

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Whole-of-America Response

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

“OUR MASSIVE AIRLIFT OPERATION FOR CRITICAL SUPPLIES – IT’S CALLED PROJECT AIRBRIDGE – CONTINUED TODAY AS FIVE MASSIVE PLANES, FLIGHTS, LANDED IN THE UNITED STATES PACKED WITH PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. AND OUR NATION’S HEALTH CARE WORKERS WILL BE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THAT.

- PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

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 Project Air Bridge expedites movement of critical supplies, in varying quantities, from the global market to medical distributors in various locations across the U.S.
 - The air bridge was created to reduce the time it takes for U.S. medical supply distributors to receive 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, reducing shipment time from weeks to days.
 - FEMA does not have detailed visibility on PPE amounts until the cargo is loaded.
 - **As of April 7**, 15 flights have landed, containing critical personal protective equipment (PPE): gloves, gowns, goggles, and masks.
 - Five flights are scheduled to arrive today, 4 in Chicago and 1 in New York.
 - An additional 52 flights are scheduled over the next three weeks.
 - Overseas flights arrive at operational hub airports for distribution to hotspots and nationwide locations through regular supply chains. Flight arrivals do not mean supplies will be distributed in the operational hub locations.
 - 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.
 - Per agreements with distributors, 50 percent of supplies on each plane are for customers within the hotspot areas with most critical needs. The remaining 50 percent is fed into distributors’ normal supply chain to their customers in other areas nationwide.
 - HHS and FEMA determine hotspot areas based on CDC data.
- 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 federal ventilator resources to ensure the right amount of ventilators are shipped to the to the right states to manage the immediate crisis.
 - The federal government has 8,644 total ventilators available: 8,044 in the Strategic National Stockpile; 600 from the Department of Defense.

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- Emergency managers and public health officials must continue to report on the following data to FEMA and HHS:
 - Total medical/ hospital beds;
 - Total acute care (ICU) beds;
 - Normal occupancy;
 - Predicted surge occupancy; and
 - Number of ventilators available in your state.
- This morning, the Department of Health and Human Services [announced the first contract for ventilator production rated under the Defense Production Act](#), to General Motors.
 - 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 2020, with a production schedule allowing for the delivery of 6,132 ventilators by June 1, 2020.
 - The rating of this contract under the DPA follows President Trump's direction to HHS Secretary Alex Azar to invoke the Defense Production Act with regard to GM's production of ventilators on March 27.
 - By rating contracts under the DPA, HHS is helping manufacturers like GM get the supplies they need to produce ventilators as quickly as possible, while also ensuring that these ventilators are routed through the Strategic National Stockpile to where they're needed most.

By the Numbers

- Forty-two states, four territories and 24 tribes have issued stay-at-home orders.
- 51 states and territories have been approved for major disaster declarations to assist with additional needs identified.
 - Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin, as well as Washington, D.C., the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- As of **April 7**, FEMA and HHS have provided or are currently shipping 9,090 ventilators from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and the Defense Department to: Alaska (60), California (170), Connecticut (50), Delaware (50), Florida (200), Georgia (150), Guam (30), Illinois (600), Louisiana (350), Maryland (220), Massachusetts (100), Michigan (700), New Jersey (1,350), 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).
 - Additional allocations in process include a 250-bed Federal Medical Station and a Public Health strike team for Michigan; and a 250-bed Federal Medical Station for D.C.

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- FEMA obligated \$4.5 billion in support of COVID-19 efforts. This week, major obligations include:
 - \$55 million for Washington, D.C. for USACE to provide assessment and construction of alternate care facilities to support medical surge.
 - \$33.7 million for Nevada for DOD to provide Title 32 personnel and equipment to assist states to execute emergency protective measures.
 - \$26.1 million for New Jersey for the purchase of PPE and materials at the emergency operations center, and equipment purchases.
- 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 from: 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 Island. Eleven requests are 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 2 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.
 - To implement this change, FEMA will work with the Department of Defense to modify all of the existing mission assignments to include this language, and to extend the end date appropriately.
 - Nearly 27,000 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 1.87 million samples.
- The U.S. Public Health Service deployed more than 1,500 officers in support of nation-wide efforts to mitigate the virus' potential spread.
- FEMA currently has 2,637 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 6**, 66 agencies across 24 states, the District of Columbia, one tribe and one U.S. territory have sent: 135 text messages via the Wireless Emergency Alert system; 36 messages to broadcast stations via the Emergency Alert System.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received 32 mission assignments totaling approximately \$1.6 billion to design and build alternate care sites in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, 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 8**, more than 2,020 USACE personnel are activated to support the COVID-19 mission, with more than 15,000 personnel engaged in additional response efforts.
- 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 7**, FEMA and HHS have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping: 47.8 million N95 respirators, 57.6 million surgical masks, 5.2 million face shields, 9 million surgical gowns, 62.6 million gloves, 144,000 coveralls, 8,920 ventilators and 8,450 federal medical station beds.

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 23 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:
 - 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 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.
- 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 5**, the FEMA/HHS Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force is validating responses from 11 manufacturers to identify viable supply sources for additional PPE.

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.
- 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

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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 4**, CDC issued an [updated recommendation](#) that requires cruise line companies to arrange for the private transport of travelers to their homes, without the use of commercial flights or public transportation.
- On **March 27**, CDC issued a [Global Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#), advising travelers to avoid all nonessential international travel. [Travelers returning from international destinations](#) should stay home for a period of 14 days after returning to the U.S., monitor their health, and practice social distancing.
 - 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 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.
- 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

- On **March 27**, President Trump signed the CARES Act into law, allocating \$2 trillion.

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- On **April 3**, the Small Business Administration [Paycheck Protection Program](#) offered nearly \$350 billion in loans to small businesses. More than 17,500 loans valued at over \$5.4 billion were approved on first day of the Paycheck Protection Program.
- On **April 7**, the U.S. Coast Guard continued to facilitate the disembarkation of 100 passengers and 881 crew members from one cruise ship in Florida.
 - The Coast Guard continues to coordinate medical evacuations of COVID related critically ill crew members from cruise ships in and around Florida ports.
- On **March 28**, The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) published [updated guidance on essential critical infrastructure workers](#) during COVID-19 response.
- 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 is continuing to seek blood and convalescent plasma donations
 - 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.
- 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.