Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Whole-of-America Response

Monday, May 18, 2020

"WE WANT TO TAKE SAFE AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES. THE PRESIDENT HAS LAID OUT VERY BALANCED CRITERIA AND APPROACHES THAT HE SUGGESTS STATES FOLLOW TO DO THAT. THAT'S THE PATH FORWARD THAT WE NEED TO TAKE." – HHS SECRETARY AZAR

Topline Briefing Points and Messages

- On **May 16**, the FDA announced the authorization of an at-home sample collection kit for COVID-19 diagnostic testing. The emergency use authorization was issued to Everlywell, Inc. for the Everlywell COVID-19 Test Home Collection Kit.
  - The test kit is authorized to be used by individuals at home who have been screened using an online questionnaire that is reviewed by a health care provider.
  - Results will be returned to the patient through Everlywell's independent physician network and their online portal.
- On **May 15**, President Trump announced Operation Warp Speed. The goal of this national program is to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.
  - Operation Warp Speed is a public-private partnership between components of HHS, the Department of Defense, private firms and other federal agencies.
  - The program aims to have substantial quantities of a safe and effective vaccine available for Americans by January 2021.
- As of **May 17**, FEMA, HHS, and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping: 83.4 million N95 respirators, 133.7 million surgical masks, 11.5 million face shields, 24.4 million surgical gowns, and 989.4 million gloves.
- FEMA has procured and delivered 4.7 million swabs and 2.8 million media so far in the month of May. In support of the White House Task Force's testing initiative, FEMA is supporting the procurement of specimen collection supplies to supplement the supplies states and healthcare providers are procuring from the private market.
- As of **May 17**, CDC, state, and local public health labs and other laboratories have tested more than 10.8 million samples.
  - As of **May 14**, the FDA has issued 101 individual emergency use authorizations (EAU) for test kit manufacturers and laboratories, including 12 antibody tests and 1 antigen test.
- On **May 11**, President Trump announced additional efforts to ensure that every state, territory and tribe has the resources they need to meet the robust testing plans described in the President's Guidelines for Opening up America Again and the Testing Blueprint unveiled by the President on April 27.

By the Numbers

- All 50 states, five territories, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and Washington, D.C. have been approved for major disaster declarations to assist with additional needs identified.
    - To date, there are 71 tribes working directly with FEMA, with one tribe that is a direct recipient with a major disaster declaration and an emergency declaration, 40 tribes that are direct recipients with emergency declarations and 30 tribes that are recipients under state declarations.
    - 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.
- As of **May 17**, 187,120 samples were processed at federally run Community Based Testing Sites and 274,037 samples were processed at public-private partnership testing sites.
    - Out of 41 original Community Based Testing Sites, 14 continue to operate as federally run sites, 20 have transitioned to state management, and 7 have closed in consultation with the states. 1 additional site is in progress.
    - HHS has established a public-private partnership with pharmacy and retail companies to accelerate testing. To find locations, visit the COVID-19 Community-Based Testing Site page.
    - Under the CBTS public-private partnership, there are currently 324 live sites in 44 states and Washington, D.C. conducting testing.
- Combined, FEMA and HHS have obligated $87.5 billion in support of COVID-19 efforts.
- The federal government has approximately 12,866 total ventilators available in the Strategic National Stockpile. HHS issued the Department of Defense a fulfillment letter for the ventilator agreement releasing 1,082 ventilators back to the Department of Defense.
- As of **May 17**, FEMA and HHS have provided 10,708 ventilators from the Strategic National Stockpile and the Defense Department to states, tribes and territories.
- In support of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and our nation's veterans, FEMA has coordinated shipments of more than 6 million respirator masks, 1.5 million gloves, and 239,000 face shields to facilities across the country.
- FEMA has 3,123 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 **May 15**, FEMA has obligated $6.0 billion in support of COVID-19 efforts. This support includes:
    - Temporary Medical Facilities including medical personnel, mortuary and ambulance services: $2.4 billion
    - PPE including medical supplies and pharmaceuticals: $1.5 billion
    - National Guard: $1.3 billion.
    - Public Assistance Emergency Protective Measures (Non-PPE): $489 million
    - Commodities: $27 million
    - Crisis Counseling: $15 million
- As of **May 18**, 92 agencies across 29 states, the District of Columbia, two tribes and one U.S. territory have sent a total of 259 alerts containing information on COVID-19 to cell phones and other wireless devices via the WEA system, and 62 alerts to radios/televisions via EAS.

