regional hotspots for effective response to the worsening situation in their jurisdictions.
- 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.
 - The letter included a set of frequently asked questions that details federal government's data needs, explains the division of reporting responsibility between hospitals and states, and provides clear, flexible options for the timely delivery of this critical information.
 - The letter also recognizes that many non-Federal entities may already be requesting this information from hospitals; therefore, the federal government has done its best to minimize the burden of sharing this data and to reduce further duplication of effort.
- 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.

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- On **April 8**, HHS [announced the first contract for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act](#), to General Motors. A second [contract was awarded to Philips](#) on the same day for ventilator production.
 - The Philips contract was for \$646.7 million for the delivery of 2,500 ventilators to the Strategic National Stockpile by the end of May 2020 and a total of 43,000 ventilators to be delivered by the end of December 2020.
 - GM's contract, at a total contract price of \$489.4 million, is for 30,000 ventilators to be delivered to the Strategic National Stockpile by the end of August, with a production schedule allowing for the delivery of 6,132 ventilators by June 1.
- 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. Additionally, 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. This purchase encourages manufacturers to increase production of N95 respirators now, with a guarantee that companies will not be left with excess supplies if private sector orders are cancelled.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- On **March 31**, the president extended the nation's [Slow the Spread](#) campaign until April 30.
- CDC released [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 **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 **April 3**, CDC launched [COVIDView](#), a weekly report that summarizes and interprets key indicators from a number of existing surveillance systems.
- 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 **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.
- 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.

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- FDA has granted [30 Emergency Use Authorizations](#) of commercially available diagnostic tests, including one antibody test to be used in hospital laboratories.
- The National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases mobilized a rapid research response to quickly develop effective COVID-19 countermeasures, including diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments.

Other Federal Agencies

- President Donald J. Trump signed the bipartisan CARES Act to provide relief to American families, workers, and the heroic healthcare workers on the frontline of this outbreak.
- As of **April 11**, the Department of Defense has deployed more than 320 medical area personnel from the United States Navy and United States Air Force to support New York City and Philadelphia hospitals.
- As of **April 7**, the Small Business Administration's [Paycheck Protection Program](#) has processed more than \$70 billion in loans for qualifying small businesses.
- On **April 9**, the U.S. Coast Guard was tracking one remaining cruise ship (Pacific Princess) to arrive in US port with 125 passengers.
- 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. PPE subject to this policy includes: N95 respirators, and a variety of other respirators; surgical masks; and, surgical gloves.
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) published [updated guidance on essential critical infrastructure workers](#) during COVID-19 response and a quick reference of the [Do's and Don'ts](#) for employers and employees related to COVID-19 exposures.
- On **April 8**, CISA and United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre issued an activity alert titled, [COVID-19 Exploited by Malicious Cyber Actors](#). This joint alert seeks to address the growing use of COVID-19-related themes by malicious cyber actors and provides resources to help detect and prevent COVID-19 malicious activity on networks.
- On **March 28**, the Office of Personnel Management announced the COVID-19 Surge Response Program. Under this program, agencies will be able to post rotational opportunities for federal employees to support the COVID-19 response.
- On **March 24**, the Department of Justice created a national task force to actively look for and act on hoarding and price gouging.
 - The task force is a result of the March 23 Executive Order and HHS determination under the Defense Production Act that certain personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies are scarce.
 - DOJ and HHS partnered to distribute medical supplies confiscated from price gougers to those on the frontline of the COVID-19 response in New York and New Jersey.
- The Department of Homeland Security has extended the REAL ID enforcement deadline to Oct. 1, 2021.
- American Red Cross and Advancing Transfusion and Cellular Therapies Worldwide (AABB) continue to seek blood and convalescent plasma donations.

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- People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus.
- The Red Cross has been asked by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to help identify prospective donors and manage the distribution of these products to hospitals treating patients in need. More information at [RedCross.org](https://www.RedCross.org).
- To find where you can donate blood, visit aabb.org.
- 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 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) donated 58,400 N95 respirators to the states of California, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas and Washington, D.C.
- 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.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [issued a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions](#) for single family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages for the next 60 days.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is delivering one million meals per week to children in rural areas who are out of school.
- The U.S. Department of Education [announced all borrowers with federally held student loans will have zero interest rates for at least 60 days](#). Additionally, these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months to allow them greater flexibility.