

HIGHLIGHTS | President Trump and the Coronavirus Task Force Provide an Update to the American People

CORONAVIRUS LEGISLATION

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “My administration continues to work with Democrats and Republicans to reach an agreement on an urgent relief bill for the millions of American workers and small businesses and large businesses that were badly affected by the medical difficulty that we’ve had.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “Congress must demonstrate the same bipartisanship again and join together to pass the Senate bill as written and avoid playing any more partisan games.”

PREVENTING HOARDING AND PRICE GOUGING

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “Earlier today, I signed an executive order invoking presidential authority under [the Defense Production Act] to prohibit the hoarding of vital medical equipment and supplies, such as hand sanitizers, face masks, and personal protective equipment.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “It will be a crime to stockpile these items in excessive quantities, which is happening to a relatively small degree.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “The Department of Justice will be aggressively prosecuting fraudulent schemes related to the pandemic.”

ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR: “We’re talking about people hoarding these goods and materials on an industrial scale for the purpose of manipulating the market and ultimately driving windfall profits. If you are -- have a big supply of toilet paper in your house. This is not something you have to worry about. But, if you are sitting on a warehouse with masks, surgical masks, you will be hearing a knock on your door.”

EVALUATING NEXT STEPS

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “At the end of the 15 day period, we’ll make a decision as to which way we want to go, where we want to go, the timing.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: “We will be using data to recommend new protocols to allow local economies to cautiously resume their activity at the appropriate time. We also have a large team working on what the next steps will be once the medical community gives a region the okay.”

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "America will again, and soon, be open for business, very soon. A lot sooner than three or four months that somebody was suggesting. A lot sooner. We cannot let the cure be worse than the problem itself."

DISTRIBUTING CRITICAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "FEMA is distributing 8 million N95 respirator masks and 13.3 million surgical masks across the country right now, focusing on the areas with the greatest need."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We have shipped 73 pallets of personal protective equipment to New York City and 36 pallets to the state of Washington."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "In the past 96 hours, FEMA has also received donations of approximately 6.5 million masks."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "On the subject of supplies in our meeting today at FEMA, we received a report of the new supply chain stabilization task force. Rear Admiral John Polowczyk is leading that up at FEMA. And the task force is working to identify the medical supplies that exist in the marketplace today, to evaluate the national stockpile and also working with industries around the country to produce even more of the critical medical supplies."

TESTING

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "Because of the unprecedented public and private partnership that the President initiated with our commercial labs, we stand here today with 313,000 tests having been completed, with the test results delivered to Americans."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "I'm pleased to report that self-collected swabs can now be collected in clinics and drive-thru testing sites. This will expedite the testing process, of course."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "We also will be issuing today from Health and Human Services new guidance to direct all commercial labs to prioritize testing for hospitalized patients."

PRIVATE SECTOR STEPPING UP

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "As the President said, businesses across America are stepping up - maybe as never before in our history."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "3M in fact has diverted 500,000 N95 masks from commercial customers."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "Facebook, we would acknowledge, has donated their emergency reserve of over 700,000 N95 masks to health care workers."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "We're also seeing companies step forward to repurpose their manufacturing facilities to create ventilators, to create equipment. And I know I speak for the President when I say how grateful and proud we are for that."

PROTECTING THE ASIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "It's very important that we totally protect our Asian-American community in the United States and around the world. They're amazing people and the spreading of the virus is not their fault in any way, shape, or form."

POSTPONING REAL ID REQUIREMENTS

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "I'm also announcing that we're postponing the deadline for compliance with Real I.D. requirements. At a time when we're asking Americans to maintain social distancing, we do want to require people to go with their local DMV. We will be announcing the new deadline very soon."

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