
From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2020 10:41:35 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing | April 8, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP,
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE
IN PRESS BRIEFING

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

5:47 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. This is a holy week, when religious believers across the nation will observe Passover, Good Friday, and Easter. Millions of Jewish families begin Passover at sundown tonight, a sacred, unbroken tradition that traces back to the ancient land of Egypt. And on Sunday, we celebrate our beautiful, wonderful Easter, which we all look forward to. And we're going to have many Easters together in churches in the future.

We're getting closer. You see the numbers. We're getting much closer to getting our country back to the way it was. We have now an extra two countries that have been attacked: 184. They're

being attacked as we speak, but we'll all win. At some point, we're going to all win. We're going to do it sooner than people think.

Earlier today, I spoke with 10,000 of America's faith leaders to thank them for raising the spirits of our people during these very difficult days. While we may be physically apart, we can use this time to pray, to reflect, and to focus on our personal relationship with God.

I also spoke with more than 3,000 mayors, county commissioners, and state and tribal leaders to provide an update on our administration's ongoing drive to beat the virus, to crush the virus. And that's happening. And it's happening, I think if you look, a little bit more quickly than people thought. Maybe a lot more quickly, I hope. And it's something that all over the world we're watching, but people are watching us and seeing what we're doing, and they're very impressed.

We're dealing with many countries right now. Many, many countries. And we're giving them whatever information we're able to glean.

I just spoke with the representatives of the UK, and I think that their great prime minister is doing much better today, or at least better. But certainly he's had a tough bout, and he's still going through a tough time, but he seems to be doing better. And that's good.

And we -- we send our regards to Boris and his family and his friends, all of the people that really love him. He's -- he's become a very popular -- before this happened, became a very popular prime minister. He's doing an excellent job. He loves their country; he loves our country. So we appreciate everything he's done, and hopefully he's going to be okay.

Speaking of great people, and people that have done a fantastic

job, I have Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with us. And I'd like to ask Mike to say a few words. And then I think what we'll do, in order to get him back to the State Department, we'll take some questions and we'll then go on with the rest of what I'm going to say. And then we'll take some questions after that, and then Vice President Pence will take over.

So, Mike Pompeo, please.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Thank you, Mr. President. Under the President's leadership, my team and I at the State Department are doing our part to protect the American people from the virus and, importantly, to get them home.

As you know, when many countries shut down their rail lines, their buses, their infrastructure systems, the capacity to get out of those countries -- they were trapped, they're stranded -- the State Department swung into action.

Since January 29th, we have now repatriated over 50,000 United States citizens back to their homes from more than 90 countries, more than 490 flights back to the United States from all across the world. This worldwide scale of our repatriation efforts is without parallel in our lifetime. We are coordinating with foreign governments, militaries, airport authorities, medical units, transportation companies, hotels, you name it. We're working with them to make sure the American people get back to be with their families.

You can see, behind me, the map of the flights, that we have brought back people --

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

SECRETARY POMPEO: -- from all across the world. Every day, I get a chance to hear some of the remarkable stories from our

team. Let me give you just a couple of examples.

Our mission in Peru: Working with the Peruvian military and police forces to send riverboats up the -- up the river to get citizens that were stranded deep inside the Amazon forest.

Our mission in Nepal: Make sure that a woman who was running low on medication could get what she needed at a pharmacy before boarding an evacuation flight that brought her back here.

In Honduras: After the government imposed a very strict 24/7 curfew and closed airports, our embassy sprang into action for stranded Americans -- thousands of them.

A three-year-old boy told one of our consular officers just before he boarded the flight, "Thank you for helping me get back home to my dad." Pretty neat.

We've received similar messages from lots of people. They're proud to know that their country will not leave them stranded and we're going to get them back home.

One woman wrote, quote, "I was in tears when I received the e-mail approving our flight back to the United States. God bless the United States of America." And another said, "I felt like I had allies there that actually treated me like a person or a family member, not just a number."

The Repatriation Task Force at State Department, our consular officers have done great work. I want to thank our partners in the Department of Defense who have helped with some of these flights back home and other government agencies -- our sisters and brothers across the United States government in this administration that have helped get these people back.

And then, lastly, aside from our repatriation efforts, we

continue to help countries around the world as well. We've got CDC officials helping these countries with expertise and all the things that these countries need to get their citizens safe and healthy and back so that we can get the economy all across the world -- the global economy -- back on its feet when this crisis is over.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Very good. Thanks, Mike. Maybe you stick for a little while --

SECRETARY POMPEO: Sure.

THE PRESIDENT: -- and we'll see if anybody has any questions for Secretary of State.

Anybody? Please.

Q Sure. Mr. Secretary, that's an amazing effort that you have made. How do you know when you're done? Because I imagine there are Americans on all corners of the world, and you're always -- someone is going pop up and say, "I want to go home now."

SECRETARY POMPEO: It's a great --

Q When will you give the all -- call that it's over?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Yeah. So, it's a great question. We still have several thousand people that we're working. They identify themselves every day. New people find themselves in a difficult place. Look, we're going to be done when people can travel on the road again. These people traveled abroad on vacations or with their church and were intending to get back on their own. We hope that day comes pretty soon, where they don't have to rely on the State Department to get them back home.

But know this: In the meantime, we're devoting all the resources we have to get them -- they're in -- often in difficult places. They're not in the capital, near the airport, or the roads are closed. And so it's not just a matter of getting a flight down there. There's a lot of work that has to be done to coordinate, to make it all happen and get those people available so they're sitting there when the flight lands, they can get on the plane, and then we can get them back home.

We still have several thousand. We're working on it. We chip away at that number every day. But new citizens go to the State Department website, identify themselves, and say, "I need a little bit of help, in some way," and we do our best to get that to them just as quickly as we can.

Q So you'll keep it up indefinitely?

SECRETARY POMPEO: We're going to keep it up as long as we have resources to do it and there is a need.

Yes, sir.

Q Mr. Secretary, how many of these staffers have tested positive for coronavirus? Have they been tested? Are they going into quarantine? And what does this do to diplomatic efforts overseas if you're pulling 50,000 people out of state capitals -- or national capitals, nation capitals all over the world?

SECRETARY POMPEO: So the vast majority of these 50,000 weren't our officers. These were ordinary citizens who were there, traveling for business or for commercial or for their trip of a lifetime. We've seen some of them in the cruise ships, but of course they're stranded all over the world.

So our embassies -- save for the one that is in Wuhan, which we

did pull everybody out of -- the rest of our facilities around the world are all open. We've had a handful of our folks now test positive, but we feel like we have a good handle on it and we're doing everything we can to make sure that not just the State Department officials, but our Department of Defense colleagues that are working on these missions as well are doing so in a way that reduces risk to them and their wellbeing also.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Thank you so much. Do you feel like China held -- withheld critical information from the United States? And will there be any consequences for that?

SECRETARY POMPEO: You know, this is not the time for retribution, but it is still the time for clarity and transparency. We're still working on this problem set. There's still data that these good people need so that they can perform their analysis of how to both develop therapeutics and a vaccine and to understand where this virus is.

So, every country, China included -- every country needs to be transparent about what's gone on in their country. They need to share that data -- we share ours with the world -- so that the best scientists in the world can get to the right conclusions and bring this economy, this global economy back to the place that we all want it to be as quickly as we can.

Every country has that responsibility. It started in China, and so they had that special responsibility to get it right quickly and fast. Ask every country. As we move forward in the days and weeks ahead, make sure we share that. Do it -- do it right. Do it well. And when we do, we'll get this thing back on.

Q But early on, should they have shared their data sooner with the United States?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Every country has an obligation to share that information accurately, timely, completely, transparently, and thoroughly, just as quickly as they can gather it. We'll leave for another time to evaluate how everyone did in that.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. In the middle, and then him behind.

Q Thank you. Thank you, President Trump and Secretary. I have a question. The World Health Organization has a fundraising drive for about \$700 million for coronavirus resources. China has only donated \$20 million. The United States actually has donated less. So do you feel that China should be giving more to this World Health Organization effort?

THE PRESIDENT: You can say we helped.

Q And can you comment on the U.S. donation?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Do you want to say something, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can just say we helped.

SECRETARY POMPEO: We -- at this point, we're reevaluating our funding with respect to the World Health Organization. You know, this is very consistent with what President Trump said since the beginning of his campaign: Organizations have to work. They have to deliver the outcomes for which they were intended. And we need to make sure that not only the World Health Organization, but every international organization that we take taxpayer money and give it to them for the benefit of America -- we need to make sure it's delivering on those taxpayer dollars.

The World Health Organization is no different in that respect. They have to execute on the mission that they are designed to achieve. And we've seen, with respect to the World

Health Organization, here we are. We haven't -- it hasn't accomplished what it was intended to deliver.

Q Thank you, Mr. President and Mr. Secretary. You said a handful of staffers have tested positive. Are they going to get the hydroxychloroquine treatment? Is that going to be made available to personnel overseas?

SECRETARY POMPEO: I don't know the answer to that. But -- but know that we'll deliver the best medical care every place we can. Some of them are in difficult places where there's not a lot of medical help, and we've done our best to move that medical assistance forward to them in the field.

THE PRESIDENT: Jeff.

Q Thank you, sir. Mr. Secretary -- right here -- can you give us an update on numbers you're seeing about coronavirus cases in Iran, and whether or not you have any updates on the United States helping them with that?

SECRETARY POMPEO: So with respect to our assistance to Iran, we've offered -- from the first day we knew that the virus had struck the people of Iran, we offered humanitarian assistance. I regret that they -- they chose not to take that.

I've heard -- I've heard people talking about sanctions. There are no -- the world should know there are no sanctions that prevent humanitarian assistance, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals from going to Iran. We offered American assistance. We've tried to help other countries get assistance in there as well. We've some ability to do that.

I don't have any better data than what you've seen publicly that I could share with you with respect to the extent of the virus inside of Iran.

Q Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Are you allowing exports of medical supplies at this time? Or what's the status of that?

SECRETARY POMPEO: So you've seen we're making sure that we have what we need for the American people, whether that's gloves -- I'll let the Vice President talk to numbers on that. But at this point, what we are doing in terms of assistance is providing what most of these countries need to learn how to do surveillance themselves, to learn how to conduct tests themselves, to learn the things that can reduce the peak in their countries. Those are the kinds of things.

And we've been doing this. You should know the United States has been incredibly generous. We have CDC officials, like no other country in the world, out helping these nations build out their healthcare -- global epidemic healthcare infrastructure. It's good people like -- that you see sitting to my right. They've been working on this all their life, all around the world, putting these countries in a place where they're better prepared for a virus like this one.

Q Have any U.S. diplomats or U.S. officials contracted the virus as they have tried to rescue U.S. citizens abroad?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Not that I'm aware of. Not that I'm aware. But it's -- there's no doubt -- I remember when we sent our team to get our officials and about 800 American citizens -- non-government citizens -- that were living in Wuhan. I remember when we sent one of our first repatriation flights in there. We were very careful. We sent trained professionals in, but they were going into a very, very difficult, very fraught place. We were blessed they all got back with no one having contracted the virus on that trip.

I'm not aware of any of our officials that have had the virus

attack them while they were performing their functions, trying to get people back. We have a number of State Department officials who have -- who have COVID-19 now and are working their way through. In fact, we've had three fatalities of local employees -- not U.S. direct hires, but local people who were working for the State Department and embassies around the world. We've had three fatalities, so far.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay? Go ahead, please.

Q So, there have been some calls on the World Health Organization for a leadership change there. I was wondering what your thoughts are on that. Senator Martha McSally, for example, has called for Dr. Tedros to resign.

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't made a determination.

SECRETARY POMPEO: I don't want to -- look, this is not the time to be to be doing that kind of change. There'll be a lot of time to look back and see how the World Health Organization performed.

In the meantime, what our task is, is to preserve and protect the American taxpayers, to make sure that our resources don't go to places that aren't going to deliver on behalf of the American people in the world. And President Trump and I are determined to do that.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay?

Q Just a quick follow-up?

THE PRESIDENT: Let's save it. Can we save it?

Q Just a quick follow-up, sir, if I may, on China.

THE PRESIDENT: (Inaudible) busy man. He's a busy man.

Q You said that China has a responsibility to get correct figures. How would you broadly characterize cooperation with China right now?

SECRETARY POMPEO: There's lots of places we've been cooperating, right? They're providing us assistance where we need it. There are places on the ground now where we do have access to the data we need, and we're deeply appreciative of that.

They've said they want to cooperate. We're completely prepared to cooperate with them. That cooperation means sharing data, being transparent, being upfront, allowing information to flow freely. That's our expectation, not -- not just of China, though -- of every country that is in this place today.

We -- collectively, we have to work our way through this, and to do that, you have to have really good data.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay? Thank you, Mike.

SECRETARY POMPEO: Great. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you all. Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

THE PRESIDENT: Appreciate it. Thanks. Okay, thank you very much.

In just a few days, we've delivered nearly 11 million N95 masks to hotspots around the country, as you know, including 6.6 million to New York and New Jersey, 1.8 million to Chicago, 1.7 million to Detroit, and 837,000 to New Orleans.

I spoke with the governor of Louisiana a little while ago, and they're doing, really, pretty well. Much better than they thought. They'll be using fewer beds. As you know, we built a

hospital. We're about set to complete another hospital, and there's even a possibility they won't -- they won't need it. That's what we discussed.

To date, we've shipped out more than 8,000 ventilators, and we have 10,000 -- almost 10,000 sitting. They are ready to go, should we need them. And an additional 2,200 newly manufactured ventilators come online on Monday. We're going to be sending them to various locations, just in case they need them.

My administration is working with Philips to double their production of ventilators by May, and ultimately quadruple production by later this year. High-quality ventilators. We're eliminating bureaucratic barriers to pave the way for Philips's major investments in American manufacturing sites and sales.

This will help to ensure that our country can permanently produce enough ventilators in the future that we can do them by ourselves. We're going to have a big stockpile when we're finished. And we expect to be sending quite a few to other countries to help them after we're finished. And even now, we're -- a couple of countries are really, really in dire need. And it looks like our projections were right on ventilators, and some states that were thinking they would need thousands of more than they thought will -- are now already taken care of, which we're very happy about.

In addition, beginning in May, we'll be receiving almost 300 million new face masks. We're going to have masks of about 300 million; they'll be starting to be delivered in May and during the month of June. So we're ordering a big stockpile, and we're thinking about doing an extra 200 million should we need them, or for the -- or for the stockpile. So we'll be in a position to have something incredible. It'll be a total of 500 million masks.

And today, 750,000 new protective gowns landed in Dallas, Texas, as a result of a partnership led by the federal government, DuPont, and FedEx. And that's been a great partnership. That's worked very well. So we have 600 and -- and we have 750,000 new protective gowns. And these are at a high level -- very high quality.

As American industry steps up to help, so are America's doctors and scientists. Ten drugs are now in clinical trials. And my administration is taking unprecedented actions to make new therapies and treatments available without delay. The doctors, the lab technicians, the companies -- I spoke to them yesterday; I spoke again today. They are coming up with things that are, I think, I hope -- in the very near future -- are going to be very, very special, very important.

Our National Stockpile is now equipped with nearly 30 million hydroxychloroquine pills. So we're up to about 30 million. We're distributing by the millions.

You read about State Representative Karen Whitsett, who I very much appreciate her going public. But she was, I think, very, very much helped by this pill. She saw what I was saying on television. She thought she was in very bad shape. I don't want to go further than that, but you see her story; you know her story. She's a highly respected state rep from Michigan. And she did a -- she did a -- I think she did a great service, what she -- what she's done. She's in terrific shape. She looks fantastic. And she was very generous with her statements.

In addition, the azithromycin and zinc -- they say zinc -- you should add zinc. Now, it's all -- has to be recommended by doctors, physicians. But they say zinc. I want to throw that out there because that's where they seem to be having the best result. So you add the zinc and the azithromycin.

And it's been -- we've had a lot of good stories. A lot of good stories. And we have almost 30 million doses. So we've got a lot. I want to thank Prime Minister Modi of India for allowing us to have what we requested from before the problem arose. And he was -- he was terrific. We'll remember it.

Later today, the CDC will release further guidance to help ensure critical infrastructure workers can perform their job safely after potential exposure to the virus. And so they're working on that.

The question was asked a little while ago about the World Health Organization. And, as you know, they made a statement on June -- on January 14th, I guess it was, that there was no human-to-human transmission. Well, there was. They probably made that statement in the second or third week of December, in addition, but they made it very powerfully on January 14th. And they criticized me very strongly when I said that we're going to shut down flights coming in from China, and especially from certain parts of China, but from China generally. We were criticized very badly.

So, last year, and for many years, hundreds of millions of dollars has been paid to the World Health Organization. Hundreds of millions of dollars a year. And last year, it was \$452 million, and China paid \$42 million. Before that, it was \$500 million, and China paid less than \$40 million. And before that, it was similar numbers -- in the 400s, 300s, and sometimes even in the 500s of millions of dollars. And China would do proportionately just a small fraction of that number.

And I think they have to get their priorities right, and their priorities are that everybody has to be treated properly -- every country. And it doesn't seem that way, does it? It doesn't seem that way.

So we're going to do -- study, investigation, and we're going to make a determination as to what we're doing. In the meantime, we're holding back. We're going to -- we want to see. It's very unfair.

So the United States -- \$452 million compared to \$42 million. That's to the World Health Organization. That's not good. That's not good. Not fair. Not fair at all. And other countries, as you know, also gave very substantially less than the United States.

And the World -- WHO -- World Health got it wrong. I mean, they got it very wrong. In many ways, they were wrong. They also minimized the threat very strongly and -- not good.

I want to take this opportunity to express the thanks of an extremely grateful nation to the Americans who go to work every day, especially in these critical industries, in the midst of the pandemic to care for and protect and feed American people, including medical personnel, law enforcement, first responders, food suppliers, sanitation workers.

And somebody mentioned today, "Would you please specifically call out cashiers and clerks at grocery stores who are in danger during the -- during the pandemic, during the epidemic?" They're in danger. They're really in great danger. And they've been incredible and I want to call them out -- to cashiers and clerks. We grew up with cashiers and clerks and grocery stores and they've been great and they've really been true American heroes, so I want to call them out because they're working hard and they're working in conditions that aren't ideal. But soon they'll be ideal again.

As we mourn the terrible loss of life for this -- and from this -- this grave pandemic, we're seeing signs that our aggressive strategy to slow the spread is working. The number of new cases

is stabilizing. The number of beds necessary in so many locations -- I was watching, this morning, New York. I was watching Louisiana. You see what's going on. The numbers are changing and they're changing rapidly. And soon we'll be over that curve. We'll be over the top and we'll be headed in the right direction. I feel strongly about that.

Some terrible days ahead, but we're going to have some -- some wonderful days ahead. And we're going to get this behind us, this terrible thing behind us. Some people will never be able to forget if they had a loved one or if they had a great friend or a friend -- but we're going to get it behind us.

This is a tribute to the discipline and the devotion of the American people, what we've accomplished. If every American continues to strictly adhere to social distancing guidelines, we can defeat the invisible enemy and save countless lives and we can do it much more quickly.

We're hopefully heading toward a final stretch -- the light at the end of the tunnel, as I was saying. As we continue to wage all-out medical war to defeat the virus, we're also fighting an economic war to ensure we can quickly turn to full financial strength. We have to get our country back. We have to get going. Everybody wants to get going.

Yesterday, I asked Congress to provide an additional \$250 billion to expand the incredibly successful Paycheck Protection Program -- you've seen what's gone on there; it's incredible, actually -- which is allowing our small businesses to keep employees on the payroll and get ready for the opening. Like a second opening.