- To date, the President has approved 49 National Guard requests for federal support for the use of National Guard personnel in a Title 32 duty status.
    - Through this order, the federal government will fund 100 percent of the cost for T-32 National Guard orders through June 24.
    - As of **May 17**, 40,081 National Guard troops have activated in T-32 duty status and 847 troops have activated in State Active Duty status to help with testing and other response efforts.
- The CDC has nearly 4,600 personnel supporting the outbreak response.
- The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps has deployed more than 3,470 officers in support of nation-wide efforts to mitigate the virus' potential spread.
- As of **May 15**, 751 USACE personnel are activated to support the COVID-19 mission, with more than 2,500 personnel engaged in additional response efforts.
- To date, FEMA, HHS and the Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency (CISA) along with other federal agencies have distributed over 113.1 million cloth face coverings for critical infrastructure workers.

Supply Chain Task Force

- 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.
- As of **May 17**, Project Air Bridge has completed 147 flights with an additional 69 scheduled, or in transit, for a total of approximately 216 flights.
    - Three flights landed yesterday, May 17: two in Los Angeles and one in New York City (JFK).
    - Five flights are scheduled to land today, May 18: four 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 or cancellations.
- Through Project Air Bridge, the following supplies have been delivered from overseas manufacturers to the U.S. and into private sector supply chains from March 29 through May 17:
    - Nearly 1.4 million N95 respirators
    - 921 million gloves
    - 97.4 million surgical masks
    - 19 million surgical gowns
    - More than 2.3 million thermometers
    - More than 1.4 million face shields
    - Nearly 392,000 coveralls
    - 109,000 stethoscopes
    - 370,000 oxygen masks
    - More than 160,000 cannulas
- Since April 12, 42 flights carrying nearly 42 million FEMA-procured masks and respirators from 3M have landed in the U.S. The masks are inventoried at a warehouse and then distributed to prioritized areas as determined by FEMA and HHS.
    - Two additional flights are scheduled to land today, May 18: one in Baltimore and one in Columbus, OH.

- 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 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 seven days to ensure resource prioritization recommendations are driven by the best available or most current data.

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.
    - All 10 Regional Response Coordination Centers and emergency operations centers in all states and territories are active and supporting response efforts across the country.
- To support the Administration's Testing Blueprint, FEMA is working to source and procure testing material – specifically, testing swabs and transport media. The FEMA-sourced material will be provided to states, territories and tribes for a limited duration to help increase testing capacity in support of their individualized plans.
- FEMA is coordinating two shipments totaling a 14-day supply of personal protective equipment to all 15,400 Medicaid and Medicare-certified nursing homes. The shipments are meant to supplement existing efforts to provide equipment to nursing homes.
- On **May 12**, FEMA released guidance to state, local, tribal and territorial governments that outlines how they may be able to request reimbursement through FEMA's Public Assistance Program for costs associated with keeping Alternate Care Sites open. This includes temporary and expanded facilities that may be minimally operated when COVID-19 cases decrease.
- On **May 12**, FEMA released an Exercise Starter Kit to help organizations facilitate their own internal workshops based on reconstitution planning principles and the White House's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again.
- As of **May 13**, crisis counseling service grants have been made available to a total of 44 states and the District of Columbia to support programs providing free, confidential counseling through community-based outreach and educational services.
- On **May 4**, FEMA announced $200 million in supplemental funding from the CARES act for grants through its Emergency Food and Shelter Program.
    - Combined with the $120 million in annual funding appropriated by Congress, a total of $320 million will be distributed beginning in early June to human service organizations assisting those in need throughout the country.
- On **April 23**, FEMA announced an additional $100 million in funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This supplemental funding will provide financial assistance directly to

eligible fire departments, non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations and State Fire Training Academies for critical PPE and supplies needed to respond to COVID-19. The application period begins April 28.

