

Administration Resources and Information on COVID-19

Good evening,

Under the leadership of President Trump and Vice President Pence, the full weight of the U.S. Government is working to protect the health and safety of the American people. Decisive action from President Trump at the beginning of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak—including prudent travel restrictions and an early containment strategy—has given state and local officials and private sector partners time to prepare. Last month, the President formed a Coronavirus Task Force, led by Vice President Mike Pence and comprised of subject-matter experts, to organize a whole-of-government response. The Administration and Coronavirus Task Force have and will continue to work with State-Local-Tribal officials and private sector and non-profit partners in preparing for and responding to the Coronavirus. It is important to note that at this time, the risk of infection for Americans remains low, and all agencies are working aggressively to monitor this continuously evolving situation and to keep our partners and the public informed.

Below, please find additional pertinent information and resources for your business, community, and family.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,
Joe

Joe Russo
Special Assistant to the President and Director of Business Outreach
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Today's Actions

CMS Announces Actions to Address Spread of Coronavirus

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced several actions aimed at limited the spread of COVID-19. Specifically, CMS is issuing a call to action to health care providers across the country to ensure they are implementing their infection control procedures, which they are required to maintain at all times. Additionally, CMS is announcing that, effective immediately and, until further notice, State Survey Agencies and Accrediting Organizations will focus their facility inspections exclusively on issues related to infection control and other serious health and safety threats, like allegations of abuse – beginning with nursing homes and hospitals. For more information on these actions, please see the CMS press release [here](#).

HHS Announces Initial Funding to Jurisdictions Supporting COVID-19 Response

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is announcing upcoming action to provide initial resources to a limited number of state and local jurisdictions in support of our nation's response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). For more information, please see the HHS press release [here](#).

**Remarks by President Trump and Vice President Pence at a Coronavirus Briefing with
Airline CEOs – March 4, 2020 (remarks)**

Q Is your message to Americans that it's safe to fly? And can you convince the traveling public of that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I think where these people are flying, it's safe to fly. And large portions of the world are very safe to fly. So we don't want to say anything other than that. And we have closed down certain sections of the world, frankly, and they've sort of automatically closed them also. They'll understand that and they understand it better, perhaps, than anybody. Yes, it's safe.

**Press Briefing by Vice President Pence and Members of the White House Coronavirus –
March 3, 2020 (remarks)**

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Today, a couple of decision points from the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Today, we will issue new guidance from the CDC that will make it clear that any American can be tested with no restrictions, subject to doctor's orders. Several governors said to me that there was an impression that the test would not be administered to people who were only mildly symptomatic. We are issuing new guidance, effective immediately, from the CDC that will make it clear that any clinician on health authority can administer the test.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: CDC-approved tests are moving out. We should have 2,500 kits out before the end of this week, which represents about 1.5 million tests. Those are being focused on hospitals in the areas that have been affected, as well as hospitals that have requested those tests. In addition to that, IDT is also spinning up their manufacturing for tests. I am told that there'll be up to a million a week by next week.

Up-To-Date Information

Additional helpful resources and up-to-date information can be found on the below websites and social media channels.

For background and the most up-to-date information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website: [HERE](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Twitter ([here](#))
- Facebook ([here](#))

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Twitter ([here](#))
- Facebook ([here](#))

What you should know:

- [How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
- [Symptoms](#)
- [Prevention & Treatment](#)
- [Testing](#)

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [What to Do If You Are Sick with COVID-19](#)
- [Stigma Related to COVID-19](#)
- [What You Need to Know](#)
- [What to Do If You Are Sick with COVID-19](#)
- [Facts about COVID-19](#)

Situation Updates:

- [Situation Summary](#)
- [Cases in the U.S.](#)
- [Global Locations with COVID-19](#)
- [Risk Assessment](#)
- [CDC in Action: Preparing Communities](#)

Information for Businesses:

- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- [Information for Communities, Schools, and Businesses](#)
- DOL: [OSHA Resources for Workers and Employers on COVID-19](#)
- WHO: [Get Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19](#)

Information for Travel and Transportation:

- [Information for Travel](#)
- [Guidance for Ships](#)
- [Guidance for Airlines and Airline Crew](#)
- State: [Travel Advisories](#)
- State: [Traveler's Checklist](#)
- State: [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#)

Information for Healthcare Providers and Research Facilities:

- [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Resources for State, Local, Territorial and Tribal Health Departments](#)
- [Resources for Healthcare Facilities](#)
- [Information for Laboratories](#)
- [Resources for First Responders](#)

Information for Families and Households:

- [Information on COVID-19 for Pregnant Women and Children](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Household Readiness](#)

Information for Schools and Childcare Providers:

- [Interim Guidance for Administrators of U.S. Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools](#)
- [Resources for Institutes of Higher Education](#)
- DOEd: [Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#)

Information for Community Events and Gatherings:

- [Interim Guidance for Mass Gatherings and Large Community Events](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Community- and Faith-Based Organizations](#)

Information for Military Response:

- DOD: [Department of Defense Coronavirus Response](#)

Further Updates: Below, please find pertinent updates on Administrations actions.