To protect millions of American jobs, I'm asking Congress to pass additional funding for this program this week, as soon as possible. And I think we have a pretty good understanding with the Democrats. Hopefully, it's going to be bipartisan. We do

not have time for the partisan games and we don't want that -- the obstruction or totally unrelated agendas. We want to do this for the small businesses and the workers. And we can do a phase four and phase four will be later.

This will be an expansion of what we've already done because it's so successful. The \$350 billion will be expanded by hopefully 250 and, if you look at the kind of loans, thousands -- tens of thousands of loans to small businesses. It's a -- it's a great thing to see. It's turned out to be more successful and more productive than anybody would have thought. But Democrats or Republicans are coming together to get that job done. That's a very important job.

In recent days and days ahead, we'll restore America's health and economic might, but also dimensions of our national strength will be brought together, I think, stronger than -- I think we have a chance to be stronger than ever before. We've learned a lot and we have tremendous stimulus now. Tremendous stimulus. And we're going for more. Hopefully, we'll be doing an infrastructure bill so we can rebuild our roads and highways and bridges and tunnels and all of the things that we should be doing for our country. We're going to rebuild our country, not other countries where they don't even appreciate it.

As our citizens persevere through this present challenge, we're renewing American unity and we're replenishing American will and we are witnessing new American valor each and every day. We see it every day. The daring and determination of our people in this crisis reminds us that no matter how hard it gets, no matter what obstacles we must overcome, Americans will keep on fighting to victory and we will secure the glorious future that our citizens so richly deserve, especially after going through this nightmare, this evil beast.

So we're getting very close and hopefully it will -- hopefully,

it's on the other side and it will end soon. And I think it will. And I just think that the people of this country are fantastic.

So we'll take a few questions and then Vice President will take over.

Please go ahead. Please.

Q Thank you so much, Mr. President. ABC is reporting that your intellig- -- intelligence community was warning about the virus as early as November and produced a detailed report about the outbreak in China. When did you first learn about the intelligence? And could you have acted on it then?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I learned when I started -- when I learned about the gravity of it was sometime just prior to closing the country to China. And when we closed up the flights coming in from China and various other elements -- and then, as you know, we closed up to Europe.

So, I don't know exactly, but I'd like to see the information.

Yeah, please. Please.

Q Mr. President, a lot of Americans want to see businesses reopen, to get back to work.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. So do I, more than anybody.

Q So what specifically has to happen for you to feel that it is safe to reopen the country? And what is your plan to do that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think we can say that we have to be on that down side of that slope and heading to a very strong direction that this thing is gone. We could do it in phases. We

can go to some areas, which you know. Some areas are much less affected than others.

But it would be nice to be able to open with a big bang and open up our country -- or certainly most of our country. And I think we're going to do that soon. If you look at what's happening, I would say we're ahead of schedule.

Now, you hate to say it too loudly because, all of the sudden, things don't happen. But I think we will be sooner rather than later. But we'll be sitting down with the professionals. We'll be sitting down with many different people and making a determination. And those meetings will start taking place fairly soon.

Q So you wouldn't do that until the health experts tell you it's safe to do it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I would -- I rely very heavily on them. Yeah.

Q Do you think -- is there a system for monitoring and testing that you're looking at that will lead that to be safe?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. We're putting in -- yeah. We're putting in very heavy testing systems. We have the best testing systems.

And again, don't forget when we look at cases, I'm looking at some -- I'm not going to insult anybody, I'm not going to insult any country -- but I'm looking at countries that are showing less cases than us; that's testing. We're testing more than anybody. And you -- you saw exponentially, more than anybody, by far. And our testing has become -- I think it'll end up being a big strength. In fact, the other countries -- other countries that the media talked about are now calling us for what are we

doing and how are we doing it so quickly and where are we getting these tests because our tests are really good now. They've been proven to be very accurate.

Yes, please.

Q Thank you, President Trump. Two quick questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Sure.

Q One on infrastructure. Members of your administration and members of Congress have pointed out that the top paid federal employee, it's not the President, it's the head of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and he made \$8 million last year and some --

THE PRESIDENT: It's ridiculous. I agree. It's ridiculous. I think it's the highest-paid government -- long before I got here -- you said Tennessee Valley Authority, right? Has to be the highest-paid man in any government; makes approximately \$8 or \$9 million. I don't know the gentleman but he's got a heck of a job. He gets paid a lot of money. He's been there for a long while, hasn't he?

Q This one actually is new. He came in April. But the previous one was --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's a separate -- yeah, that's separate. But I'm talking about the -- the -- we just have some new people going on the board, I know.

But as you know, that's a quasi-public agency. And whoever the head of the agency is, that person makes a lot of money --

Q And if I could ask my second question --

THE PRESIDENT: -- which is an amazing thing, right? And when we

want them to do something, they're not there for us. That's not good. That's not good. They've been there for a long time. That's been a story for a long time.

Q And I assume that you would support reducing that salary as part of the infrastructure bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Reducing it by a lot.

Q Thank you. And my other question is --

THE PRESIDENT: That would be the greatest job in the history of government, almost. Certainly if you're into money. Tennessee Valley Authority. That's right.

Go ahead.

Q So --

THE PRESIDENT: I've been waiting for somebody to ask me about that. It's been -- it's been bothering me for a long time too.

Go ahead.

Q So one of the biggest rating hits of the coronavirus, aside from these briefings, has been a show on Netflix called "Tiger King."

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q And the man who's the star of this is a former zoo owner who's serving a 22-year prison sentence. He's asking you for a pardon, saying he was unfairly convicted. Your son yesterday jokingly said that, you know, he was going to advocate for it. And I was wondering if you've seen the show and if you have any thoughts on pardoning Joe Exotic.

THE PRESIDENT: Which son? It must be Don.

Q It was.

THE PRESIDENT: I had a feeling it was Don. Is that what he said? I don't know. I know nothing about it. He has 22 years for what? What did he do?

Q He allegedly hired someone to murder an animal rights activist. But he said that he didn't do that. And he was --

THE PRESIDENT: You think he didn't do it? Are you on his side?

Q Well, I'm a reporter. I shouldn't take sides. But --

THE PRESIDENT: Are you recommending a pardon?

Q No. I'm not advocating anything yet.

THE PRESIDENT: As a reporter, you're not allowed to do that. You'd be criticized by these -- would you recommend a pardon?

Q I'm not weighing in on "Tiger King," Mr. President. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think you would. I don't think you would.

Go ahead. Do you have a question?

Q I do like Joe Exotic, I will say.

THE PRESIDENT: I'll take a look. Is that Joe Exotic?

Q Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: That's Joe Exotic? (Laughs.)

Q Let me get back to --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q -- the coronavirus if I can, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Last week, your top experts were saying that we should expect 100,000 to 240,000 deaths in this country. You've been talking about how it looks like maybe things are plateauing. Are these numbers now being revised downward? I know you don't want people to stop social distancing and that sort of thing, but what can you tell us about the numbers? Are they being revised down?

THE PRESIDENT: My -- yeah. My impression, Jim, is those were the numbers that were set, and they were set as an expectation from quite a while ago. I think we're just doing much better than those numbers.

If either of you would like to talk about that, it's a fair question.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Deborah?

THE PRESIDENT: Do you want to come up? Deborah?

Q I know Dr. Redfield said something about it too.

DR. BIRX: Yeah, so, I think all of you -- many of you have done the analysis of the same models that we utilized. And if you do the models of the models, you end up with that range. At the

same time, we've carefully looked at Italy and Spain. And we are doing much better, in many cases, than several other countries. And we're trying to understand that.

We believe that our healthcare delivery system in the United States is quite extraordinary. I know many of you are watching the Act Now model and the IHME model from -- and they have consistently decreased the number, the mortality from over almost 90,000 or 86,000, down to 81,000 and now down to 61,000. That is modeled on what America is doing. That's what's happening.

And I think what has been so remarkable, I think to those of us who have been in the science fields for so long, is how important behavioral change is and how amazing Americans are in adapting to and following through on these behavioral changes. And that's what's changing the rate of new cases, and that's what will change the mortality going forward, because now we're into the time period of full mitigation that should be reflected within the coming weeks of decreasing mortality. I mean, that's what we really hope to see.

We are impressed by the American people. And I think models are models. I've always worked on validating. I've spent my life validating models all over the world, and that's why we do surveys and surveillance and we make sure that what we think is right is right.

I think this will change how people look at respiratory diseases because it will change what is possible when the globe, and particularly the American people, do this level of mitigation. I think, as I talked about yesterday, we are still -- we are still in awe, really, of the American people's strength in this and following through.

Q And if I could just ask, Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. I'm going to do that. I'm going to ask Bob to come up just for a second. Director --

I think that's it: We have a -- we've done, they have done, everybody has done -- everybody, a great job. So those were original projections. And we don't want to say anything about beating it yet, but I think we will have a very good chance to beat them very substantially.

Bob, please?

DR. REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. And I just want to add to what Ambassador Birx said. I mean, this is a consequence of the commitment of the American people. You know, a lot of us have always had challenges of changing behavior, whether it's exercising regularly or different habits with smoking, when it -- when it affects us.

What's been remarkable to watch here is how the American public has changed their behavior when it protects the vulnerable.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That's right.

DR. REDFIELD: I think that's really what I'm so proud to see.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That's well said.

Q And, Mr. President, just a follow-up on something from yesterday, and a quick just yes or no question. Yesterday, you said you had not seen Peter Navarro's memo on the coronavirus back in January and February 23rd.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Were you ever briefed on those memos? Did you ever discuss those memos with anybody on your --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't remember that. I've now seen the memo. I saw it. It was -- Peter sends a lot of memos. I didn't see the memo. As you know, World Health was saying that was not correct because, at the time, they called it wrong.

But I didn't see the memo. But I acted as quickly as -- people were shocked that I acted so quickly. And everybody thought I was wrong because I did act so quickly as you know, with respect to closing the borders -- with respect not only to China, but with Europe I closed the borders. And I think that was very important.

But, no, I didn't see the memo at the time. But I have seen it since.

Yeah, please.

Q One other quick question --

THE PRESIDENT: Wait a minute, Jim. Let me -- let me do a couple of others. We'll go back.

Q The head of the World Health Organization today warned against politicizing --

THE PRESIDENT: I agree with that.

Q And he said that the consequence of this politicization could actually create "more body bags." It's a pretty vivid image. What -- what do you believe the consequences of the U.S. pulling out its funding of the WHO would actually be (inaudible) like this?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think when you say more body bags, I think we would have done -- and he would have been much better

serving the people that he's supposed to serve if they gave a correct analysis. I mean, everything was, I said, China-centric: "Everything was going to be fine. No human to human. Keep the borders open." He wanted me to keep the borders open. I closed the borders despite him, and that was a hard decision to make at the time.

We were all together, and we made a decision against the World Health Organization. So when he says "politicizing," he's politicizing. That shouldn't be.

But, look, we spent \$450 billion, \$452 billion. Almost \$500 billion last year. Hundreds of billions in previous years. And they got to do better than that. They got to do better. When you talk about politics, I can't believe -- he's talking about politics when look at the relationship they have to China.

So China spends \$42 million, we spend \$450 million, and everything seems to be China's way. That's not right. It's not fair to us, and honestly, it's not fair to the world.

Okay. Question in the back. Yeah.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. There's breaking news today in a couple of reports from a couple different outlets that Jared Kushner's team is seeking to create a national coronavirus database, a tracking system for patients who've been diagnosed. Now, his spokesperson said that that's not true.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. It's not --

Q It's not true?

THE PRESIDENT: I have never heard about it. Doesn't sound like a bad idea, actually. But I have not heard about that.

Q So you would be okay with it if were?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know if I'd be okay. I have to see it. But it sounds very scientific, and it sounds like it could be good, based on tracking. But it also has to do with rights and lots of different constitutional questions. I have not heard that at all.

Q Okay. So some people are concerned it would be like the post-9/11 PATRIOT Act, that it ultimately led to FISA abuse. Are there any -- are you concerned about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah -- the FISA abuse, of which I was the one abused. And a couple of other people, in all fairness.

No, I don't know anything about it. I haven't heard it. I mean, I'll speak to him. I don't -- I don't think so. They would have told me. I would have known about it.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. The Nevada delegation is unhappy because smaller casinos and businesses that make a profit --

THE PRESIDENT: In Nevada?

Q -- from gaming -- in Nevada -- found out they're not eligible for the CARES Act PPP money. Is this -- and I talked to one member who said gaming --

THE PRESIDENT: You mean because of the number of employees?

Q Because of the number of employees --

THE PRESIDENT: And yet they're small businesses.

Q And they thought gaming would be -- would not be treated any differently than any other business with this. Was this an oversight?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can look at that. I could look. It's a great state, and I will take a look at that strongly. Are you talking only the smaller casinos?

Q That's --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. I'll take a look at that. Fine. I don't mind that.

Q Is the first you've heard about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Please. Yeah. We'll take a look. Yeah. We haven't heard. Nobody has told me about it, but I'll look at it.

They -- they -- it's a great state. They do a great job. So I'm going to look at it very strongly. I understand what they mean.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Turning to the economy, what if you urge Americans to go back to work and they don't listen to you? Would you leave that up to the governors, to businesses, to citizens to decide when it's safe to stop social distancing?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, when you say they don't listen, I think they're going to listen. They want to go back. Everybody wants. They're going stir crazy. They have been in those houses and those apartments and their buildings. I mean, they've really been -- they have done a great job.

Again, when you look -- the question was just asked about -- you know, about how we're doing compared to projections. Those were

just original projections, the big projection being 2.2 million people would die if we did nothing. That was another decision we made: Close it up. That was a big decision that we made.

Two very smart people walked into my office, and they said, "Listen, these are your alternatives." And that was a projection of, I guess, 1.5- to 2.2 million people would die if we didn't close it up. That's a lot of people. So, if we do a number that's tremendously smaller than that -- now, if we did close it up, the numbers got to 100- to 220 million people.

So, if we can stay substantially under the 100, which was the original projection, I think we all did a very good job, even though it's a lot of people.

Q Do you think that'll happen by May 1st?

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

Q Do you think we will be on track for that by May 1st?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, right now, we're -- I mean, we're doing well in terms of the numbers. I can't tell you in terms of the date. You know, we don't want to -- we don't want to go down, and then we can start going up, if we're not careful. So, we have to be careful.

As far as distancing -- social distancing and other things -- certainly for a while. You know, at some point, that's going away. We'll be able to sit next to each other and every -- like we have all our lives. This is a very unique thing. This has not happened, anything like this, of this magnitude, since 1917, 1918, the great pandemic. That was -- that was something.

But -- yeah, no, people want to sit next to each other at restaurants. They want to sit next to each other like normal at

a football game, baseball game, basketball game, hockey game. No, we want to go back to life.

Now, the first period of time, maybe we'll go a little bit slower and maybe we'll be talking about distancing. But at some point, we expect to be back like it was before. And hopefully it'll never happen. Hopefully it will -- if it does happen it's going to be in a hundred years from now. The last one, 1917 -- that's something. That's a long time ago. And that was -- that was a horrible thing.

Jim, go ahead.

Q Yeah, I wanted to get back to something you were saying yesterday about people going to Wisconsin and voting --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- in the middle of this pandemic, really putting their lives on a line. And you said: Well, if they do that, vote by mail, perhaps we'll have voter fraud in this country.

And I just wanted to ask you, voters in five states -- Utah, Colorado, Hawaii, Washington, and Oregon -- all vote by mail. Can you or the White House staff or your campaign provide any evidence to back up your claim that mail-in voting is rife with fraud, like the example you gave of people working in rooms, filling out false ballots?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, sure. Well, what happened --

Q You've been talking about voter fraud --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what happened -- yeah. True.

Q -- since the beginning of this administration.

THE PRESIDENT: True and fair.

Q And where is the evidence of it?

THE PRESIDENT: The -- I think there's a lot of evidence, but we'll provide you with some, okay? And there's evidence that's being compiled just like it's being compiled in the state of California, where they settled with Judicial Watch, saying that a million people should not have been voting in -- you saw that.

Q But all the experts say voter fraud is rare.

THE PRESIDENT: Wait, excuse me. I'm just telling you. I'm telling you, in California, in the great state of California, they settled, and we could've gone a lot further. Judicial Watch settled where they agreed that a million people should not have voted, where they were 115 years old and lots of things, and people were voting in their place.

What I see and -- you know, every one of those states that you mentioned is a state that happens to be won by the Democrats. And if you have a position like me, where it's registered, you're here, and we're voting someplace where I'm not -- I haven't left the White House in, I guess, months, other than to, you know, ask a ship to -- you know, wave it goodbye to New York -- which, by the way, is now going -- as you know, being used for the purpose that we're talking about, which a lot of people wanted.

Q Do you tweeted mail-in voting --

THE PRESIDENT: Wait a minute.

Q -- "doesn't work out well for the Republicans."

THE PRESIDENT: Well it's -- it hasn't.

Q So isn't your --

THE PRESIDENT: It certainly hasn't.

Q Isn't your concern really just political?

THE PRESIDENT: But if you're a senior citizen and if you're somebody that needs it, I'm all for it. But they have to be very careful, because you know the things with bundling and all of the things that are happening with votes by mail where thousands of votes are gathered. And I'm not going to say which party does it, but thousands of votes are gathered and they come in and they're dumped in a location, and then, all of a sudden, you lose elections if you think you're going to win.

Q But where is the proof that that's happened?

THE PRESIDENT: I won't to stand for it. Well, we're going to find out about the proof, because you're going to see what's going on. And I'm not going to stand for it. Our voting system -- first of all, we should have voter ID. When you vote, you should have voter ID. And if you send something in, you should be sure -- as a state and as a country, you should be sure that that vote is meaningful and it's not just made fraudulently, because there's a lot of fraudulent voting going on in this country. This country should have voter ID.

Okay, let's do another one. Go, please.

Q Mr. President, currently, the only -- the only way that we can track these millions of doses of hydroxychloroquine that are being distributed across the country --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- is through the E-Health DataSystem. How systematically is your task force watching this system, understanding it's early?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it's very systematic. Yeah, we're distributing the hydroxy all through the country. It's being distributed in large amounts. We have it coming in now. We're up to 29 million doses; then we went to 30 million doses. But we have it coming in all throughout the country, and much of it's being distributed. In fact, it'll start going down, what we have in our stockpile.

Q But the only (inaudible).

THE PRESIDENT: And, again, it's had -- you know, I -- I hope it works. Again, I'm not a doctor, as you possibly have found out. I'm not a doctor, but I'm a person with common sense.

And we've had some very good results over the course --

Q Through the E-Health DataSystem?

THE PRESIDENT: -- including a woman who just reported it two days ago.

Yes?

Q Through the E-Health DataSystem, are they -- is that operating --

THE PRESIDENT: I think no. We're looking -- we're looking to provide it in many different ways. In many ways, we're -- in certain instances, we've been asked -- in the case of Michigan, we've been asked who the governor of Michigan would like to -- I think she's become a big fan of it as a medication, as a -- as

something that's going to help with this horrible virus. And we're delivering it to the governments of various states when they ask. So certain states are asking, certain governments are asking, and we're delivering it directly to the government.

Yeah, please. Go ahead.

Q Thank you very much, Mr. President. We know many people around the world are paying close attention to this press conference.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Q So on behalf of --

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Where are you from?

Q -- Foreign Media --

THE PRESIDENT: Where are you from?

Q I'm from Taiwan.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q Yes. On behalf of Foreign Media Group, I would like to ask you two questions. First question is that the French President Macron called Iranian President Rouhani and say the euro has started to shift the medical goods to Iran. Would you consider -
-

THE PRESIDENT: Medical goods?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: That doesn't bother me.

Q Yeah, so will you --

THE PRESIDENT: No, if they're sending medical goods to Iran, it doesn't bother me. Okay?