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

- On **May 13**, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration announced $40 million in emergency funding for a grant program to suicide prevention. The grant funding is intended to help with the increase in mental health needs as a result of COVID-19.
- On **May 13**, HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration awarded $15 million in CARES Act funding to 159 organizations across five health workforce programs to increase telehealth capabilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On **May 7**, HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly $583 million to 1,385 HRSA-funded health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and eight U.S. territories to expand COVID-19 testing.
- On **May 7**, HHS announced the deployment of 50 portable kidney dialysis machines and supplies to New York City and Long Island Intensive Care Units (ICU) to provide surge capacity for facilities caring for patients with COVID-19, which has caused acute kidney injury and therefore required dialysis in some ICU cases.
- On **May 5**, the Treasury Department began distributing $4.8 billion in critical funds from the CARES act to tribal governments.
    - The CARES act provides a total of $8 billion to address coronavirus preparedness, response, and recovery for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
    - The Administration has allocated over $1 billion through the Indian Health Service (IHS), to support tribes, tribal organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations in their coronavirus response efforts.
- On **May 1**, HHS announced $40 million of available funding for the development and coordination of a strategic network of national, state, territorial, tribal and local organizations to deliver important COVID-19 related information to minority, rural, and socially vulnerable communities hardest hit by the pandemic.
- On **May 1**, HHS began processing payments from the Provider Relief Fund to hospitals with large numbers of COVID-19 inpatient admissions through April 10, as well as to rural providers in support of the national response to COVID-19.
    - These payments are being distributed to healthcare providers who have been hardest hit by the virus. Facilities admitting large numbers of COVID-19 patients received $12 billion and providers in rural areas received $10 billion.
    - An additional $50 billion is being distributed throughout the healthcare system to help address the impact of COVID-19 to the entire healthcare system.
    - $61 billion has been delivered to healthcare providers within 40 days of the passage of the CARES Act.
- On **April 30**, HHS through the Health Resources and Services Administration, awarded $20 million to increase telehealth access and infrastructure for providers and families to help prevent and respond to COVID-19.

- On **April 29**, the National Institutes of Health announced positive results of a trial using remdesivir; patients with advanced COVID-19 and lung involvement who received remdesivir recovered, on average, faster than similar patients who received placebo.
- On **April 29**, the National Institutes of Health announced a new initiative, Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics; aimed at speeding innovation, development, and commercialization of COVID 19 testing technologies and funded by $1.5 billion from federal stimulus.
- On **April 27**, HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), launched a new COVID-19 Uninsured Program Portal, allowing health care providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or provided treatment for uninsured COVID-19 individuals on or after Feb. 4 to submit claims for reimbursement.
- On **April 24**, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced an additional $250 million in emergency COVID-19 funding to increase access to and improve the quality of community mental and substance use disorder treatment services through the expansion of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC).
- As of **April 24**, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) has a COVID-19 Medical Countermeasure Portfolio that includes development of 26 products supported under public-private partnerships.
    - Of these, 15 are diagnostics, seven are treatments, three are vaccines, and one is a rapidly deployable capability to help protect the American people from COVID-19.
    - To date, BARDA has obligated $39.8 million for diagnostics, $334.9 million for treatments, more than $979.3 million for vaccines.
- 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.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- On **May 13**, President Trump and the CDC released guidance for colleges and universities on how to develop, implement and maintain a plan to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty and staff.
- On **May 6**, CDC published a report on COVID-19 in correctional and detention facilities.
    - CDC recommends that facility administrators, with the support of local health departments and partners, prepare for potential transmission, implement prevention measures, and follow guidance for the management of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases to prevent further transmission.
- The nation's Slow the Spread campaign ended **April 30**. CDC continues to recommend that everyone use a cloth face covering in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- On **April 28**, the Centers for Disease Control and the Environmental Protection Agency issued guidance on for cleaning and disinfecting spaces when reopening America; the guidance offers

step by step instructions on how Americans can reduce risk of exposure to COVID 19 and stay safe in public spaces, workplaces, businesses, schools, and homes.

- 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 26**, CDC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released targeted guidance to help meat and poultry processing facilities implement infection control practices to reduce the risk of transmission and illness from COVID-19 in these facilities.