- **FDA Issues New Policy to Help Expedite Availability of Diagnostics.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's issued a new policy for certain laboratories seeking to develop diagnostic tests for coronavirus in order to achieve more rapid testing capacity in the U.S. (more [here](#))
- **The Associated Press: Pence Says States Will Receive Help If Coronavirus Spreads.** Vice President Mike Pence said Friday that the federal government is prepared to assist the states if the coronavirus spreads significantly across the country — an eventuality he called unlikely. Pence told a brief press conference in Florida that as a former Indiana governor he understands the need for state and federal partnerships in dealing with a potential health crisis. President Donald Trump appointed Pence on Wednesday to oversee the administration's response to the coronavirus. Pence was in Florida to speak to a conservative political group and raise money for Republican congressional campaigns, but also met with GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis and his health staff at Palm Beach International Airport before speaking with reporters. (more [here](#))
- **USA Today: 'No Need To Panic': President Trump Says Risk To Americans Is Low As First Coronavirus Death Reported In U.S.** In a rare televised news conference from the White House on Saturday, President Donald Trump said the risk to Americans from coronavirus remains low and that he would meet with pharmaceutical companies next week to discuss development of a vaccine. His comments came as the first U.S. death from the disease was reported. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence also announced new travel restrictions to combat the virus, which has infected more than 84,000 people and killed nearly 3,000 people globally. An existing travel ban on Iran will be expanded to prevent any foreign national who has been in that country in the past 14 days from entering the U.S. The administration also advised Americans not to travel to regions of Italy and South Korea that have been impacted by the virus. (more [here](#))

What You Need To Know | President Trump Has Taken Decisive Action to Protect the American People From the Coronavirus

President Trump's efforts are helping to stem the spread of the virus to the U.S., support state and local health officials, equip the medical community with vital resources, and expedite the development of a vaccine and treatments.

President Trump responded early and decisively to the coronavirus, and continues to lead an aggressive response that puts the health and safety of the American people first.

- Because of the decisive early action taken by President Trump, the risk of infection for Americans remains low and precious time has been gained to continue to prepare.

- The President acted in January to restrict travel coming from China and stem the spread of the virus to the U.S.
- President Trump declared a public health emergency in January, opening up reserved funding to support response efforts to the virus.
- As the President has said, he wants to work with Congress to ensure we have all the funding necessary for the Administration's aggressive response.

President Trump has taken critical steps to prevent travelers from spreading the coronavirus to the United States.

- The President suspended entry into the U.S. of certain foreign nationals who have recently traveled to China and pose a risk of transmitting the disease here at home.
- President Trump put in place a quarantine for citizens returning to the U.S. who have traveled to Hubei province, the center of the coronavirus outbreak.
- The President suspended entry of foreign nationals traveling from Iran, which has experienced a widespread outbreak of the virus.
- Airport screenings have been expanded to identify anyone showing symptoms.
- The Administration has put in place heightened travel advisories, warning Americans against traveling to regions of Italy and South Korea.
- We are working closely with Italy and South Korea to put in place enhanced screenings for travelers coming to the United States.
 - As a result of these efforts, there will be 100% screening for all direct flights coming from Italy and South Korea.

President Trump is making sure our state and local health officials have the support they need to respond to any coronavirus development.

- The Trump Administration is in regular communication with state and local officials to make sure every community is prepared for any future coronavirus development.
 - This week, the Vice President participated in a discussion with over 50 governors on efforts to respond to and prepare for the coronavirus.
 - On February 24th, the White House met with over 40 state, county, and city health officials on coronavirus response.
 - The Coronavirus Task Force provided an update at the National Governors Association's Winter Meeting about the U.S. response to the coronavirus.
- Agencies across the government are prepared to assist state and local governments with response to the virus.
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has mobilized state health departments to receive returned travelers who pose a threat of transmitting the virus.
 - 62 Public Health Emergency Preparedness programs are working across the country on quarantine, isolation, case finding, protecting health care workers, and assuring medical supply chains.
 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is readying over 50 teams to respond and support states and territories that may need assistance.

At President Trump's direction, the Administration is taking steps to ensure our medical community has the resources and protection they need.

- The United States has the best medical system in the world, and we are working to ensure they have the resources to do what they do best.
 - The U.S. is ranked as the most prepared country in the world to respond to a pandemic.
- More than 30 million masks have been stockpiled and a request for funds to purchase additional resources has been provided to Congress.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and CDC are granting emergency use authorization to increase access to respirators.
 - This action will allow healthcare personnel to use certain industrial respirators during the outbreak to protect themselves while providing care.
- The FDA has rapidly expanded testing capability for the virus and will soon have the capacity to perform close to a million tests.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) developed a new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System code for health care providers and labs to test patients for the virus.
 - As a result, we will be able to better track the public health response for the coronavirus and help protect people from the spread.

The Trump Administration is working around the clock to expedite the development of a coronavirus vaccine and therapeutics to treat the virus.

- The President recently met with pharmaceutical executives to discuss how the federal government can help accelerate vaccine development.
- The U.S. is working to expedite the development of a vaccine and therapeutics and that can be used to protect from infection and to treat patients already infected.
 - Therapeutics can be developed within months and provide effective treatment while a vaccine is being developed.
- The Administration is consulting experts and expanding research to better understand the transmission of coronavirus.
 - In partnership with the private sector, the Department of Energy identified a potential drug target in a newly mapped protein of the virus that causes the coronavirus.

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