Q Yeah, so the other question is that the world is also paying attention to the U.S. election. So we are also -- we know that Bernie Sanders has dropped out today.

THE PRESIDENT: I did see that today.

Q Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he didn't really drop out. He didn't really -- what about his delegates? I mean, he -- he said he's going to keep his delegates and -- which is sort of interesting. He's going to keep his delegates, and he'd like to get more now.

Now, is he dropping out or not? That's not dropping out. When you keep your delegates and then you want more delegates before you get to the convention, that's a weird deal going on there. I don't know what's happening.

Q So what's --

THE PRESIDENT: And I don't know why President Obama hasn't supported Joe Biden a long time ago. There is something he feels is wrong. Why isn't -- he'll come out. I'm sure he's got to come out at some point because he certainly doesn't want to see me for four more years. We're not -- we think a little bit differently.

You know what? I'll tell you, it does amaze me that President Obama hasn't supported Sleepy Joe. It just hasn't

happened. When is it going to happen? When is it going to happen? Why isn't he? He knows something that you don't know, that I think I know, but you don't know. So it'll be interesting.

But with Bernie, I saw his standard fare today. I watched. And I hope that a lot of Bernie Sanders's people, just like they did last time -- we got a tremendous percentage of Bernie people. And I think they voted for me largely because of trade, because Bernie and I agree on trade. We agree that the United States has been ripped off by virtually every country they do business with. The difference is I've done a lot about it, and I'm doing more about it. And we've made incredible trade deals, including USMCA, the deal with China, and then, all of a sudden, that gets disturbed by this virus situation.

But China has to spend almost \$250 billion on purchasing our products, \$40- to \$50 billion with our farmers. And the Bernie Sanders people are big believers on what I'm saying on trade. And I got a lot of them in the last election. That surprised people, but it didn't surprise me.

No, those are great people. They're great people. But I -- I just -- look, I'm looking at Bernie Sanders. I watched this morning, and I said, "What is that all about?" Like, you saw that -- the delegates. The delegates. He's not giving up his delegates. He's keeping them, and he said he wants to get more of them. And I think he's doing it to negotiate, I assume. But I don't know, that's -- that's a hard thing to do.

Yeah, Jeff, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, OPEC is meeting with Russia tomorrow and some other countries to discuss oil prices.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Oil prices are at \$23 a barrel.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that's good. Finally --

Q What --

THE PRESIDENT: -- somebody knows something when they ask a question.

Q What is your message to them ahead of their meeting tomorrow? Will the U.S. consider a coordinated cut of production here?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think. Look, we already cut. You know, we're, like, very market-oriented. If you look at Texas and if you look at North Dakota, and if you look at some of our states that do this very well, they've already cut way back. You know, they cut back automatically.

Q So you don't think it's necessary?

THE PRESIDENT: But in the case of Russia, in the case of Saudi Arabia, they increased production at a time when you didn't need it, and then they got hit by the virus, which knocked out 40 percent of the market. And now they're flooded with oil.

Look I -- I just say this: You have two countries that are getting hurt very badly. Russia is getting hurt, and that's their primary source. And Saudi Arabia, that's their -- definitely their primary source. And it doesn't make sense that they flooded the market. For whatever reason, they did that for themselves. It's a argument that they had. And I think they'll straighten it out.

A lot of progress has been made over the last week, and it'll be

interesting to see what comes out of OPEC tomorrow. But OPEC, obviously -- for many years, I used to think OPEC was very unfair. I hated OPEC. You want to know the truth? I hated it, because it was a fix. But somewhere along the line, that broke down and it went the opposite way.

And we have a tremendously powerful energy industry in this country now. Number one in the world. And I don't want those jobs being lost. Okay?

Q What will you do -- just to follow up to that, sir. What will you do if they don't end up cutting tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: We'll see. I mean, I have a lot of options.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Got a lot of good options, Jeff. Beauties. I might like it even more.

Q Tariffs presumably being one of them?

THE PRESIDENT: No, you'll. Let's see what happens. Hopefully they can make a deal.

Let's go.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Clearly, Americans are getting very anxious to go back to work.

THE PRESIDENT: I agree.

Q You're sounding optimistic --

THE PRESIDENT: Including me.

Q -- yet still very vague. Now that the IMHE [sic] model specifically has been adjusted down to 61,000, when are we going to open back up? Can you give us a better date? Is it going to be April 30th, May 1st?

THE PRESIDENT: You said adjusted back down 61,000. What was adjusted back?

Q The IM -- the IMHE [sic] model. The one that originally predicted, like, between 100- and 200,000.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Go ahead. It's still a big number, right? Sixty-one. Right?

Q It's a big number.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a big number. Go ahead.

Q But can you give us a more specific date? Will it be April 30th, May 1st?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't want to do that. Look, I had a date, and I thought it was a very aspirational day. It's turning out to be very interesting, because a lot of good things are happening by Easter. But I had a very aspirational date. I didn't think you could make it. I didn't say we would do it by Easter, but I said, "Boy, wouldn't it be great to shoot for Easter"? That would be a great day, a beautiful day, a very important day to a lot of people like me and like some of you in the room. Maybe all of you in the room, frankly.

But Easter is a very important day. So I had -- aspirationally, I said, "Let's see if we can do it at Easter." You know, but I said it would be very tough. And I was criticized for that, so I

don't like giving dates. And that wasn't a date, that was just an aspiration. That would have been incredible.

But I don't think we're going to be very far behind. And some of these models are looking like Easter is going to be a very important date anyway because of the curve. I mean, it's hitting the top, and it's starting to come down. And one person said Easter is looking like a good time. So a good time for that, for heading down. So we'll see what happens.

Look, there's no reason to do that. We have a lot of good things happening. When I spoke to the governor of Louisiana, he said, "Tony, they need far less beds than they needed." I said, "Well, good, because we're building 1,000-room additional." We built them 1,000 -- the beds. And now we're building another thousand.

And I said, "Listen, is there a way that we don't build -- I don't want to build them if they don't need them." In New York, the Javits isn't too heavily used; it's ready to go -- 2,900 beds -- plus, we now have the ship set for COVID if they want to use it. And we're using it for governor Murphy in New Jersey. So we'll see what happens.

But, you know, the numbers are coming way down. The ventilators, we're all set. We have a lot to go if we want. But we're not getting -- I'm not getting calls where they need ventilators anymore. So we were right on those ventilators.

I'd love to have additional ventilators for some of the countries that are our allies and our friends. And even if they're not our allies and our friends, you're saving human lives. But I'd love to see if we had some -- I mean, we're making a lot of ventilators right now. We have a -- and they take a while to make, and they're very expensive and they're very complex to make. But I'd love to be able to help other countries once we're

taken care of.

But I just sent 100 ventilators to Colorado, and that was great. A senator there who is a terrific senator -- Cory and -- Cory Gardner. And he called me last night. He said, "Could you get 100 ventilators for Colorado?" And we just sent them out, and there'll be there very shortly.

So -- but it looks like we're in great shape from the bed standpoint. It looks like we're in great shape from the ventilator standpoint. And you just heard, I ordered 500 million masks -- 500 N95s and others -- and surgical. But we ordered 500 million masks: 300 and 200. And they're going to be here very shortly.

So, we're really in great shape, and we started off with an empty cupboard.

So I'm going to leave the Vice President and his group to handle it. And I will see you probably tomorrow. Okay? Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Q You don't have any investments in hydro -- hydroxychloroquine?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't.

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't. Thanks. Good question.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You all can come up if you want. It'll be brief.

Well, good evening everyone. And to our fellow Americans out west, good afternoon. We find ourselves in the midst of a very

tough week for Americans in areas most impacted by the coronavirus -- the New York City area, New Jersey, Louisiana. We continue to focus resources and attention on those areas. And I know that the hearts and prayers of the American people are with -- are with all of those communities.

But in the wake of more than 1.9 million tests, we see more than 400,000 Americans have tested positive for the coronavirus, and sadly, we've lost more than 14,000. We -- we grieve. But as the Good Book says, we do not grieve like those who have no hope.

In this very special week, I know that the faith of millions of Americans is a comfort to them. The President and I spoke to more than 10,000 faith leaders, and we were able to express to them our gratitude for the way that they're strengthening the communities that they serve.

But we also find hope in the numbers that Dr. Birx will continue to reflect on today. For as Dr. Fauci explained yesterday and in the days before, the losses -- as grievous as they are -- that we are seeing today are a reflection of people that contracted the coronavirus, in many cases before strong mitigation steps were taken, before the guidelines for American fully took hold.

The cases, however, and the new cases and the hospitalizations are, in fact, a reflection of the results of what the American people are doing. And I want to echo the President's and Dr. Birx's statements today about the extraordinary work the American people are doing. Because we continue to see a great progress, low and steady numbers in the states of California and Washington.

And in the New York metropolitan area, New Jersey, New Orleans metro area, Detroit, in Chicago, and Boston, we continue to see evidence of stabilization that should be an encouragement to every American -- an encouragement that we may -- may be reaching

the point where the impact of the coronavirus is beginning to level off.

And -- but it also should be an encouragement to every American to keep doing what we are all doing: Heed the guidance of your state and local authorities, and for every American, continue to put the White House Coronavirus guidelines for America into effect.

An area of particular concern we were briefed on this morning is the city of Philadelphia. I spoke today to Governor Tom Wolf. And as we begin to see early trend lines in Philadelphia, I assured him that we were going to continue to flow resources and support to that community. But our message to the people of the Philadelphia area is: Now, more than ever, practice the social distancing so that Philadelphia and, to some extent, even Pittsburgh do not have to endure what other communities before them have had to endure.

Also today, at the President's direction, we hosted a conference call with every Republican member of the House of Representatives and every Democrat member of the House of Representatives. And we expressed our appreciation to Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Leader Kevin McCarthy for convening these forums.

We've brought together key members of our task force team. The Secretary of the Treasury discussed the progress that we've made on Paycheck Protection. He reported to members of Congress that, so far, we're working with more than 3,600 lenders across the country, and we've dispersed more than \$98 billion in forgivable loans. Now, these are loans that if small businesses accept this money and use it to keep people on their payroll over the next two months, they'll be completely forgiven.

The Treasury tonight will be issuing a new FAQ -- frequently asked questions -- document that will also make it clear that

lenders may use their own closing documents for completing loan applications. And that information is available at Treasury.gov and SBA.gov, as well.

Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci briefed the members of Congress today on the latest data. They'll both reflect on that in a moment. We also had Admiral Polowczyk talk about our control tower system, and the extraordinary flow of supplies to critical areas across the country. And we also briefed on the disbursement of resources to local hospitals with Seema Verma and gave them an update on what the Secretary of State spoke about today.

It is remarkable to think: more than 50,000 Americans brought back home, through nearly 500 flights. And we thanked the members of Congress who have worked with the State Department to identify family members and groups that found themselves stranded overseas, and we were grateful for that.

In addition to our interaction with members of Congress today, we spoke with the president of the Henry Ford Hospital, Bob Riney. It is the Henry Ford Hospital that is conducting a clinical trial for hydrochloroquine. He expressed great enthusiasm for the work that they had done. They had a rather overwhelming response to the initial trial, which is beginning this week, with 3,000 people taking the hydrochloroquine or a placebo so they can march [sic] it -- match it.

But what the president of the Henry Ford Hospital told me is they'd like to expand the test. I put him in touch with Steve Hahn in the FDA, and we'll be adding several more clinical trial paths to look at impacts on particular demographic groups, including seniors and minority populations. And more on that in just a moment.

In the category of supplies and support, the President, as of today, has signed 52 major disaster declarations. Vermont was

the latest approved. And states have stood up some 27,000 National Guard that are aiding in coronavirus response.

On the critical subject of ventilators, we do have currently more than 8,000 ventilators in our Strategic National Stockpile and distributed more to the Navajo Nation and to Colorado today. But also today, we received the good news that the first delivery of newly manufactured ventilators from General Electric and Hamilton arrived at the Strategic National Stockpile. And as the President said, we'll be adding newly manufactured ventilators to our resources to be available as the coronavirus epidemic reaches critical communities around the country.

On the subject of the air bridge, four flights were scheduled to arrive today, primarily focused on gloves for our incredible healthcare workers. One flight alone had nearly 19 million gloves -- another 8 million, another 15 million, and the like. And the American people, I think, would be very proud to see this vast array of, now, well more than 50 flights that are bringing in supplies from all over the world. And, again, working through FEMA, we're directing those resources with the guidance of our scientific experts to the communities most in need.

As we announced yesterday, the White House Coronavirus Task Force has requested that CDC and our team assemble data on the unique impact that we're seeing reported on African Americans from the coronavirus. Dr. Fauci spoke about it yesterday and will reflect on his perspective on that as well.

Tomorrow, with the Surgeon General and others on the White House team, we'll be speaking with leaders in the African American community. And, as Dr. Fauci will reflect, there are -- have been historic challenges in the healthcare of the African American communities, particularly in our inner cities.

And now, more than ever, I'll just say from my heart to all of the -- all of our African American family members: Now, more than ever, practice the guidelines. Look after those most vulnerable people that have underlying serious health conditions. It's more important than ever that we all put those principles into practice.

Finally, today, I'm going to have -- after we hear from Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx, I'm going to ask Dr. Redfield to step up because today the CDC will be publishing new guidance on essential critical workers who have been exposed to COVID-19 but don't have any symptoms -- who don't have a temperature and don't have any reason to believe that they have the coronavirus.

At the present moment, the guidance is that if you have been in proximity to someone who did test positive for the coronavirus that -- the guidance of CDC is that, that even with essential critical workers in industries from healthcare to food supply, that we asked people to stay home for 14 days. The new guidance tonight will hopefully make it clear that there would be an opportunity for those people playing such an incredible role in our nation's response to be able to return to work and to do so safely.

And finally, let me just say again now how inspired we are at the response of the American people to the coronavirus epidemic. Each and every day, as we see the beginnings of encouraging news -- the low and steady numbers in California and Washington State, and now beginning to see numbers of hospitalizations going down and new cases leveling and, in some cases, going down -- we all hope it is the beginning of a trend.

But we also hope it is -- it's an encouragement to every American to keep doing what you're doing, not just for your own health and for the health of your loved ones, but because we want to make sure that all of us are doing our part to make sure that the

fewest number of Americans possible are exposed to the coronavirus.

And given the fact that this, I remind you, is three times more contagious than the flu, each of us has a role to play in slowing the spread. That's what the "30 Days to Slow the Spread" is all about. It's about protecting your health. It's about making sure that that our healthcare workers are -- and our healthcare system is not overwhelmed by the coronavirus.

And ultimately, it is about saving lives. We talk about the numbers -- and I'm going to ask Dr. Birx to come up and reflect on them -- but I think all of us know this is one American at a time. It's one heartbreak at a time. And having lost loved ones in my life, just like everyone here and everyone looking on, we want to work every day to make that number of losses the lowest possible. And it will take all of us to do it and to keep doing exactly what we're doing through today.

Dr. Birx?

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

I just want to start where the Vice President left off. I come out of the services; I'm Army. When you -- we always talk about honoring the fallen. And I think, for every American, what we can do now to honor the fallen that have fallen, and given their -- really, their deaths to this just horrible disease; to the healthcare workers that are on the frontlines trying to save every single one, to honor them; and to honor our elders and the individuals that we know are at the greatest risk for bad outcomes, we all need to continue to do our work.

Yes, the number of cases has stabilizing -- or is stabilizing, but I do want to go through those numbers with you because we talk about these as micro-epidemics in metro areas and in rural

areas.

So, in the New York metro area -- which includes, obviously, Northern New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island -- there are still 11,000 new cases per day and their positivity rate on their testing is still in the 40 percent-plus range. So there's still a significant amount of disease there and everyone needs to continue to follow the guidelines.

New Orleans metro area -- 800 new cases per day, but a seropositivity rate on their testing of 28 percent. Detroit metro area -- 1,400 cases per day, 26 percent positivity. Chicago -- 1,200 cases per day and 18 percent. Boston -- 18 percent positivity, 1,100 cases per day. Denver has fallen to 180 cases per day, but still has 15 percent seropositivity in their testing. California and Washington have stayed stable at about -- Seattle, 350 cases per day. On the LA metro area -- 800 cases per day, but their test-positive rates are remaining in the 9 percent range.

And so this really gives us some idea of what it takes. They have been continuously mitigating. Imagine what we're talking about -- New York going from 40-plus percent seropositivity and 11,000 cases a day, down to the LA metro area of 800 cases per day and 9 percent.

So, this is what, when the President talks about reaching the top and coming down, those are the kinds of things we need to see. And the only way we will see them is if every American continues to follow the guidance.

Now, in the Philadelphia metro area, where I come from, it's 1,400 cases per day. This, of course, includes Camden, and the counties around the Philadelphia metro, and Wilmington. And in the Baltimore and the Washington, D.C., area -- 15 percent seropositivity and 500 cases per day, and 200 cases per day in

Baltimore.

This is how we're looking at it -- county by county, metro by metro, rural region by rural region -- to make sure we don't miss anything. And we're triangulating testing data with the attack rates, with the hospitalization, with the number of cases, and really creating a mosaic of who needs what when to ensure that every American is served well.

I had a great call today with a group of pediatricians, the head of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and with the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Behind the scenes and working every day are the pediatricians fielding those phone calls from every concerned mother, and, of course, grandmothers like myself, and protecting our children every day to ensure that they have access to the medical care that they need while this is happening.

And to every pregnant woman out there, I was very reassured, hearing from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. They have put amazing things in place to protect every pregnant woman. They have been social distancing in their offices. They have increased all of the disinfecting. They have lengthened the time between clients. To every pregnant woman: Don't miss your appointments. If your OB thinks you need to be there, you should go. And please know that on the labor and delivery wards they are doing everything to protect you and their babies. They are committed to you. They are absolutely committed to you having a good experience. Make sure -- if your physician believes you should be in the hospital for your delivery, make sure you're following their guidance. We don't want any pregnant women to suffer a bad outcome during this time.

So, again, I just want to conclude by thanking the American people and recognizing the number of people we're losing per day

is serious to all of us and it could be so much worse, but our frontline healthcare providers and the way they're talking to each other about how to improve care for every individual that they serve -- you see them on the TV, you see them in the emergency room, you see what they're up against -- this is how we can honor them, is to make sure we continue to put, as Dr. Fauci always says, put your foot on the gas, and make sure that we continue to strongly mitigate, and really protect those with preexisting conditions.

And finally, those preexisting conditions, we know now, include asthma. So, asthma, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes -- any of these conditions -- renal disease -- no matter what age, please make sure you're following the guidelines to protect those individuals in your household. We know they're more susceptible to a worse outcome.

We don't think that anyone's more susceptible to getting infected. I want to make sure that everyone understands: Everybody is susceptible to getting infected. This virus is very transmittable, as we well know. But we need to protect those that need our protection the most.

So thank you all for what you're doing to get the message out to ensure that we continue to protect each other in this very difficult time.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Great. Dr. Fauci, please.

DR. FAUCI: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. And just to follow up and underscore what Dr. Birx has said: As I've said many times from this podium, the spectrum of going from infection to getting ill to requiring hospitalization to intensive care to death -- and what is the most striking thing that, obviously, is so sobering to us, is when we see the number of deaths, we know now for sure that the mitigation that we have been doing is having a

positive effect, but you don't see it until weeks later.

Remember, this past weekend, when we -- all of us got up in front of this podium and mentioned that this was going to be a really bad week, at the same time, we were saying that we would hope we would start to see a little bit of a change in the daily hospitalizations, intensive care, and intubations. And New York is starting to see that.