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.
- On **May 11**, the FDA released new guidance to improve the efficiency of clinical trials. These guidance documents aim to make the process for submitting applications to initiate studies for new drugs and biological products more efficient and outline recommendations for ways to design clinical trials to evaluate safety and effectiveness of these medical products for COVID-19.
- On **May 9**, the FDA issued the first emergency use authorization for a COVID-19 antigen test, a new category of tests designed for rapid detection of the virus that causes COVID-19.
    - Antigen tests can play a critical role in the fight against COVID-19 due to their ability to be produced at a lower cost than other tests. Antigen tests can also potentially scale to test millions of Americans a day due to their simpler design.
- On **May 9**, HHS announced the allocation plan for the drug remdesivir. The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) expects supplies of the drug to be delivered to all 50 states, five territories, the Veterans Health Administration and the Indian Health Service by the end of the week.
    - Gilead Sciences, Inc. is donating approximately 607,000 vials of the experimental drug over the next six weeks.
    - State health departments will distribute the doses to appropriate hospitals within their states.
- On **May 8**, the FDA authorized the first diagnostic test with the option of using home-collected saliva samples for COVID-19 testing.
- As of **May 11**, the FDA has issued 67 individual Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for test kit manufacturers and 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 **May 1**, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization for the investigational antiviral drug remdesivir for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in adults and children hospitalized with severe disease.

- On **April 28**, the FDA issued a new video resource explaining Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs), one of several tools FDA uses to help make important medical products available quickly during public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.
    - EUAs provide more timely access to drugs, diagnostic tests and/or other critical medical products that can help diagnose, treat and/or prevent COVID-19.
- On **April 27**, the FDA released two new fact sheets for the food and agriculture sector outlining guidelines on use of disposable facemasks and cloth coverings, as well as summarizing key steps employers and coworkers can take to stay open, continue to slow the spread and support continuity of essential operations.
- During the **April 24** White House Press Briefing, FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn announced approval the first COVID-19 home collection test kit.
- On **April 21**, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization for IntelliVue Patient monitors intended to be used by healthcare professionals in the hospital environment for remote monitoring of adult, pediatric and neonate patients having or suspected of having COVID-19 to reduce healthcare provider exposure.

Other Federal Agencies

- On **May 14**, President Trump announced continued efforts to ensure a fully stocked, resilient national stockpile and the strong domestic industrial base needed to confront COVID-19.
- On **May 13**, the DHS Science and Technology Directorate released a predictive modeling tool to estimate natural decay of the virus that causes COVID-19 under a range of temperatures and relative humidity. The tool is designed to assist response efforts and estimate the environmental persistence of the virus under certain combinations of temperatures and humidity.
- On **May 13**, the FBI and CISA issued a warning to organizations researching COVID-19 of the likely targeting and network compromise by the People's Republic of China. The guidance warned healthcare, pharmaceutical and research sectors working on COVID-19 response that they are the prime targets of activity and should protect their systems.
- On **May 9,** the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced $3 billion in contracts to buy dairy, meat, and produce from U.S. farmers, ranchers, and specialty growers; the goods will be provided to support food lines and kitchens and the Farmers to Families Food Box Program.
- On **May 6**, the Department of Labor awarded an additional $10 million in Dislocated Worker Grants in response to the coronavirus public health emergency. The funding is from the CARES Act and is intended to help address the workforce-related impacts of COVID-19. This brings the total amount of Dislocated Worker Grants awarded to states and territories to $171 million.
- On **May 5**, CISA, along with the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), released a joint advisory to international healthcare and medical research organizations providing an update on ongoing malicious cyber activity and new cyber threats related to COVID-19.
- On **May 4**, the Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that agricultural businesses are now eligible for the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans as part of the Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act.
- On **May 3**, the U.S. Department of Treasury and the SBA announced that the second round of funding for the Paycheck Protection Program processed 2.2 million loans to small businesses

since it launched on April 27. Including the previous funding bill, more than $670 billion is available for the loan program in total.

- On **April 28**, President Trump signed an executive order to keep meat processing plants open to ensure the continued supply of beef, pork, and poultry to the American people. The order uses the Defense Production Act to classify meat processing as critical infrastructure.
- 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.