So I say that, but I drop back a bit. Don't get complacent about that, because what's going to happen two and a half weeks from now is really what's going to happen with regard to the people who are getting new infections. As Dr. Birx said, everybody is almost certainly as susceptible as anybody else to getting infected -- it's what happens to you after you get infected.

And again, to just keep emphasizing we need to keep mitigating. We know that this is something that is a strain on the American public, but it's just something that we have -- not only the only tool, it's the best tool.

And to just shift a bit to what we said yesterday regarding the African American community, it is very painful to see -- and I've seen it throughout my entire medical career -- that the health disparities in the minority community, but particularly the African American community, puts them at risk -- apart from coronavirus issues, puts them at risk for diseases much more so than the general population.

The double whammy that you suffer now is when you have this terrible virus, which essentially preys, in its ultimate deleterious effects, on people with those underlying conditions.

And since that is more predominant in the African American population, we want to double down and say to the young people, to the elderly people in that community, to please try as best as

you can to protect yourself if you're a younger person, and to please protect the people who are susceptible: your grandmother, your grandfather, your elder uncle, the people who have these underlying conditions.

Because we are not going to solve the issues of health disparities this month or next month. This is something we should commit ourselves for years to do. But what we can do now, today, is to prevent people who are put at higher risk because of the demographic group from getting into a situation which is much, much more deleterious than the general population.

So I plead with all of us in the population, but particularly for those of us, our brothers and sisters in the African American community, because we know that mitigation does work. The reason we know it works is the question that was asked about the numbers, that -- why they came down with the projections. Because remember, what you do with data will always outstrip a model. You redo your models, depending upon your data, and our data is telling us that mitigation is working.

So, again, as Dr. Birx said, keep your foot on the accelerator because that's what's going to get us through this.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It's true.

Dr. Redfield?

DR. REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. I just wanted to follow up. One of the most important things we can do is keep our critical workforce working. And I think you heard it said that we have many different critical workforce industries in this country. Obviously, first responders, healthcare workers. But as you heard, it's also individuals who helped maintain our food supply, et cetera.

And so what CDC has done is that we've really looked at the essential workforce and how to maintain that workforce, particularly at this time as we begin to get ready to reopen and have confidence in bringing our workforces back to work.

And so we put out a new guidance for essential healthcare workers who've been exposed to the coronavirus. These are individuals that have been within six feet of a confirmed case or a suspected case. And so that they can -- under certain circumstances, they can go back to work. If they're asymptomatic, as the Vice President, they could go back to work if they do several things, as we say here -- take their temperature before they go to work, wear a face mask at all times, and practice social distancing when they're at work.

What we'd ask them not to do, when they're at work, is -- we want them to stay at home if they're sick. We want them not to share objects that would be touching their face. And we would like them not to congregate in break rooms, lunch rooms, and crowded places.

And then the second slide. If we're talking to the employers of these critical industries, we would ask those employers to take the employee's temperature and assess their symptoms before starting them back to work.

If the employee does become sick, we want them to be sent home immediately. We'd like them to increase air exchange in the buildings, and increase the frequency of how they clean common surfaces, and really begin to get these workers back into the critical workforce so that we won't have worker shortage in these critical industries.

So that's the new guidelines that CDC will be posting today.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: And those will be available at CDC.gov. And

thank you, Dr. Redfield.

And questions for anyone on the panel? Please.

Q Just a couple things to clarify. The 500 million masks that the President mentioned that are being developed, are those for healthcare workers? Or are you planning to actually hand out masks to the American public?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think the focus has been to make sure that our healthcare workers and our healthcare system has the supply. And with regard to what we're gathering from literally around the world and from manufacturers in the United States, is first being deployed to states to the hospital systems.

But I must tell you that whether it be the Hanes company or other companies, we're seeing manufacturers in America that are -- that are recognizing the growing demand for masks by the American people and are spinning up production literally by the hour.

But our focus -- our continuing focus is on making sure that healthcare workers have the personal protective equipment to do their job safely and provide the level of care that every one of us would want.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. Vice President. Kansas Governor Laura Kelly says that she has put in seven requests to FEMA for supplies from the stockpile and those have not been fulfilled. So will Kansas be getting any of the ventilators, because the request included ventilators? And does she need to be calling the White House instead? Have you spoken with her directly?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I have not spoken to the governor directly, but I'll -- I'll reach out this evening, certainly.

In our conference call with governors this week, we were -- we spoke to them about the approach that we are taking. You know, traditionally, governors are accustomed to -- when -- when a hurricane strikes the Gulf Coast, when wildfires strike out west, when flooding or tornadoes hit in places like Indiana, you're accustomed to have a declaration of emergency approved and then resources flow from FEMA.

In this situation, as we deal with a nationwide declaration and an epidemic, what we've explained to governors is that what President Trump has directed is that we -- we leave no stone unturned to find resources around the country and around the world, including ventilators, and we make sure, as -- as the coronavirus epidemic impacts individual areas, that the healthcare workers and the families and the patients impacted have what they need, when they need it.

And what I would say to the people of Kansas is that we're looking at their numbers every day, just as in the case of every state in the country. And -- and we're going to work our hearts out to make sure that -- that as -- as the coronavirus cases emerge -- and we hope that through the great work that Kansas has done on social distancing and mitigation -- the people of Kansas have done a remarkable job -- that -- that we may well be to a place where their existing resources and capacities are present.

But we want people to know that -- that, taking the counsel of Dr. Birx and our entire healthcare team, we're focusing -- just as we did first in Seattle, California, and -- and now in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Louisiana, the Detroit area, the Chicago area -- we're going to make sure that those resources go in that order.

Q And so, because you brought up social distancing and the work that Kansas has done, there is actually controversy right

now over her order to limit the number of people in religious gatherings to 10 people. Should states be telling religious institutions how many people can gather if it's to stop the spread of the coronavirus?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America ask every American to avoid any gathering of more than 10 people. And that's on the advice of all of our best scientific experts as a way that we can -- we can slow the spread.

But as we've made clear to every governor, we -- we defer to our governors in what they believe is the best and appropriate practice in their states, and we'll support those local decisions.

Yes, please.

Q Thank you. In his opening statement, the President said there were 10 drugs that are now in clinical trials. Would hydroxychloroquine be one of those?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I can -- I can speak to that just -- and then I'd -- I'll invite Dr. Birx, Dr. Fauci to come forward.

We do have -- I believe we will have roughly four separate clinical trials underway studying hydroxychloroquine, but it's important to remember that -- that, as the President has made the point many times, the FDA has approved what's called "off-label use." And so, in consulting with your physician, if your physician determines it's appropriate to write a prescription for hydrochloroquine, we're working today to make that available across the country.

It's broadly available today as an anti-malaria medication, but we're working around the country and internationally to increase

that supply. But we are -- we are studying it in at least four different clinical trials. And Dr. Fauci can speak to that.

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. Yeah, so the easiest -- thank you for that question. The easiest way to find out is to just go to ClinicalTrials.gov, and it will tell you everything that's there.

There are a number of different clinical trials, some of which are randomized controlled trials, which, as I've said many times in this podium, to me, it's the optimal way to determine ultimately if something is safe and effective and works.

But there are a lot of different ways that -- that this being looked. It's being looked at against the placebo. It's being part of a multi-arm trial, comparing it with others. There is a trial that was recently started actually in prophylaxis among healthcare workers. So there were several of these.

In addition to that, there is what was just mentioned now: that any physician, in consultation with their patient and back and forth, can make the decision to use the drug on an off-label.

So we have two things that are simultaneously going on: We're having actual formal clinical trials and the off-label use.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Very good. Next, please.

Q I want to turn back to the disproportionate rates of black deaths, when it comes to the coronavirus. Dr. Fauci, you have been talking about this for weeks, that there were underlying health issues -- people with underlying health issues are most at risk. But if we knew that blacks disproportionately have fallen into that category, why wasn't the CDC prepared to gather this data in real-time to work to fight this?

DR. FAUCI: Well, I'm not sure. But we have the Director of the CDC here who could answer that question. But let me -- let me try to just take it from -- from a different perspective.

The health disparities that exist are not anything that started with coronavirus. They were -- they were there. So there isn't much you can do about the disparity. The thing you can do is to make an extra special effort to protect people who have the underlying conditions. So it's the same way as we say, "Well, the elderly and those with underlying conditions."

Unfortunately, the African American community has a much greater proportion, population for population, of these underlying conditions. So the best weapon we have right now is what I said in my opening remarks -- is to do whatever we can to get them to realize that what we need to do is to protect them from getting infected and to also protect them from inadvertently and innocently bringing the infection to people who have these underlying conditions.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, please.

Q Thank you, sir. Can you explain the thinking behind these 100 ventilators that were given to Colorado when other states, like Kansas, have had trouble getting ventilators? And can you say whether a personal relationship with the President is helping states like Colorado get these ventilators? I mean, there are 15 states that have more cases than Colorado.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, what I could say is that we've been watching Denver very closely. And like many of the other key areas that I touched on, it -- we're -- we're beginning to see some encouraging news. But in our interactions with -- with the governor and with local officials and with the senator, we've made an effort not only in Colorado, but around the country to be particularly responsive to states where -- where we've seen a

growth in cases.

But I'm going to let Dr. Birx speak to that as well. There's -- literally beginning with New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Louisiana, the Detroit area in Michigan, the Chicago area, there's a series of other cities, including Denver, that we've been watching very carefully. And while we're beginning to see some encouraging news, we want healthcare workers in those communities to know for certain that that we're going to move resources into those areas where we see significant outbreak.

Q Can you just address the point about whether --

DR. BIRX: Yeah.

Q -- whether individual governors' relationships with the -- with the President are getting preferential treatment?

DR. BIRX: I can tell you, within that decision complex is not just the absolute number of cases, it's the hospital capacity and what each of those hospitals have.

So remember, I think a couple of days ago, we talked about how the states are sending the information about ICU beds, hospital beds, ventilator needs.

So different states have different -- which I don't think any of us probably knew before this, but there are some states that have lots of ventilators, and there's other states that, proportion to their population or by their cases of COVID, have less. And so I'm sure Denver and Colorado fit into that model where there were hospitals that had less ventilators proportionately and were needed for the cases that we're seeing.

So, that's the kind of analysis. So, every state that has cases -- a little -- has a few cases more than Colorado have all

received ventilators, except for, I think, Texas. And that's just because they are just starting -- remember we started -- Colorado was one early on the curve, so they have many more people who have moved through that progress and are in need of ventilators. Texas is very early in their curve in both Dallas and Houston. So that's what I was talking about; each of these are a micro curve that we have to follow independently or we would be making general decisions, rather than specific decisions by geography.

Q Mr. Vice President, a follow-up on the churches question. You're obviously a very religious man. Will you be going to church on Sunday?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We'll be attending church right in the living room at the Vice President's Residence, where we have been attending for the last several weeks.

Q And is that the guidance?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: And the advantage is we get to go to our home church in Indiana.

Q Is that the same example you'd like to see churches around the country, regardless of what governors are saying, do as well?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America are very clear. That during this 30 days, we are calling on every American in every state first to listen to your state and local authorities, but right after that to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people, avoid unnecessary travel, use drive-through at restaurant instead of going into the restaurant. We are, as these health experts have told you, seeing real evidence that we're slowing the spread, that these mitigation efforts are having a strong impact.

And tonight, as many people even at this hour on the East Coast are beginning to sit down to a Seder dinner -- it's the beginning of Passover -- and with Easter celebrations this Sunday, we just want to encourage every American to heed the counsel of the guidelines, put those into effect, and know that in so doing we'll hasten the day -- we'll hasten the day that we put the coronavirus in the past and we reopen our country.

Q Mr. Vice President --

AIDE: Last question.

Q Can I ask a question of Dr. Birx or Dr. Fauci?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Of course.

Q As you are both probably aware, there's a lot of misinformation and conspiracy theories out there about the coronavirus. There are some commentators who are suggesting that the number of dead are being inflated because they're saying that people who are dying with other issues are being listed as COVID-19 deaths. Perhaps, you've seen some of this commentary. You may be too busy to see it, but it is out there.

What do you say to those folks who are -- who are making the claim without really any evidence that these deaths are being padded, that the number of COVID-19 deaths are being padded? For example, somebody who might die from a number of factors, but had coronavirus are being listed as "coronavirus deaths." And because of that, the number is being inflated.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That's a fair question. And you might also speak about the converse.

DR. BIRX: Yeah, we've been hearing the converse too.

DR. FAUCI: We've been hearing the opposite.

DR. BIRX: (Laughs.) We've been hearing both sides of that. I -
- you know, I think, we've made it very clear, I think, every
time I've been up here, about the comorbidities.

And so, they -- most of the people -- and we've talked about the
Italy data. The majority of the Italians who succumbed to this
had three or more comorbidities. So, this has been known from
the beginning. So those individuals will have an underlying
condition, but that underlying condition did not cause their
acute death when it's related to a COVID infection. In fact,
it's the opposite. Having an underlying condition and getting
this virus, we know is particularly damaging to those
individuals.

We don't know all the pathophysiology. I wish we did right
now. We see that a lot of vasculitis -- where Tony and I came
from. Tony actually -- Dr. Fauci started in the vasculitis in
Wegener's. So, I mean, these are things we have studied for a
long time. We are trying to understand the pathophysiology.

But what we can tell you at this moment: If you have asthma, if
you have renal disease, if you have diabetes, if you have
hypertension -- these are preexisting conditions that put you at
a greater risk to having a worse outcome.

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. So, Jim, just to add a comment to that
because, you know, having been through other serious issues,
particularly the very painful early years of HIV-AIDS, when
people talk about conspiracy theories -- you will always have
conspiracy theories when you have very challenging public health
crises. They are nothing but distractions.

You know, I can assure you we have so much to do to protect the
health and the welfare of the American people that I would just

hope we just put those conspiracy stuff, and let somebody write a book about it later on, but not now.

Q Dr. Birx, you said something about not enough tests being performed because some of the labs -- the machines aren't running. Did you want to clarify that? What did you mean by 80 percent weren't running and --

DR. BIRX: So, I have a call with them at 8:00 p.m. tonight. Every single one of those 120 laboratories -- I think 87 of the laboratory directors have confirmed that call. It has to do with a machine called an Abbott m2000. It's a very high-throughput machine. We have a million tests out there.

I made a big push and Abbott was extraordinary about getting those out to the labs. I mean, this is not sitting in a warehouse. These are physically in these laboratories, sitting there right now.

Q The machines aren't running?

DR. BIRX: They're not running. So we've only run 88,000 tests in three weeks off of those machines with a million test kits. So, as someone who has worked in a lot of laboratories, to have a machine that is needed -- because we could have screened every healthcare worker -- these machines are in every place in the country. So, they could have screened, in these last three weeks, 100 percent of the healthcare workers across the country that needed these rapid -- these tests to be done. And they're high throughput.

So, I have a call with them at 8 o'clock to really talk about --

Q Can the President compel that to happen? Can an order be given?

DR. BIRX: Well, I asked the Vice President to give me a chance to talk to my colleagues first.

Q Okay.

DR. BIRX: But we have a call with the CEOs of those hospitals tomorrow.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Great. Thank you. That's a really important question. And it underscores the fact that Dr. Birx pointed out that, with new -- new test, Abbott Laboratories -- with their -- FEMA has been busy distributing to states around the country. We purchased 1,200 of these machines to be able to do these tests. But there's 18,000 all across America.

And so let me -- let me just renew our call to all the -- all the hospital administrators and lab operators around America to go and identify those Abbott Laboratories machines. And know that that's -- while we've already tested more than 1.9 million Americans, our -- our short-term objective is to test as many Americans as possible as this -- as we see the coronavirus epidemic emerge in areas around the country, we want to surge those resources. We want states that haven't seen a significant outbreak to have access to that 15-minute test.

And ultimately we -- as we go forward, once we -- as, you know, I think President Trump said today, nobody wants to open the country up more than him and I can attest to that. But we're going to open it up when we can do so responsibly, putting the health of America first.

And to reopen America and to stay open, America, we're working around the clock to continually expand the kind of testing that will allow us to do what these experts call "surveillance" so that, in every state in the country, once we put this chapter of coronavirus behind us, we hope and trust sooner rather than later

that when the next Fall comes, that we will have a vast array so that CDC can do what it does so well. And that is, when a particular disease emerges, CDC surges personnel, does contact tracing, isolates that individual.

So we're just really calling on -- calling on all of our partners in the laboratories and in hospitals around the country to identify those Abbott Laboratory machines and help us continue to scale up and expand testing.

But to every American, let me again just say thank you. Thank you for what you're doing. We are in the midst of a week of heartache and I want to assure every American who has suffered loss that we're with you. We're praying for you and your families. And we're -- and we'll continue to work our hearts out to make sure these incredible healthcare workers, who are inspiring every single one of us all across the country every day, have the resources and support and the equipment to do their job safely, to provide the level of care that any American family would want for their loved one, and to be able to go home safely to their families.

And the key to all of that -- the key for the next 22 days is "30 Days to Slow the Spread." And I just encourage every American, if you haven't done so recently, go to [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). Print off your own copy. Pick up the phone and call a friend and just tell them that -- that you heard from the experts, you heard from the President and our team that we're beginning to see glimmers of hope.

Extraordinary progress in California and Washington is a tribute to the people of those states and the leadership of those states. But the beginning of stabilization and perhaps even leveling in New York and New Jersey, Louisiana, and Detroit is a testament to the people of those communities, to the leadership of those states.

But understand that every one of us has a role to play to protect the most vulnerable among us and to save lives by putting the guidelines into practice, just like you've been doing every day since they were first announced.

So thank you all and we'll see you tomorrow.

END

7:32 P.M. EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2020 12:27:57 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH Pool Report 2 -- Briefing room social distancing details

From: Shirish Date <sv.date@huffpost.com>

Date: April 9, 2020 at 12:20:22 PM EDT

Subject: WH Pool Report 2 -- Briefing room social distancing details

For those interested in the “social distancing” spacing of seats in the White House briefing room:

Before the pandemic, all 49 seats in the room (seven rows, seven seats per row) would be occupied during the rare briefings, with each person no more than a few inches from at least one person and within two feet of as many as eight people.

In the first round of “distancing,” this was changed to every other seat, meaning that the typical seat was still barely two feet away from six others. In this current round, with two occupied seats per row, those with seats are **STILL** within 3.5 feet of at least one person, and as many as four people for those with interior seats.

Also: A front row TV pool seat is barely six feet away from whoever happens to be standing at the lectern at that moment.

Two date, three journalists that we know of who spent time in the briefing room came down with coronavirus-like symptoms. One tested negative.

Here is the guidance from the CDC web site:

“Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people”

-30-

S.V. D ate

Senior White House Correspondent

HuffPost

202-624-9338 o

(b)(6) ■

@svdate

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO [James.H.Williams@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2020 1:38:43 PM
To: Amin, Stacy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb3764b7438648838c22881a06fc6afb-Stacy.Amin]; Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]; Davis, May M. EOP/WHO [May.Davis@who.eop.gov]; Pence, Laura (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3f21407a02d44cd4901bcce26f9b3074-HHS-Laura.P]; Koplow, Bret [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0f4498a3b2fd41a59bd627fdb2dc5d2e-Bret.Koplow]
Subject: RE: Tobacco

This will just be a phone call given the circumstances.

From: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Davis, May M. EOP/WHO <May.Davis@who.eop.gov>; Pence, Laura (OS) <Laura.Pence@hhs.gov>; Koplow, Bret <Bret.Koplow@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <James.H.Williams@who.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Tobacco

Bret and Laura both said they are ok doing it so apologies for the interference.

From: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Davis, May M. EOP/WHO <May.Davis@who.eop.gov>; Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>; Pence, Laura (OS) <Laura.Pence@hhs.gov>; Koplow, Bret <Bret.Koplow@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <James.H.Williams@who.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Tobacco

I really do not know. Guessing it is a little different this year. That said, as important as tobacco work is, it is not related to COVID and could probably wait till Monday.

From: Davis, May M. EOP/WHO <May.Davis@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>; Pence, Laura (OS) <Laura.Pence@hhs.gov>; Koplow, Bret <Bret.Koplow@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <James.H.Williams@who.eop.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Tobacco

I assume no one is traveling and it's a phone call, but if people want to wait we can wait!

From: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 11:00 AM
To: Pence, Laura (OS) <Laura.Pence@hhs.gov>; Koplow, Bret <Bret.Koplow@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <James.H.Williams@who.eop.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Davis, May M. EOP/WHO <May.Davis@who.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Tobacco

WH offices have usually emptied out by 1 on Good Friday. Might not happen this year but it did even that first Easter.

Keagan I can't recall if HHS closed early last year and of course it might be different this year with so much emergency work for COVID.

From: Pence, Laura (HHS/ASL) <Laura.Pence@hhs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:30 AM

To: Koplow, Bret <Bret.Koplow@fda.hhs.gov>

Cc: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <James.H.Williams@who.eop.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Davis, May M. EOP/WHO <May.Davis@who.eop.gov>; Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Tobacco

I'm free after 2pm

On Apr 9, 2020, at 1:59 AM, Koplow, Bret <Bret.Koplow@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

Thanks, James.

Yes, I can be available anytime Friday afternoon.

Bret

From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <James.H.Williams@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 11:48 PM

To: Koplow, Bret <Bret.Koplow@fda.hhs.gov>

Cc: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Davis, May M. EOP/WHO <May.Davis@who.eop.gov>; Pence, Laura (OS) <Laura.Pence@hhs.gov>; Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Tobacco

Thank you, Keagan.

Bret and Laura, are you available Friday after 1 pm?

James

On Apr 7, 2020, at 3:38 PM, Koplow, Bret <Bret.Koplow@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Keagan!

James, May, and Laura – I look forward to meeting you whenever your schedules permit.

Best regards,

Bret

Bret Koplow

Senior Counselor to the Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner

Food and Drug Administration

10903 New Hampshire Ave.

Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

(301) 796-8899

From: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 3:05 PM

To: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <James.H.Williams@who.eop.gov>; Davis, May M. EOP/WHO <May.Davis@who.eop.gov>; Koplow, Bret <Bret.Koplow@fda.hhs.gov>

Cc: Pence, Laura (OS) <Laura.Pence@hhs.gov>; Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: Tobacco

Hi James and May,

We have a new addition to the Commissioner's office handling tobacco and we would love to have him visit with the two of you to get your perspectives on all things tobacco (b) (5) I would like to introduce you to Bret Koplow, he is on detail from Stacy's office. Laura, since you will be new to those conversations, it would be great for you to join Bret whenever it works for the WH. We really appreciate you all making the time, knowing you have so much else going on with COVID-19 right now.

Thanks,
Keagan

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 10:00:47 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP,
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE
IN PRESS BRIEFING

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:52 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much everybody, and good afternoon. Today is Good Friday. And this Sunday, millions of Christians celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. At this holy time, we pray that God will heal the sick and comfort the heartbroken and bless our heroes. As American families look forward to Easter, we're reminded that our story ends not in despair, but in triumph and renewal. Very appropriate, isn't it?

I'd like to provide Americans an update on our ongoing efforts in

the war against the invisible enemy. Before I do that, I'll have a couple of notes. The United States, in discussions last night with Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and --dealing with OPEC nations -- we are trying to get Mexico, as the expression goes, "over the barrel." And Mexico is committing to do 100,000 fewer barrels.

The President and I spoke last night. We have a great relationship, great friendship. They're helping us very much at the border. They have 27,000 soldiers -- Mexican soldiers -- on our border right now, stopping people from coming into our country as our wall goes up. We're up to about 168 miles of wall.

And in speaking with the President, they have a limit. The OPEC nations have agreed to a different limit: a reduction of about 23 percent. So what I thought I would do -- and I don't know that it's going to be accepted; we'll find out -- the United States will help Mexico along and they'll reimburse us sometime at a later date when they're prepared to do so.

And we had a great conversation, but we'll find out how that all works out. As you know, they're trying to get rid of the glut of oil. There's a tremendous glut of oil. And we don't want anything to hurt our incredible industry. We're actually the largest producer in the world now, so we don't want anything to hurt those jobs -- those great jobs in Texas and North Dakota, in Oklahoma, and everywhere. We have a tremendous energy -- New Mexico -- tremendous energy business. And we want to keep those jobs.

So we're -- we're working on it. I think, eventually, it's going to work out. It may work out quicker than what most people thought possible. And maybe it won't, but it'll work out eventually.

Our experts are monitoring the data from every part of our country having to do with the topic that we're here to discuss. In the midst of grief and pain, we're seeing clear signs that our aggressive strategy is saving countless lives. Tremendous progress is being made. Although when you look at some of the numbers -- I just spoke with Governor Cuomo; we had a good talk. When you look at those numbers -- the numbers of death, people that have died -- it's so horrible.

Now, on the other side, you have the numbers of beds being used, we were just saying, are substantially reduced. That's usually the sign that it's heading in the downward curve. So, New York, we know where that is. But in the midst of all this grief and this pain, we're seeing these signs and we're seeing them very strongly. And a lot of that has to do with the aggressive strategy in saving so many lives. We're saving so many lives compared to what it could have been.

So, nobody knows what the number is, but we had a number of 100,000 lives. As many as that is, it's impossible to even think of it. And that was the low end with a tremendous amount of work and a tremendous amount of -- you can call it many different things. Our people had to be extremely strong and brave to be able to put up with what they've put up with. But the minimum, if you did this social distancing at every other aspect -- and I think I can say 90 percent, maybe even more than that, were able to do it -- the minimum number was 100,000 lives, and I think we'll be substantially under that number.

Hard to believe that if you had 60,000 -- you could never be happy, but that's a lot fewer than we were originally told and thinking. So they said between 100- and 220,000 lives on the minimum side, and then up to 2.2 million lives if we didn't do anything. But it showed a just tremendous resolve by the people of this country.

So we'll see what it ends up being, but it looks like we're headed to a number substantially below the 100,000. That would be the low mark. And I hope that bears out.

The situation in Detroit and New Orleans appears to be stabilizing. Detroit has really started to go up, and now it is stabilizing. And New Orleans is a great place; I have so many friends there. They can't believe what's happening, but it's really stabilized. I spoke with the governor of Louisiana. And, as you know, we're building them additional beds right now -- the Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA -- and that is going to be done. And I hope they're not going to be very well used because I think they've really -- I don't think they're going to need them or certainly not very many of them. We built them a big hospital of 1,000 beds and now we're -- we're in the midst of doing another 1,000. I don't think they're going to be using very many of them, and that's a good thing.

There was a time, two weeks ago, where we said, "That's not going to be nearly enough. We're going to have to build more." But we wanted to wait to see and I'm glad we waited. It just looks like they're doing really well. Louisiana and the state of Michigan is doing, really, much better than we thought.

In Washington State, we've made enough progress that the governor is now able to return an Army field hospital, so we're going to take that hospital. We don't think we need any more hospitals. We built thousands of beds all over the country, and we think we're probably not going to need that hospital anyway. And if we do, we're ready to move it to a different location.

In New York, we're seeing hospital admissions declining very substantially, as I said. And nationwide, the number of new cases per day is flattening substantially, suggesting that we are near the peak and our comprehensive strategy is working.

Over time, our guidelines to slow the spread are decreasing the rate of new cases very substantially and will result in fewer hospital admissions. And we're seeing that; it's incredible. I think, with no exceptions, it's looking like it's lower. And again, that's because of the people doing what they had to do. Great people. And working with elected representatives and -- and the doctors, the nurses, and everybody -- I mean, just everybody. Everybody is so, so -- has been so amazing.

I was told this morning again, "Please mention all of those people working in the grocery stores." And it's true. The checkouts and the clerks and the people that are really -- and a number of those people have become infected. So we want to thank them and a shout-out to them.

With the tireless devotion of American doctors and nurses and all of the medical people, we've kept our fatality rate very, very low compared to other countries. My administration is closely monitoring the data on the virus's impact on our cherished African American communities because they've been hit hard. And the Surgeon General will be sharing more of that information right after we're finished here. He'll be coming up and saying exactly what's happening because it's really -- it's very troublesome, I will tell you that.

I'd also like to provide clarity on the important point for many Americans on elective surgeries. While we've asked hospitals to cancel surgeries and procedures that do not take place at this time, just not to do them now -- the choice to delay any treatment still remains between the patient and their doctor. We're not advising Americans to postpone medical treatment that the doctor believes should occur now. So it's different kinds of surgery, obviously, but we're really getting to the point where you can start to think about doing that surgery, if necessary, pretty soon, I think. Pretty soon.

Yesterday, I directed Secretary of Agriculture Sonny to -- Sonny Perdue to expedite aid to American farmers. And Secretary Perdue will be using all of the tools at his disposal to develop a program -- and very quickly -- of at least \$16 billion to provide relief for farmers, ranchers, and producers impacted by the coronavirus.

In this time of crisis, we must keep our supply chains moving from the beginning -- right from beginning to end. And we're committed to supporting the amazing men and women who produce supply. I did, last night, a statement on social media, and I said I have directed Secretary Sonny Perdue to expedite help to our farmers, especially to the smaller farmers who are very, very badly hurting right now. I expect Secretary Perdue to use all of the funds and authorities at his disposal to make sure that our food supply is stable and safe, and our great farmers are prosperous and continue to be prosperous.

We're working very hard to make sure our food supply chain is sound and plentiful, but we all know that that begins with our farmers, cattlemen, ranchers, and producers. So we're going to be working with the small farmers, the big farmers, the cattlemen, the ranchers -- all of the producers. We're going to take care of them. We're working with them right now. We have a lot of money that was put there through our use of tariffs and other means, and we're going to help out our farmers.

And I don't think -- I tell you, I've been helping our farmers for a couple of years because they were targeted, as you know, by China and others. And I think they're very grateful to what -- for what we've done.

On the medical front, the FDA -- FDA has issued 47 emergency use authorizations for advancements and testing new ventilator designs, innovations, and personal protective equipment, and

experimental medicines. And Dr. Hahn is going to be talking about that. We've cut through the red tape to give doctors and patients unprecedented freedom to make their own healthcare decisions, granting access to potential therapies and drugs.

Since Monday, we've deployed two major shipments of hydroxychloroquine from our National Stockpile. And it's going to various cities.

And we are also disposing and getting, as quickly as we can, portions of it to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. And speaking of the Department of Defense, they're going to be sending us 10 million N95 masks that they had. And we're in great shape in every way. We're in great shape with ventilators. We're in great shape with protective clothing. We have additional planeloads coming in.

But we're not getting any calls from governors at this moment. I can speak, I think for -- Vice President Pence will be talking in a little while. We're getting -- we're getting very few calls from governors or anybody else needing anything. They're in great shape for this surge that's coming in certain areas in particular, and that's a good job. You've done a great job on that, Mike. Really, a great job. I appreciate it. The whole country appreciates it.

More than 2 million coronavirus tests have now been completed, and we're conducting approximately 100,000 more every day. We're also working to bring blood-based serology tests to the market as quickly as possible so that Americans can determine whether or not they have already had the virus and potentially have immunity.

They have immunity if they've had the virus. A lot of them don't even know if they've had it. Sometimes it's brutal. You see the Prime Minister seems to be doing well now, I hope. He had a

rough go of it, and still is, but he's doing better. And then some people don't even know they had it. It could be sniffles. It could be they don't feel perfect, but they've had it. And they're the lucky ones.

The NIH, CDC, and FDA are currently validating these antibody tests to ensure that they are accurate, and they're doing that at breakneck speed. I think we can say that, Doctor. And we're going to get them approved very quickly -- Dr. Hahn.

When validated, we're confident that the production will scale up to tens of millions of tests very quickly. We're leading the world now in testing, by far, and we're going to keep it that way. Other countries are coming to us, and they're wanting to know about our tests and can they buy the tests, and can they do whatever they have to do to get the tests. And we're going to make that -- very soon, we'll be in a position to make that possible because it's important for them to have it.

And we're going to have an announcement on the World Health Organization sometime next week. As you know, we give them approximately \$500 million a year, and we're going to be talking about that subject next week. We'll have a lot to say about it. We'll hold it.

Every American should be proud of what our country has achieved in just a short period of time. The U.S. military has deployed thousands of personnel to build 23 temporary hospitals with more than 16,000 beds. And we have the potential to build many more if we needed them, but we're all ready to go. But I don't think we're going to need them, which is great -- great news.

And we built those hospitals in 12 states and the District of Columbia using the Defense Production Act. And we used it like a hammer. A lot of the media said: Oh, we weren't using it. We used it like a hammer to a point where all we had to do was say

the words and everybody gave us max. And they've done a good job. They really have done a good job, with few exceptions.

And we've harnessed the full power of American industry to produce ventilators and other essential supplies. Right now, we're making thousands of ventilators, many of which we won't need, but we'll use them in our stockpile. And we'll build that up. We'll also help build up the stockpiles, which they should have had in the states. And so we're working with governors on that, and we'll also help other countries or countries that are calling us for help, if they need ventilators and they're in no no position to build ventilators. We are. We have Ford and General Motors, and many, many companies are building ventilators.

So we're going to be helping -- at a not-too-distant point, we're going to be helping quite a few of the countries.

Now, we've launched Project Airbridge to deliver nearly 300 million pieces of personal protective equipment from and around the globe. We're also shipping out 60 sterilization systems to 10 different cities that can each sterilize up to 80,000 masks each day, and I'm even hearing it can go up to 120,000 masks a day -- certain equipment with certain additions. It's a company in Ohio that makes it. It's a great company. Great -- I hear it's a great product. It works very well.

I asked that question; I said, "How come we have to buy so many masks? Why can't we sterilize the masks that are being used?" And the answer was, "You can." In this case, they say, up to 20 times. So we can take a mask -- certain types of masks -- the N95s in particular -- and we can sterilize them, make them very clean, up to 20 times. That's a great thing.

In addition, we passed the largest emergency economic relief package in American history to save the U.S. economy and protect

the American worker. As you know, this past week, which was four active days on the stock market -- Good Friday today is not -- is not included; the markets are closed. In four days, we had the biggest market increase -- stock market increase that we've had in 50 years. That tells you that there's a pent-up demand. That tells you they want to get back. There's something good going to happen. I really believe that. There's something very good going to happen. We have to get back.

So think of it: In this horrible period, this horrible, dark period where this -- this monster came and worked its horrible, horrible spell over the world -- 184 countries as of this morning. A hundred and eighty-four countries.

We've done well, and I guess the market thinks we've done well, because we hit the biggest stock market increase without one day -- we're talking four days instead of five -- that we've had in 50 years. Fifty years. Think of that. More than 50 years, actually.

In short, the American people have launched the greatest mobilization of our society since World War Two, deploying every scientific, governmental, medical, and military resource to defeat the virus.

So I want to just start then with -- we're going to answer questions later. We'll have time. I think we have a lot of time today. A lot of people are off, as they should be. Good Friday.

But -- so I'll stick around, and we'll answer questions later. I want to start with Deborah Birx, please. Dr. Birx. And you can go over some of the numbers we just looked at, and that'd be great.

Thank you very much, Deborah.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for outlining how well we are doing in a series of metro areas. What also has been encouraging, for those of you who are watching epidemic curves every day -- and I'm sure you are, and lot -- watching them in log phase, because that's how epidemiologists like to look at their curves -- you can see for the first time that, in the United States, we're starting to level on the logarithmic phase, like Italy did about a week ago. And so this gives us great heart on that -- not only in specific places, but we're starting to see that change.

Obviously, a lot of that is driven by the improvement in New York City. Remember, for a long time, they were over 50 percent of our cases and 50 percent of our new cases. That has dramatically changed because of the impact of what the citizens of New York and New Jersey and across Connecticut, and now Rhode Island, are doing to really change the course of this pandemic and really change the trajectory of new cases.

We're seeing that what many states and metro areas were -- experienced as twofold and fourfold -- fourfold increases that went to twofold -- that now those are going to eight days between the doubling rate. Watching this every day gives us hope across these metro areas, from New York and New Jersey and all through Denver, and of course, through New Orleans.

We still see cases occurring in the Boston area and in Chicago, but their rate of increase seems to be stabilizing. And we really want to call out the work of the mayors of Baltimore and the District and Philadelphia who have really brought all of their health -- health experts together and, working with their communities, are starting to really change the curves in those areas.

What we're seeing is we're united in social distancing, and that's been very encouraging to all of us, and it should be

encouraging to the healthcare providers that are on the frontline, many of which are serving our Americans with such dignity and respect and ensuring that everybody gets optimal care.

And as the President noted, our mortality in the United States is significantly less than many of the other countries when you correct them for our population. And that is really solely the work of our health -- our frontline healthcare providers.

And so working with -- you can really -- hopefully you get the theme today that we are incredibly proud of our public health leaders at the city level, at the state level, at the federal level who are working together to really change the course of this pandemic, working with their citizens in their communities to make these changes, and the American public who has really taken all of this to heart and stayed home.

I know, last week, we really asked a lot of people in the Washington and Baltimore area to consolidate, not go out frequently to grocery stores or pharmacies. You can really see that that's having a huge impact.

So it's really about the encouraging signs that we see. But as encouraging as they are, we have not reached the peak. And so, every day, we need to continue to do what we did yesterday and the week before and the week before that, because that's what, in the end, is going to take us up across the peak and down the other side.

We continue to really applaud the work of California and Washington State and Oregon. We're learning from all three of those states, from their public health officials, about how they were able to keep the virus from ever becoming logarithmic. And I think that's an important lesson for all of us on how they did that, what the timing was, in case we ever have to face this

issue in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Deborah.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Tony?

THE PRESIDENT: Doctor, please.

DR. FAUCI: Thank you very much, Mr. President. So again, just keeping on the theme that Dr. Birx had mentioned, this is the end of the week -- that famous week that we spoke about last weekend -- in which we -- what actually was predicted to happen, happened. We're starting to see the leveling off and the coming down that Dr. Birx had mentioned.

But it's important to remember that this is not the time to feel that since we have made such important advance in the sense of success of the mitigation, that we need to be pulling back at all. I was actually hearkened [sic] by the fact that we've been talking about the New York, New Jersey, New Orleans, and other areas where they have really big spikes, but there's other parts of the country, in the middle parts of the country, where they're concerned to make sure they don't get those spikes.

And I really want to salute the governors of states throughout the entire United States, but particularly in the central part of the country because the governors after they see us in these press conferences. And I've had calls over the last several days from several of the governors -- you know, from Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Utah. Just about an hour and a half ago, I spoke with the governors of Arkansas and Wyoming, who are really committed to make sure that they don't get into the situation where they're going to have spikes in their state. And they're doing the kinds of things that they don't get recognized, because

people don't talk about them much.

But we have a big country. We have 50 states. And it's not only the big cities. So if we're going to pull out of this, we're going to pull out of it in the big cities and we're going to pull out in those areas that aren't as densely populated.

And I just want to give a shout out to them. They're doing an extraordinary job. I was really pleasant-- I wouldn't say "surprised," because I expect it of this country -- but to hear what they're doing and the commitment that they're putting into making sure that we don't have the kinds of situations that we've experienced, unfortunately, in other areas -- this is very important.

I just want to close by -- one other thing, something I mentioned yesterday and the day before -- that there are a lot of candidate interventions that are going into clinical trials. For those of you who are interested in it, I recommend you go to ClinicalTrials.gov, and you'll see the design of a clinical trial, and you'll see that many of them are the randomized control trials that are the really gold standard of how you find out whether something really is safe and effective. And as the weeks and months -- and it'll probably be months -- sometime in the summer, we'll start to see which are working, which are not. And to focus on those that are -- we're developing and we're working.

I'll be happy to answer questions later. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Please, Doctor.

DR. HAHN: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

DR. HAHN: The White House Task Force has been very focused on increasing the supply of personal protective equipment for our great providers. I was one of those providers a few months ago and I can tell you nothing is more important than making sure they have what they need.

So, in order to increase the supply of N95 masks, FDA has worked with industry and has now authorized two companies who will supply machines to sterilize N95 masks.

Admiral Polowczyk and FEMA are purchasing, on behalf of U.S. government, 60 sterilization machines, as mentioned by the President. And they will be positioned around the country to increase the amount of supply of N95 masks.

Each machine will be able to sterilize 80,000 95 masks [sic] -- N95 masks per day. And we hope to actually increase that further.

The Vice President and the White House Task Force challenged us yesterday, and we responded as a team. FDA issued revised guidance regarding the laundering of gowns because gowns are another issue, in terms of supply, that we're looking forward on.

This is not something that normally happens around the country, but issued this guidance. It's on our website now at FDA. So there's information about how hospitals can do that to increase the supply.

We've heard concerns that maybe hospitals might not want to do that because of regulations. And I can -- happy to tell you that Administrator Verma and I have worked on this -- certified providers and suppliers who follow FDI [sic] -- FDA guidance, as posted on the website, will be compliant with Medicare and Medicaid requirements.

And then finally, last week FDA provided guidance to manufacturers on manufacturing specifications for cloth gowns. This is another attempt to increase the number of gowns. Typically, it's plastic or other types of materials. And this guidance, if followed, can be used by manufacturers to actually make these gowns and no further regulatory red tape will be necessary. They can go into circulation.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Please.

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, everyone. I started off the week talking about the challenges that lie ahead, and I want to finish the week just by reiterating what you've heard. Mitigation works. It definitively and quantitatively is working. And I want to say thank you to America for your efforts to help flatten the curve and to save lives.

But, at the President's direction, yesterday, I met with 2,000 Hispanic leaders from their communities. And today, the Vice President led a phone call that I was on with hundreds of African American leaders, including the Reverend Jesse Jackson, including Derrick Johnson of the NAACP, including the National Medical Association and the Black Nurses Association, to talk about some of the alarming trends we're observing regarding the impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.

And you've heard the stats in New York City: Hispanics represent the majority of deaths. In Milwaukee County, blacks are 25 percent of the population but almost 50 percent of the cases and 75 percent of the deaths. So what's going on? Well, it's alarming but it's not surprising that people of color have a greater burden of chronic health conditions.

African Americans and Native Americans develop high blood pressure at much younger ages, and it's less likely to be under control, and does greater harm to their organs. Puerto Ricans have higher rates of asthma and black boys are three times as likely to die of asthma as their white counterparts. As a matter of fact, I've been carrying around an inhaler in my pocket for 40 years out of fear of having a fatal asthma attack. And I hope that showing you this inhaler shows little kids with asthma all across the country that they can grow up to be Surgeon General one day.

But I -- more immediately share it so that everyone knows it doesn't matter if you look fit, if you look young. You are still at risk for getting and spreading and dying from coronavirus.

The chronic burden of medical ills is likely to make people of color especially less resilient to the ravages of COVID-19. And it's possibly -- in fact, likely -- that the burden of social ills is also contributing.

Social distancing and teleworking, we know, are critical, and you've heard Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci talk about how they prevent the spread of coronavirus. Yet only one in five African Americans and one in six Hispanics has a job that lets them work from home.

People of color are more likely to live in densely packed areas and in multi-generational housing, which -- situations which create higher risk for spread of a highly contagious disease like COVID-19.

We tell people to wash their hands, but as studies showed, 30 percent of the homes on Navajo Nation don't have running water. So how are they going to do that?

In summary, people of color experience both more likely exposure to COVID-19 and increased complications from it. But let me be crystal clear: We do not think people of color are biologically or genetically predisposed to get COVID-19. There is nothing inherently wrong with you. But they are socially predisposed to coronavirus exposure and to have a higher incidence of the very diseases that puts you at risk for severe complications of coronavirus.

But as the Vice President shared on the call this morning, this history -- and I want you to hear me say this -- it does not have to be our nation's future. We're taking steps now, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, to reach, protect, and strengthen all communities impacted by this disease, and especially our communities of color.

More details will be forthcoming. But we are actively working, as the Vice President and the CDC director laid out today, on data collection; targeted outreach to communities of color; and increasing financial employment, education, housing, social and health supports, so that everybody has an equal chance to be healthy.

And I want to close by saying that while your state and local health departments and those of us in public service are working day and night to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and to protect you regardless of your color, your creed, or your geography, I need you to know: You are not helpless. And it's even more important that, in communities of color, we adhere to the task force guidelines to slow the spread.

Stay at home, if possible. If you must go out, maintain six feet of distance between you and everyone else, and wear a mask if you're going to be within six feet of others. Wash your hands more often than you ever dreamed possible. Avoid alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. And call your friends and family. Check in

on your mother; she wants to hear from you right now.

And speaking of mothers, we need you to do this, if not for yourself, then for your *abuela*. Do it for your granddaddy. Do it for your Big Mama. Do it for your Pop-Pop. We need you to understand -- especially in communities of color, we need you to step up and help stop the spread so that we can protect those who are most vulnerable.

This epidemic is a tragedy, but it will be all the more tragic if we fail to recognize and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 and an array of other diseases and risk factors on communities of color. The task force and this administration are determined not to let that happen. The President, the Vice President have said we will not let that happen.

We can't fix these issues overnight, but I promise you we will work with your communities to quickly and meaningfully move the needle in the right direction. Nothing less than the fate of our families and friends, my family and friends depends on it.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Great job. Thank you.

Mike, please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. Today, the White House Coronavirus Task Force met and -- and heard from the President the gratitude then he and I and I know all the American people feel for all the dedicated workers at FEMA, HHS, U.S. Public Health Service, FDA, and all those that are literally working on your behalf around the clock to partner with states, to partner with local health officials. And Mr. President, allow me to add my -- my thanks and admiration to all of the entire team here at the federal level.

On this Good Friday, we -- we remember those who've lost their

lives to the coronavirus. We remember their families, our dedicated healthcare workers, and our first responders. And we do well, on this special day for Christians across this country, to remember them in our prayers.

But, as you just heard from Dr. Birx and from the experts, it's also a good day to remember that Good Friday is always followed by Easter Sunday. And there is hope. There is hope in this moment that, thanks to what the American people are doing every day -- adhering to the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America; thanks to the fact that Americans are listening to state and local leaders, and putting the health of their family members and neighbors first, we're getting there, America. We're making progress. But it's imperative that we all continue to implement all of the guidance in the "30 Days to Slow the Spread."

As the Surgeon General just attested, at the President's direction, we engaged more than 400 leaders in the African American community today. And allow me to express my appreciation for their leadership and their efforts in communicating to African Americans and other minority populations some of the unique challenges that those communities face in the midst of this epidemic.

And the CDC, as the Surgeon General said, is working on not only studying the issue, but very rapidly issuing new guidance. And we'll be communicating that new guidance to all of those great leaders.

On the subject of testing and supplies, the President gave a great amount of detail. More than 2.1 million tests have been performed and we continue to work very, very closely with FDA and suppliers around the country to expand the ability of testing. And you just heard Dr. Hahn reflect on the fact that very soon we will have an antibody test that Americans will be able to take to determine whether they ever had the coronavirus.

I spoke today to the governor of Colorado, Jared Polis. And we've been in contact with Senator Cory Gardner about an outbreak at a particular meatpacking facility in the Colorado area. And at this time, our team is working with the governor and working with the senator to ensure that we flow testing resources. At this point, there are some 14 people hospitalized, maybe 2- to 300 of the workforce have been impacted. And we spoke about providing those resources this weekend. I want to encourage people in Colorado that we will -- we will work to support that effort, but I also want to emphasize that all the people that are working in food supply -- from farmers, to meatpackers, to distributors, to truckers, to grocers -- continue to have our gratitude, as President Trump said just a few moments ago.

On supplies: More than 5 billion have been obligated to the states, 29,600 National Guard have been activated, and, at the President's direction, more than 4,700 active duty military personnel have been deployed -- medical military personnel -- in nine states, focusing on the areas of the most significant epidemic.

Air bridge, its 26 flights have been completed. Four flights are scheduled to arrive today, bringing a quarter million gowns, 25 million pairs of gloves. Fifty-four more flights are scheduled, literally bringing in supplies from around the world.

Finally, let me say, as we go into this very special weekend -- into Easter services. I know I speak on behalf of the President when I say how grateful we are to all of the churches that have been there -- and their ministries have been working under great difficulty -- to continue to provide for the needs of your members. There have been -- there have been food drives, there have been phone calls, and ministry has continued. And we are grateful for the role, on this Holy Week, that our churches, our synagogues, and all of our houses of worship have played.

On their behalf, allow me to remind you that even if you're not in the pew this Easter Sunday, if you are able, it's still a good idea to give, because those ministries continue to go forward. And we encourage you -- we encourage you to continue to support them.

We also want to say very respectfully to all of the -- all the church communities around this country and all the places of worship to continue to heed the guidelines issued in the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America. We know it's difficult in this time of year, particularly, Mr. President, to avoid gatherings of more than 10. But we're grateful that so many churches, synagogues, and places of worship have done just that, and we urge you to continue to do it.

And to my Christian brothers and sisters across the country, let me encourage you with the words we should all remember that Jesus said, "Wherever two or more are gathered, there He is also." And so you can worship, you can celebrate Easter, and know that you'll be blessed in so doing. And you'll be serving the nation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Great job. Thank you.

Okay, it's Good Friday. Let's be nice. Okay? Let's be real nice. Yeah, please. Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Can you clarify a little bit what the U.S. offer to Mexico, in order to agree to that oil deal?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q And then also go into detail about what you spoke about on oil with President Putin this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: So all of the OPEC nations met, and others, and they're all agreeing to cut back because there's a tremendous glut. We don't even -- we're filling up our strategic reserves. We don't even have room to store it. In fact, they're using ships to store oil. There's never been anything like this.

It was being overproduced to start off with, and then you had the virus and that took off 40 percent right there. So we have -- there's a glut of oil like nobody has ever seen before. It's good in many ways and, depending on where you are, who you are, it's bad. We have a tremendous energy business with hundreds of thousands of jobs. We're doing great. Number one in the world.

So, they all got together and they said, "We're going to cut it, because we have to get rid of this tremendous supply."

Now, the good news is, gasoline prices -- I'm seeing 90 cents, 85 cents, in different parts of the country, a gallon. Nobody has ever seen that. I guess you have to go back to the 1950s where they had the big large dollar bills, remember? You don't remember; you're too young. But the fact that you have to go back a long ways to see it.

So there's some good. The airlines are trying to come back, having low fuel costs is good for them -- and other reasons. Steel manufacturing -- but a lot of the steel goes to building what we do for the oil and engineering firms. So, you know, that's a -- that's a double-edged sword.

But it's -- it's -- we want to keep our energy. We want to remain independent. We will remain independent, I think, regardless. But we want to get rid of this tremendous overflow. There's no place to even store it.

So the OPEC nations met. They've been meeting. And, you know,

I've hated OPEC over the years, absolutely hated them. But obviously it broke down and we potentially have years' worth of supply. A long time before it ever can catch up, even if they do reduce it.

And they agreed, but Mexico didn't agree. It was one of the few countries that didn't agree. This is OPEC-Plus. These are OPEC-Plus countries outside -- you understand? And Mexico didn't agree. And I understand the President very well. He has a level when he came in, and he wanted to keep it at that level. Oil is important for Mexico. The problem is -- and I explained it very strongly -- you know, you're going to be selling it for \$5 or \$10 a barrel. So, in the end, it's bad.

But he did have some political difficulty with it, frankly, and I understand that too. And it's a small amount for us. It's a large amount for Mexico, but it's a very small amount for the United States, being the biggest producer. So I agreed to pick up some of the slack. So he was going to reduce it by 100,000 barrels -- reduce his output by 100,000 barrels. And I was going to pick up the slack and they would make it up to us at a later date. They would make up what we're doing at a later date. It could be in a different form.

And I don't know whether or not that's going to be -- for Mexico, it was acceptable. I don't know whether or not that's going to be acceptable to the other oil-producing nations. We'll find out. But it's something that would certainly be acceptable to me to get it over the back. So Mexico is going to reduce by 100,000 barrels, and that would mean that they're 250 to 300 barrels short. We'd make up the difference. They would reimburse us at a later date. Okay?

Q You mean make up the difference by cutting U.S. production?

THE PRESIDENT: By cutting some U.S. production. Now, the U.S.,

production has already been cut, because we're a market-driven economy and -- and oil is very market driven. They've been cutting oil all over the place. We're cutting it back.

And what does it mean really? It means we have it in the ground. We can use it. Now we have a lot of -- we have a lot of ground with a lot of oil in it. I think we're number one in that too. We're probably number one, especially with ANWR. As you know, I got ANWR approved in Alaska. That's one of the biggest finds anywhere in the world.

So when you add it all up, I think we're probably number one, even in what we have under- -- we're very lucky. We were -- we grew up in a land that was rich in a lot of ways, but it's also rich because it has a lot of oil underneath-- oil and gas.

And as, you know, natural gas -- LNG -- is all over the country now at a very low price. And our carbon, our atmosphere, our -- the level of environmental cleanliness is at its all-time best right now. All-time best. Because we are using a lot of natural gas.

But we have many forms of energy, including some of the newer forms that people want to see us go to. We have a lot of different forms of energy. We're number one in the world. We want to keep it that way.

So we're helping Mexico out. We will be reimbursed, in a form, sometime in the future.

Please.

Q Mr. President, I want to ask about the new federal projections in a moment. But first, today, you tweeted "The Invisible Enemy will soon be in full retreat!" Given it's invisible, without widespread testing how would you know?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think we're going to have it in retreat. Will it be today? No. Tomorrow? No. But it will be -- at a certain point in the not-too-distant future, it will be gone.

Q But how do you know that without the widespread testing is specifically my question.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we'll know. We'll know because people aren't going to go to the hospital, people aren't going to get sick. You're going to know that without -- but we're going to do very substantial testing. We're doing more testing right now than any other country in the world by far.

Q But it's still fewer than 1 percent of our population --

THE PRESIDENT: And if you'd like to have that question answered, I'll have the professional answer it. Deborah, perhaps you could come up. We are doing tremendous testing, but you'll know. You're going to know before anybody, because you're going to see nobody's getting sick anymore. It will be gone, and it won't be that much longer.

Go ahead.

Q I'll ask about the projections after. Thanks, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. President. So, the testing, I want to reemphasize about what kind of testing we're talking about. This is RNA diagnostic testing. That is the platform that was built to respond to this epidemic. It is the same platform that we utilize for HIV viral loads, and so many HIV clients have also

given up their space on the machines to have these tests run for all of Americans.

This assay is complicated. It's not like an assay that you have for your other diseases -- your strep test or other diseases like that. This is a very complicated assay that requires a lot of technical oversight and it's part of the reason why not all 100 percent our machines are running at full capacity. But we had great discussion with the lab directors about that.

Every day, more are brought online. And so -- but I think we have to create expectations of what the daily test rates will be. Last year, we probably did 3 million HIV viral loads or 4 million HIV viral loads as a country. We've done over 2- -- almost 2.2 million in four weeks. So this is unprecedented in what we have to do.

I think that's why we're working very hard for two pieces. And I want to make sure that people understand: Testing is just part of our strategy. The other part of the strategy has to be this syndromic and influenza-like illness, where there's an alert to an illness. And so that we're surveying where we know the most vulnerable cases have appeared.

And the great call that I had with the mayors and with the health officials yesterday and mayors today -- a lot in the rural areas, their primary -- and as it was in Washington and California -- it was at the nursing homes.

So the issue is to build a testing strategy that speaks to our strengths of laser focusing a strategic approach to testing when we know what our volumes are -- and they increase every day, but we have to be realistic about what the volumes will be a week, two weeks, three weeks from now -- and combine that with strategic surveillance so that we're testing symptomatic people and their contacts very quickly -- to go back to contact tracing,

utilizing our complete strategy.

And I think we're very much interested -- and it's why the President, three weeks ago, really put us on getting an antibody test. And I think -- I called from the podium for our university colleagues and unive- -- and hospitals to begin an ELISA-based test, because that's a blood draw. But we really wanted a finger prick to make it easy and deployable.

That's what's being worked on now. Of course, we don't want to promise until we have it because I think we deserve that, the American people deserve that: to have a test that is efficient to let people know who has been positive for immunity. That's critical to epidemiologists and public health officials to know what the penetrance of a virus was into a community, when all you're seeing are the serious cases and testing the most symptomatic.

And so that's a question that we still have: Is this the tip of the iceberg or is this half the iceberg or three quarters of the iceberg -- what we have seen to date?

And we have -- I just want to complete the thought by saying: In the areas where we had an outbreak, these large metros -- Louisiana, Denver, Detroit, Chicago, New York, New Jersey -- but, per capita, we've done more tests than any other place in the world. That was intentional. We focused the tests where the need was the greatest and the burden of disease the greatest. And now we're trying to really see how strategically that very valuable resource can be utilized around the country to create a mosaic of testing combined with surveillance.

Q Can I ask about the new federal projections? There's new reporting today -- the new federal projections suggest --

THE PRESIDENT: Let you ask who?

Q I'd like to ask you, if I can, about the new federal projections that suggest lifting the 30-day shelter-in-place orders would lead to a spike in infections. Have you seen those new projections from your Department of Homeland Security and HHS, first of all?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not. When did they say this would take place? When?

Q They said that it would take place if the 30-day shelter-in-place were to be removed. They're three different example --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, well, we'll talk about that. Doctor, would you like to talk about that?

Q So does that impact your thinking though that those --

DR. BIRX: We haven't seen the documents.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't -- they haven't seen it. I guess, you're seeing -- I guess they leaked it to NBC.

Q They didn't leak it to us. It's being reported by others.

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody has it. And they're the ones that do it, so.

Q It's your administration, so I asked. It's from the HHS and DOJ.

Q I'll circle back in a sec- --

THE PRESIDENT: We'll find out about it. They don't know about it.

Q So in terms --

THE PRESIDENT: Do you want to say something, Tony? Go ahead.

DR. FAUCI: First of all, Peter, I haven't seen that, so I can't quote on that.

Q But New York Times just reported it with the last four hours.

DR. FAUCI: That's okay. I still haven't seen it. I've been here all day. (Laughter.)

Q I understand. I'm just saying it wasn't leaked to me; I'm just telling you what I've seen.

DR. FAUCI: So, what I think -- what -- that they're talking about is that whenever you pull back, you would expect that you might start seeing cases. And what we've been talking about -- what Dr. Birx has just mentioned -- is that when you see that, that's where you want your resources to be able to very efficiently, in real-time, identify, isolate, and contact trace.

So, don't let anyone get any false ideas that when we decide at a proper time when we're going to be relaxing some of the restrictions, there's no doubt you're going to see cases. I would be so surprised if we did not see cases. The question is how you respond to them.

I think that's what they were referring to.

Q I guess, the question, Mr. President: Should Americans have to decide between staying healthy and going back to work?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, I think we're going to do both. We're going to go back to work and we're going to stay healthy. And

staying healthy is also a proportion. If you look at what we're doing, we're looking at a date -- we hope we're going to be able to fulfill a certain date -- but we're not doing anything until we know that this country is going to be healthy. We don't want to go back and start doing it over again, even though it would be in a smaller scale.

Yeah, Jeff. Go ahead.

Q Thank you, sir. Just a follow-up on the oil question. The President of Mexico said that you had agreed that the U.S. would cut production by 250,000 barrels per day. Is that what you agreed to?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we would -- which we've already done, by the way. But we would agree to a reduction cut; they would agree to do something to compensate us in the future. Okay?

Q Did you make any assurances to Saudi Arabia that you, the United States would not bail out oil drillers here?

THE PRESIDENT: We didn't discuss that with Saudi Arabia. We just discussed the numbers and we discussed who is opposed and who is not. And pretty much everybody is in favor of it, because they're getting clobbered. They're all getting clobbered. All of those countries are having problems.

If you look at Saudi Arabia, that's their source of income -- primary source of income, by far. So they want to do it. Russia wants to do it. The OPEC nations want to do it. They all want to do it. So we'll see what happens. There's a difference between wanting to do it and doing it.

Yeah, go ahead. OAN, in the back.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. This is a national security

question, back to Venezuela and China. This morning --

THE PRESIDENT: Venezuela. Go ahead.

Q Your administration has placed a \$15 million bounty on Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro. And we have news this morning that President Xi is talking with Nicolas Maduro, expressing his financial support for Maduro. So, two questions: One, have you discussed with Dr. Xi -- President Xi the U.S. policy on Maduro? And two, are -- how does this affect U.S. policy with regards to its war on anti-narcotics?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. We will not be happy if that takes place. I have not spoken to President Xi of China about Venezuela -- about that aspect of Venezuela. But if that took place, we will not be happy. Okay? I will not be happy.

Q Are you concerned that he is opening up another financial avenue with him?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm concerned about everything. I'm concerned about everything. That's why I don't sleep a lot. I get myself concerned about everything. But I would not be happy about that. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, getting back to Peter's question -- a variation of that question. Your doctors who are gathered here seem to be in doubt as to whether or not the country could reopen on May the 1st. If they come to you before May the 1st and say the country is not ready or huge parts of the country are not ready to reopen on May the 1st, will you listen to them?

THE PRESIDENT: I listen to them about everything. I think they're actually surprised. I have great respect for these people. All of them. You, look --

Q But those -- that recommendation in particular --

THE PRESIDENT: And others that are working with us. I have great respect for this group. In fact, I told Tony Fauci -- I said, "Why don't you move to New York, run against AOC? You will win easily." But he decided that he's not going to do that, okay? I kid. By the way --

Q Some of your allies have been bashing these doctors. Some of your allies have been bashing --

THE PRESIDENT: -- you know that --

Q Some -- some of your allies have been bashing these doctors. Would you tell them to cut it out?

THE PRESIDENT: I can only say this: I have tremendous respect for these people and we've done very well. And when you look at us compared to others -- we're a big nation. When you look at us compared to others, when you see how we've taken testing from a broken system that I inherited to having the best tests that anyone has made anywhere in the world -- and other countries are calling us, wanting to use our technology. I have great respect for these people.

Q But if they come back to you, sir --

THE PRESIDENT: I'm never saying bad about these people.

Q If they come back to you, sir, and say, before May the 1st, "We can't open on May the 1st," do you listen?

THE PRESIDENT: I will certainly listen. I will certainly listen.

Q Will you take that advice?

THE PRESIDENT: There are two sides. Remember, there is -- I know -- I understand the other side of the argument very well because I look at both sides of an argument. I will listen to them very carefully though.

Please. Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. You may have seen this, but JPMorgan came out with a forecast about GDP growth in the second quarter, and they're saying a 40 percent decline in the second quarter of this year. Do your economic advisors share that view?

THE PRESIDENT: I think my economic advisors are interested in the third quarter and really the fourth quarter. And I think we have a chance to do record fourth quarter numbers, because there's a tremendous pent-up demand. And you see it this week -- I mean, what reason would there be, other than faith in us and in this country? Faith in this group -- and me, and our Vice President, and everybody. Governors, perhaps. You can add them into it also. What reason would that be for -- in a shortened week, four days instead of five -- to have the biggest stock market gain in over 50 years? So, I think that -- you know, to me, there's a sign.

Hey, look, with all we've been down -- I mean, we've -- we've never been hit -- I don't know, has this country ever been hit like this? Probably not. 1917, but that was different, and it was a different time, and, frankly, Europe took the brunt of it. We didn't, but it was a terrible time also. But, probably, never been hit like this, right?

Somebody was saying -- in fact, I was speaking with Governor Cuomo about it. Because we were in New York City -- a place we love, New York State -- with the World Trade Center. And that

was approximately 3,000 people. Well, we've doubled that. In this same area, we've doubled that -- more than doubled it, substantially more. And it's obviously going. You know, we had our highest number yesterday and the day before.

Okay. With all of this news, what would lead you to believe that we're going to have the best stock market week -- shortened week -- in 50 years? Almost broke the all-time record. You know what that is? That's a pent-up demand. Now, that's my opinion.

The other thing is we're doing tremendous stimulus plans. And despite what you're reading -- you know, there's back and forth, but we are getting along with the Democrats. They want to see something happen. We have to help our workers. We have to help our small businesses. We have to help -- we have to help our restaurants. I think deductibility will be great for entertainment, restaurants, all of it.

Look, I think, with the stimulus, with the people, with what we've got going, with all of the things -- we're going to be meeting with the airlines over the weekend. We have a great plan for the airlines. We've got to keep the airlines going. You know, it's never been a great business, but it's a very vital business for the country.

We're going to be meeting with Boeing. We're going to be meeting with a lot of companies that are great companies and were great companies a short while ago. I mean, we can't let anything happen to Boeing. It's, you know, got so much potential. You talk about potential -- can anything have more potential than that?

So, we have a lot of very exciting things taking place. We have tremendous plans. We have tremendous stimulus. And I think we have a chance to do really well.

So this quarter isn't the quarter I'm looking at. Third quarter, we start to think about it. And I think fourth quarter is going to be at a level that, maybe, we haven't seen before.

I think our country -- with the stimulus, with all that we've been through -- we've learned a lot. Don't forget, we've learned about pandemics and epidemics. We've learned a tremendous amount. And with all that we've learned -- as an example, we're making ventilators. We have thousands of them being delivered in the very near future. We have countries calling us: "Can we have ventilators?" That would have been an unthinkable call. I'd be -- I wouldn't know what to say. They have people dying, but we needed them for ourselves. We have plenty before the surge. In New York, they need far fewer hospital rooms or far fewer hospital beds, in particular, than we thought.

And I have to say, Dr. Birx told me that four weeks ago, six weeks ago. I remember you said, "That number is too high. We don't need that many." And based on what she said, and others, we did what we had to do. We actually gave the maximum. We built Javits. We sent the ship in. We then made the ship COVID, because, you know, there weren't a lot of people on the roads; you didn't have the accidents that we thought -- other unrelated accidents. There's nobody driving. You know, normally you have a lot of car accidents. You have a lot of motorcycle accidents. You have people going to the hos- -- we didn't have that. We had almost none of it. So, a lot of things have happened.

I think we have a chance to be stronger than before. I really do. I think the stimulus is very important. What we're doing -- I think it's very, very important.

Q Can I ask --

THE PRESIDENT: Please, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, may I ask you about credit and debt as well? Many American individuals, families have had to tap their credit cards during this period of time.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q And businesses have had to draw down their credit lines. Are you concerned, Mr. President, that that may hobble the U.S. economy -- all of that debt, number one? And number two, would you suggest to credit card companies to reduce their fees during this time?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's something that we've already suggested. We're talking to them. Business interruption insurance. I'd like to see these insurance companies -- you know, you have people that have paid -- when I was in private, I had business interruption.

When my business was interrupted through a hurricane or whatever it may be, I'd have business where I had it. I didn't always have it. Sometimes I had it; sometimes I have a lot of different companies. But if I had it, I'd expect to be paid. You have people -- I speak mostly to the restauranteurs, where they have a restaurant, they've been paying for 25, 30, 35 years -- business interruption. They've never needed it. All of a sudden, they need it. And I'm very good at reading language. I did very well in these subjects. Okay? And I don't see the word "pandemic" mentioned.

Now, in some cases, it is. It's an exclusion. But in a lot of cases, I don't see it. I don't see a reference, and they don't want to pay up. I would like to see the insurance companies pay if they need to pay, if it's fair. And they know what's fair and I know what's fair. I can tell you very quickly.

But business interruption insurance, that's getting a lot of money to a lot of people. And they've been paying for years. You know, sometimes they just started paying. But you have people that have never asked for business interruption insurance, and they've been paying a lot of money for a lot of years for the privilege of having it. And then when they finally need it, the insurance company says, "We're not going to give it." We can't let that happen.

Please, go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. On March 6th, you said anyone who wants a test can get a test. Now you're saying that there -- that you would be open to reopening the government without having a national testing system. How do you square those two statements, given that there's still issues with testing going forward? And how can you tell people --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there's not a lot of issues with this.

Q -- that they're not going to have their lives put at risk?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. I got it. There's not a lot. And it's a good question. There's not a lot of issues with testing.

Certain sections of the -- if we go to Iowa, we go to Nebraska, we go -- and interestingly, Idaho is very interesting because they had a few breakouts, small breakouts. But they're very, very capable states and they're big distances. A lot of land. A lot of opening. You don't need testing there, you know, where you have a state with a small number of cases. Some states with almost none. West Virginia hung in for a long time, as you know, with none -- for a long time.

So when you have that, you don't need testing. You don't have to test every person in the state of Iowa, as an example. You don't

have to test every single person to say, "Let's open up and let's get the tractors moving, and let's get the corn," and let's open up all of the different things they do in that great state. You don't need that.

With that being said, if there's a little hot corner someplace, we'll be testing. But I think Deborah speaks to this very well. Same thing in New York. That's what we talked to Governor Cuomo about this morning. We have the Abbott test, which is very quick and very easy. It goes very fast. Then we have a lesser test that we talked about where we can talk about a larger area.

But you're going to know -- so we're going to do testing, but you don't need to test 325 to 350 million people, because, number one, it's unnecessary. Vast numbers -- vast areas of our country don't need this. I think you agree with me on that. You just don't need it.

Now, we have certain hotspots. So, Louisiana is a hotspot. New York is a hotspot. Detroit is a hotspot. And then you have certain areas in certain hotspots that you have to even go more so. And we're doing all of that.

Remember this: We've done more testing than any country in the world. And we have the best tests. And we've developed this over a very short period of time.

Please. Go ahead.

Q Can I ask you also about the African American disparity? Because I have a --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q -- question for you and a question for the Surgeon General.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q For you, Mr. President: We know that these health disparities have existed for a long time among African Americans, Latinos, and other people of color. Why didn't the administration possibly have a plan directed at those communities to prevent high death rates, knowing that the health disparities were there?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we do have a plan. And one of the things I'm most proud about is what I've been able to do for the African American community: the lowest job numbers in the history of our country. This was --

Q I'm talking about for the virus, of course.

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me. Yeah. Just before the virus came -- well, I'm just saying, because you know, this has been here for three weeks, right? So, just before, African American community had the lowest unemployment, the best employment numbers. More African American people and communities have been thriving.

If you look at our Opportunity Zones and what we did -- Tim Scott, who's fantastic, a fantastic senator, came to me: Opportunity Zones. More jobs for African Americans than ever before. Better healthcare than they've ever had before. All of these things.

The Surgeon General spoke to it, and he spoke to it, I thought, really brilliantly. I found it very interesting what he said. And I'd love you to come up and answer the second part of her question because I think you're -- you would do a much better job than I would.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. Surgeon General.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Q Thank you. I have a quick question for you. You -- you've said that African Americans and Latinos should avoid alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. You also said, "Do it for your *abuela* and do it for Big Mama and Pop-Pop." There are some people already --

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: I said "granddaddy" too.

Q There's some people online that are already offended by that language and the idea that you're saying behaviors might be leading to these high death rates. Could you talk about whether or not people -- could you, I guess, have a response for people who might be offended by the language that you used?

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: Well, I used that language because that's the language -- I've been meeting with the NAACP, with the National Medical Association, with others. I actually talked with -- with Derrick Johnson multiple times this week, the head of the NAACP, and we need targeted outreach to the African American community.

And I used the language that is used in my family. I have a Puerto Rican brother-in-law. I call my granddaddy "granddaddy." I have relatives who call their -- their grandparents "Big Mama." So that was not meant to be offensive. That's the language that we use and that I use.

And we need to continue to target our outreach to those communities. It is critically important that they understand it's not just about them, and I was very clear about that. It's not just about what you do, but you also are not helpless.

We need to do our part at the federal level. We need people to

do their parts at the state level. And we need everyone -- black, brown, white, whatever color you are -- to follow the President's guidelines, the coronavirus guidelines, and do their part. Because when I talked to the NAACP three weeks ago, it's important to note that one of the things they asked me was, "Can you help dispel the myths in this community that people actually can't get coronavirus if they're black?" That was a myth that was out there that's actually very important for us to squash here.

Q So do you recommend that all Americans avoid tobacco, alcohol, and drug use at this time?

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: Absolutely. It's especially important for people who are at risk and with comorbidities. But, yes, all Americans.

So, thank you, and I will clarify that. All Americans need to avoid these substances at all times. I've put out a smoking cessation report in January. I put out a advisory against youths and pregnant women using marijuana last year. And that was not directed towards any one race. That's everybody needs to do everything they can to be as healthy as possible at this critical time.

Dr. Fauci, would you add anything?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

DR. FAUCI: No, I think you said it perfectly, Jerome. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Would you like to add anything to it? Because you are really -- you expressed it very beautifully before.

DR. FAUCI: No, I mean -- Jerome, you did it beautifully. (Laughs.) I can't do it any better than that. And

I know Jerome personally, and I can just testify that he made no -- not even a hint of being offensive at all with that comment. I thought that was appropriate. Thanks.

THE PRESIDENT: And I can tell you Jerome has done a fantastic job -- our Surgeon General. I just hope nobody steals him and he goes to one of these big companies for a fortune. Don't leave us. Right? Don't leave us, Jerome. Please.

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: I'm happy serving the people, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: He's doing a great -- you are happy and you're doing a great job. And everybody -- everybody tells me that too. So we appreciate it.

Please.

Q Thank you. So Google and Apple have announced that they are jointly enabling contact tracing on their mobile phone operating systems. And I was wondering if this is something that you would consider or maybe the doctors would consider for --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's individual freedoms, problems and --

Q -- the federal government.

THE PRESIDENT: -- a lot of other things. Is it something we're going to look at it? Certainly. And we know they've done that. And it's highly -- it's very new. New technology. It's very interesting. But a lot of people worry about it in terms of a person's freedom. We're going to take a look at that. A very strong look at it. We'll let you know pretty soon.

Q And I have another question.

THE PRESIDENT: Brand new. Yes, please.

Q So can you explain why it is appropriate, in the middle of a pandemic, to be talking about cutting or eliminating funding for the World Health Organization?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to talk about the WHO next week in great detail. I didn't want to do it today -- Good Friday. I didn't want to do it before Easter. I also didn't want to do it before we have all the facts.

But over the years, many years, we've been paying them from 300 to 500, and even more, million dollars a year. China has been paying them less than 40 over the years. So we're paying them more than 10 times more than China. And they are very, very China-centric, as I said during the week. China-centric.

China always seems to get the better of the -- the argument, and I don't like that. I really don't like that. I don't think that's appropriate. I don't think it's fair to the American people. And, you know, I tell that to President Xi. I tell that to Dr. Tedros. I spoke to him one time. I think he's a very nice man. I liked him.

But we're going to be talking about that next week in great detail. We're looking at it very, very closely. We want to make sure money is properly spent.

But again, why is the United States paying \$500 million a year? It's a lot. And why is -- okay? That's a lot. And why is China paying -- last year, this year -- \$42 million? But generally under \$40 [million]. So it's in the 30s.

So we're at 500, 452, 400, 401 -- different amounts, different years. And they're at 40, 38, 36, 35, 32, 31.

Q But why now --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. But -- but you have to ask yourself that question. And then the answer always turns out to be in China's favor. Well, I have the same thing with the World Trade. Isn't it interesting? World Trade. So we have World Health and we have World Trade. So we have the World Trade Organization. And until I came along, we were losing cases -- so many cases. It was ridiculous. We were always losing these cases. I mean, almost every case. And now we're winning cases. We just won \$7 billion because they know I'm not going to put up with it.

China has been -- unbelievably taken advantage of us and other countries. You know, for instance, they're considered a developing nation. I said, "Well, then make us a developing nation too." They get big advantages because they're a developing nation. India, a developing nation. The United States is the big developed nation. Well, we have plenty of development to do. Okay?

And now we're winning cases because they know that if we're not treated fairly, I'm going to pull out. Now, you never heard this before because nobody ever talked about the World Trade Organization. But the World Trade Organization has treated us very unfairly. But they know I'm not going to put up with it because all of these countries are taking advantage of the United States.

Now, in the courts and the court system, we're not approving new judges over the last year. We're not going to approve them. And Bob Lighthizer is working very hard on that.

But we had always a minority position, meaning numbers of judges. So we'd have a minority number of judges. I said, "How do you win with a minority number of judges?" But all of a sudden, we're winning. And the reason we're winning is they know

if they don't treat us properly -- and we won \$7 billion just this very recently. And the money is pouring in. And we won other cases too. We won a lot of cases.

But you know from covering it -- I know you know -- that the United States was taken advantage of by the World Trade Organization.

And, by the way, speaking of China: If you look at the history of China, it was only since they went into the World Trade Organization that they became a rocket ship with their economy. They were flat-lined for years and years. Frankly, for many, many decades. And it was only when they came into the World Trade Organization that they became a rocket ship because they took advantage of all there is. I'm not even blaming them. I'm saying, how stupid were the people that stood here and allowed it to happen? But we don't allow that to happen. And if they don't treat us fairly, we'll leave. But now we're starting to win cases.

How about somebody new for a change? Come on.

Q Hi, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q As many schools and school districts are closing across the country, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has not ruled out closing -- or opening up schools in May, saying that many kids are not vulnerable to this disease. Do you agree with that assessment? And do you believe that schools -- would you recommend that schools open up? And to those states that have a lot of cases --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have a lot of confidence in Ron DeSantis, a lot of faith in Ron DeSantis to make the right decision. He's

doing a great job as governor. Ron DeSantis, I had read where he's thinking about opening up the schools earlier than the date -- the end of the month. I'd have to look at the numbers.

But again, you know, I like to allow governors to make decisions without overruling them, because from a constitutional standpoint, that's the way it should be done. If I disagreed, I would overrule a governor, and I have that right to do it. But I'd rather have them -- you can call it "federalist," you can call it "the Constitution," but I call it "the Constitution." I would rather have them make their decisions.

But he's made a lot of good decisions. And he hasn't said he's going to, but he's thinking about it. So I'll take a look at it.

Q I'm wondering if I can ask a follow-up to one of the doctors. If you allow children back into schools, you know, wouldn't that pose a threat to spreading the virus even further to some of those vulnerable people?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the answer is obvious, but if you want, either -- would you want to just talk about that maybe? Tony?

DR. FAUCI: She kicks me up here right now. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I know. I can see. (Laughs.) I think -- I think they know the answer to that.

DR. FAUCI: Yeah, I mean, from -- from pure public health issues is that, if you have a situation in which you don't have a real good control over an outbreak and you allow children to gather together, they likely will get infected. And if they get infected, the likelihood that they will bring the infection home. So that really is a risk.

I don't know the situation at all in any detail, and I'm not specifically speaking about Florida. I'm just speaking generically about what happens when you have infections in the community, and you have a congregation of people, such as in classrooms, that that's a risk.

Q Has anyone under 25 died, Dr. Fauci, in the country?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Deb.

DR. BIRX: Yes.

Q The governor -- the governor said --

DR. FAUCI: Yes.

Q -- that no one under 25 has died. And I guess you could clarify that people under 25 can die as a result of this.

DR. BIRX: A community in Florida (inaudible).

DR. FAUCI: Yeah, I'm not sure. Again, I --

Q In the country?

DR. FAUCI: Okay, let's do that, because I don't want to have to be answering for --

Q Fair enough.

DR. FAUCI: -- a particular state. Yes, people under 25 have died of coronavirus disease in the United States of America.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

Q If you reopen the country in May and there is a new outbreak or a spike in infections, are you open to the idea of shutting the country down again?

THE PRESIDENT: Depending on the outbreak, yeah. Depending.

Q You would be open to it?

THE PRESIDENT: And that's happened, as you know, with a couple of countries.

You know what I'm doing? I'm watching other countries. In many cases, they're ahead of us from the standpoint that it attacked them before us. It hit them first. And I'm watching what's happening with respect to certain other countries -- some of them obvious, some of them less obvious -- and what they're doing and the success that they're having. And that's going to play a large part of the role.

I'm also -- we're also setting up a council of very, very great doctors and business people. We're going to be announcing it on Tuesday -- of some great people. The --

Q Is this the economic task force?

Q As a second task force?

THE PRESIDENT: Beyond -- this is beyond economic. This is really -- I call it, "The Opening Our Country Task Force" or "Opening Our Country Council," so we don't get it confused with Mike's task force, which has done so great. And we're going to have the great business leaders, great doctors. We're going to have a great group of people.

We'll probably do it by teleconference, because we don't really want them traveling in, for their own purposes. I don't think it

would look good, also. But we don't want them traveling in. So we'll do teleconference.

We did one the other day with the banks, and it was very successful -- the teleconference itself.

And we'll be announcing names on Tuesday, who's on that. And that'll play a role. But ultimately, I have to make that decision. And then I'll have to make a decision: Do we close a little area that's a hotspot?

I do say this, Jim: I want to get it open as soon as possible. This country was meant to be open and vibrant and great, not where people are, you know, staying in.

Q Are you determined to do it by May 1st?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not -- I am -- I would love to open it. I'm not determined anything. The facts are going to determine what I do. But we do want to get the country open. So important.

So I'll have a task force. I'll have a council. It's going to be announced on Tuesday with names that you have a lot of respect for, a lot of great names. Different businesses, different people. Top --

Q Bipartisan?

THE PRESIDENT: Bipartisan? I didn't even ask. I mean, honestly, I think it's bipartisan. The one thing I didn't ask, "Are you Republican or a Democrat?" Hard to believe, but I didn't ask. So it would be. And I want their views on what they think.

Also, very important, different parts of the country. Because if

you go to the Midwest, it's different than perhaps the East Coast or the West Coast. Now, the West Coast, those numbers are, really, pretty amazing on the West Coast. It's very interesting.

So we're going to be announcing that in a very short while. Probably Tuesday.

Go ahead. Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Government officials in Latin American and in Caribbean nations -- Bahamas, Cayman Islands -- have been saying that U.S. authorities are blocking the shipment of PPE in certain cases. And I'm wondering if you could speak to that, as (inaudible).

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what we're doing -- we have a tremendous force out there -- a naval force -- and we're blocking the shipment of drugs. So maybe what they're doing is stopping ships that they want to look. We're not blocking. What we're doing is we're making sure -- we don't want drugs in our country. And especially with the over 160 miles of wall -- it's getting very hard to get through the border. They used to drive right through the border like they owned it, and in a certain way, they did. They could drive right -- they had human trafficking. They had -- all of a sudden, they have a powerful wall up, and they're not driving through that wall. That wall is tough and it's also loaded up with equipment -- cameras and sensors and everything you can think of. On top of that, we have drones flying back and forth over it. So -- so it's in very -- a very powerful -- it's a very powerful barrier between Mexico and the United States.

A lot of people though -- what they're doing now is they're trying to come in through the waterways, whether it's the Gulf or the ocean itself. And what we're doing is we're being very tough. And we're being tough because of drugs and also human trafficking.

And remember, the human trafficking is mostly females. It's mostly females. It's horrible. And what we're seeing is horrible. But you have a big -- we have a human trafficking -- human trafficking problem worldwide, the likes of which -- you know, you think of it as an ancient thing. It's not ancient. It's bigger now than it's ever been before, over the last 10 years, because of the Internet. The Internet made human trafficking to the extent that it is now, which is massive. The Internate [sic] -- the Internet made it so big.

So, we are -- we have a big naval force that's stopping. So maybe when you mention that, maybe their ships are getting caught. But we are -- we're stopping a lot of ships, and we're finding a lot of drugs.

Yeah, please.

Q Thank you, sir. On the additional money for small --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I meant you, but that's okay. Go ahead. We'll do this.

Q I'm sorry.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q On the additional money for small business, apparently Treasury Secretary Mnuchin is speaking with the Democrats in Congress.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Are you allowing him to --

THE PRESIDENT: You're talking about the new --

Q Yeah, on the new \$250 billion.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, 250.

Q Are you willing to give into Democratic demands for, you know, additional money for hospitals, states, and cities in that interim round of money?

THE PRESIDENT: I'd rather have that be in phase four. I don't deny it; I think it's fine. But I think it should be in phase four. And I think we should have infrastructure, and I think we should have a payroll tax moratorium, because that's something that, over a period of time, the workers get, you know, sort of semi-immediately. It's over that period of time. It starts immediately, but it's over a period of time.

I mean, there are a lot of people -- I'm one of them -- that would have liked to have seen the payroll tax cut as a permanent cut. But we should do the double-edged -- meaning, business-employee payroll tax cut. So we're talking about that.

And I'm certainly okay with helping the states and helping the hospitals. I just think -- because, look, the hospitals need help; you see what they've gone through. And the states need help. Some states in particular need help. They need big help. I'm willing to look at that very strongly. But I like looking at it in phase four.

The 251 is actually -- the plan is working out well. The banks are getting started with the distribution. They've taken hundreds and thousands of applications. The numbers aren't even believable, the number of applications. They're swamped. But Bank of America and Wells Fargo, and, I guess, Citi -- Citibank is just now kicking in.

And also what nobody is talking about, the commercial banks -- the community banks. Everyone is talking commercial banks. The community banks are doing tremendous volumes. And they're probably doing them faster, from what I understand. I hear the community banks, frankly, are the easiest ones in terms of getting the money out.

So the money is getting out. The applications are far beyond what we ever anticipated. And that's what we're -- that's why we're going. Because this is money that goes, essentially, to the workers. We want the businesses to hold on to their workers, because once they lose the workers, they're never opening again. It's not going to happen.

Okay, in the back.

Q Yes, sir. Gordon Lubold from the Wall Street Journal. I wondered if you could expand a little bit on your -- like the form that Mexico would take the reimbursements. Like, what form would that take? Do you essentially to the tab for the wall that you mentioned? And I have a second question, if I may.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there's no real cost because we're agreeing to produce a little bit less. So, number one, it's staying in the ground. You have it. You have it for another day. It's actually cheaper than storing it, where you take it out and you deliver it to a massive well, like the Strategic Reserves -- our National Strategic Reserves where it has to be brought there. And that's, you know, an expensive process in itself.

But oil is getting to a point where, I mean, there are some areas -- some people would say the water is more valuable than the oil. You never thought you're going to see that. You never thought having covered -- I know you cover it -- you never thought you'd be seeing oil at \$20 a barrel, but how about \$10 a barrel? That, you never thought you'd see.

So we are looking at it very strongly. There is no real cost. I was helping Mex- -- I want to help Mexico out. We have a great relationship with Mexico, a great relationship with the President. I really like him a lot. He's been terrific to us on the border because he stopped -- he stopped -- you don't see the caravans coming up anymore. You don't see all the problems. When I took office, it was unbelievable what was going on.

And they are really -- they have been helping us a lot, and we've been helping them a lot. You know, they make product for us, they sell it to us, and it's fine. It's a good relationship. It's -- and sometimes it's a great relationship.

So, he could not have done any more than that. And I think there was political reasons for that -- for him -- that other -- other nations don't have. They don't have that. You know, the nations that we're talking about -- the 22 other nations that we're talking about -- they just don't have that problem.

So, it doesn't cost us anything, and yet it's very valuable. We will be reimbursed in the future -- maybe in the near future, maybe in the more distant future. But we'll be reimbursed by Mexico in a certain way, and it'll be fine. But we get Mexico over the hump.

Now with all of that being said, that doesn't mean the deal is going to happen anyway, because they still have a lot of different states. But this was one of the stumbling blocks. Okay?

Go ahead.

Q If I may, China and some other countries that have been particularly active -- seen as maybe taking advantage of the U.S.

during this process, during this period. China particularly acted in the South China Sea. Got a carrier down, obviously. What's your message to some of these adversaries and competitors?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, look, the way I view it is this: China has taken advantage of the United States for 30 years. Okay? I mentioned the World Trade Organization. China has taken advantage of us through that and using rules that are unfair to the United States. And they should have never been allowed -- this should have never been allowed to happen.

When China joined and was allowed to join under those circumstances -- the World Trade Organization -- that was a very bad day for the United States because they had rules and regulations that were far different and far easier than our rules and regulations. Plus, they took advantage of them down to the last -- and you know China and you studied China and you know what I mean. They took advantage of them like very few people would even think to take advantage of them.

And again, they are considered -- right? -- a developing nation. We are not considered a developing nation. They've given advantages. Okay.

For many years, China has ripped off the United States. And then I came along. And right now, as you know, China is paying 25 percent, and we've taken in billions and billions and billions of dollars in tariffs from China. And I know a lot of the people kept saying, "Oh, no. We're paying." Well, we're not paying. You know, countries are different. Not every country is China. But China would devalue their currency, and they'd also pour out money. And they, essentially, were paying most of those tariffs, not us.

And, as you know, we've taken in tens of billions of

dollars. They targeted our farmers. But we took in so much money that I was able to give back. One year it was \$12 billion. One year was \$16 billion. I was able to give back our farmers the money that they were targeted -- hurt.

China bought \$12 billion and bought \$16 billion -- one year, 12; one year, 16. I was able to give them back the 12, and then give them back the 16 -- the farmers. And they weren't targeted, and they're all in business. Now we're doing it because they got targeted in a different way.

Now, I'm going to be very interested to see. So we signed a deal with China. And under that deal, they're supposed to buy substantially in excess of \$200 billion from us. That's not only farm product, it's manufacturing product, it's lots of different things. They're going to buy a lot. I just want to see if they live up to that deal.

I know President Xi. I would say he would live up to the deal. But remember this: I never took off the tariff. It's still 25 percent. That's a big -- 25 percent of \$250 billion dollars.

So, for the first time -- and you saw also -- now again, I'm going before the virus hit. Because that's sort of like -- that's like, "Let's start all over again." Okay? I can't tell you that yet, because that chapter hasn't been written yet. But go up a few weeks ago, the deficit with the United States and China was coming way down. Nobody has seen that. Nobody has ever seen that before. But the deficit has come way down.

So, now we start a new chapter. And I can only tell you, if a smart person is standing where I'm standing, we're going to do very well with China. Okay?

And I think it's -- I have to also say this: I think our

relationship, and having the relationship I have with China is a good thing. But for the first time, we're benefiting instead of being the sucker that could -- you know, that got taken advantage of for years. Nobody.

You know, I said to China, "How did this ever happen?" I got to know them very well. I said to them -- representatives of China at the top level, you know who I'm talking about -- I say, "How did this ever happen?" They looked at me and they said, "But nobody ever called us." We didn't have a deal. It's not like we had a bad deal. We had worse: We didn't have any deal at all, so they just took advantage.

Think of it: \$500-billion-a-year deficit. Not -- \$500 million is a lot of money, right? It's not -- everyone thinks I've made a mistake when I say "\$500 trillion." "No, you mean \$500 million." "No, I said 500-billion-dollar-a-year deficit with China for a long time." But it was 200. It was 300. It was 400. It was 500 -- 556 billion, 507. Five-hundred-billion-dollars-plus-a-year deficit with China. Now I'm charging them tariffs.

And, you know, it's very interesting. A lot of people that don't want to do that -- they all agreed because China has taken advantage of this country like nobody has ever taken. We have built China with the money we gave them.

Now, I give them a lot of credit. Okay? I give them a lot of credit. They did it. But you know what? We made it a hell of a lot easier. We gave them a fortune.

Go ahead. How about you in the back? Yes.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I'm Deborah Saunders with the Las Vegas Review-Journal, and I'm here today as the print reporter -- the print pooler.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q So, I'd like to ask you a question, and then ask a question from one of the reporters who couldn't be here because of social distancing.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. Go ahead. A little louder, please.

Q Thank you. I was wondering if you have been tested for antibodies? If you've taken the antibody test.

THE PRESIDENT: Have I been tested for antibodies?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. I've had some tests.

Q Has anybody else here been tested?

THE PRESIDENT: No? They tell me "no." I'll accept it.

Q Has anybody else on the task force been tested for antibodies?

DR. BIRX: We don't have a test yet.

Q You don't have a test?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We don't have a test yet.

THE PRESIDENT: That'll come out. They've just developed those tests. They're sort of new.

Q Okay. Good to know. So, this question is from Andrew Feinberg with Newsweek. A significant amount of federal aid was

made available to Boeing in the recently signed CARES Act relief package. But according to sources, Boeing executives are still planning a round of layoffs. So, should Boeing or any company that accepts federal aid to stay in business during this pandemic be penalized for laying off workers after doing so?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Well, the aid hasn't been given yet. But they will be asking, in my opinion. They haven't even asked yet. Boeing has not asked for aid yet. But I think they probably will.

Now, at the same time, they do have to run a company. You know, this isn't a great time to sell airplanes. Let's not kid ourselves, okay? If you're a businessperson. Boeing makes airplanes. They had a big problem with one, but they make the greatest airplanes. They make the best airplanes in the world. They had the problem with one. They got it too complex. It becomes so complex you have to be number one in your class at MIT to be able to fly it. It's a mistake. Every two years, they want to make it more and more.

I mean, they had great success with the 737 -- the Boeing 737. Then, all of a sudden, they do the Max. And they say, "Let's make it more complicated. Let's put on different engines. Let's do this. Let's do that." It was not exactly a good decision. A bad decision. Very, bad -- a horrible decision. Number one, human lives. And number two, horrible what's happened to the company.

Here's a company -- from a business standpoint, it was like probably the greatest company in the world, in my opinion. I think it amounts to 1 percent of GDP. Some people say it's a half. I think it's 1. But here's one of the greatest companies anyway in the world. Maybe, the greatest. And boom.

Now, on top of what happened there with the two planes -- and

they say they have that fixed. That's good. They say they have it fixed undisputably. In fact, somebody said -- they gave me something -- I said, "You should say it that way." They said, "Sir, this is now the safest airplane in the air." I said -- "That's what you should say. That's a very good statement: It's the safest airplane in the air. That's a very good statement. You should use it." I said, "By the way, are you changing the name? But whether you do or not, you should use that." But he said that. A Boeing person said to me, "It's the safest airplane in the air." That's a great thing.

But we know they're going to need help. Now, does that mean they're going to need help, and they should keep people that they absolutely don't need? That business is a very cyclical business, like many businesses, frankly. So that determination hasn't been made. They have not spoken to us, yet. I think they will be. Maybe they won't need help. That'll be great.

Look, Boeing made so much money -- who would've -- who would've thought they could have made all of those planes that are parked all over the place? In many cases, I guess payment is not made. But who would have thought they could do that and they're still a solvent company, okay? I mean, what a tragic thing -- happened in numerous ways, but also economically.

So, when they see us, making sure that Boeing is strong again is very, very powerful and very important. And we'll do whatever is necessary to do.

Please.

Q Thank you. A quick one and then a longer one. First of all, have you had insurance --

THE PRESIDENT: Should we keep this going, everybody?

Q You're the President.

THE PRESIDENT: Jim wants to leave. (Laughter.) Keep it going for a while, yes?

Q Are you sure? Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: If we have time, if you want. Should I -- you're not going to criticize me that the conference was too long?

You know, if I leave short -- yesterday, I left short. "It was too short." If stay too long, they say, "It was too long." Someday, we're going to get it just right. Okay. Should we continue?

Q What do you make of the Republicans who say that?

THE PRESIDENT: Should we continue? Yes?

Q Well, at least answer my question --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Let's at least do your question. (Laughter.)

Q Have you had a chance to speak to --

THE PRESIDENT: That's not a bad point.

Q Have you had a chance yet to speak to Boris Johnson since he came back from intensive care?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not. No. I have a call, just to wish him well to his -- to his group. No, I don't want to be calling him now. I want him to get better.

He's a great guy. He's become a friend of mine -- a real friend

of mine. You know, he has a great feeling for our country. For -- obviously, for his country. He loves it. He's -- he's a tremendous guy.

Q And a slightly more complicated one.

THE PRESIDENT: He's become -- I think, he's probably, right now -- he was very high to start. I think he might be 100 percent popularity right now. I think he's -- you know, when they talk about approval polls, right? You ever hear that term? I'm sure you never heard that. I hear it all the time. His approval rating must be about 300 percent.

But he's a -- he's a great guy. He was a great guy before and I think people see what he's been through. What he has been through is incredible. And they say a "big turn." So let's see what happens. Let's hope.

Q And, if I may, where do you see the use of something like immunity certificates or documents or passports, when we get to anti-body testing?

THE PRESIDENT: Something like -- excuse me?

Q Immunity certificates -- once we get to anti-body testing, whether this would be a useful way --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I see a lot of -- yeah. I see a lot of different things. We're going -- we have to be very careful for who comes into the country. Look, my opposition party wants to have open borders. This is a case where I'm very glad that my position is: I don't want open borders. I want very strong borders. That includes not only on the southern border -- our southern border with Mexico, and you could also say our northern border with Canada -- but we want to have strong borders.

And, I think, this is maybe one of the learning points. We learned something about borders. We need borders. A country needs borders to be a great country. And this is, I think, this is a great point.

Go ahead. Do you have something else?

Q Yeah. I wasn't just thinking about for borders. I just thought for ordinary Americans who are currently stuck at home. If they're tested for antibodies, it turns out they've had the disease and therefore shouldn't be infected again -- some sort of documentation that would allow them to go back to work safely.

THE PRESIDENT: You mean, once they get better?

Q Yeah, or people who might not (inaudible).

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. So, they have the disease and they're better and they have the immunity now. They have -- supposedly, according to what I am hearing, it could be for a long period. It could be for a lifetime. It could also be for a for a year or two, I'm hearing, Tony.

So nobody has told me yet if it's for a year, if it's for two years, or if it's for a lifetime. Like chickenpox -- they say if you have chickenpox, you have immunity, they say, for a lifetime. I hope that's true.

But -- but nobody has actually told me with certainty, maybe because they don't know yet --

DR. FAUCI: We don't know yet.

THE PRESIDENT: You don't know yet. Because it's new. You know, this came upon us. Nobody knew. We just -- we're just -- they

do know you have it for a period of time and it's strong for a period of time. They don't know -- and that's, hence the antibodies that we're making.

I saw somebody who was really sick, and he got better -- a young person, a relatively young person -- 35 and physically fit, you know. And he -- he got better. He made it. Barely, but he made it. His first thing that he did when he was better is, "I want to give -- I want to give whatever I can give to help other people because nobody should go through it." It's a tough -- it's a tough thing.

So we don't know yet how long -- if you'd like to add anything to that. But we don't know yet. Is it a year? It will be a year. But is it more than a year? And only time is going to tell. Okay? Thank you.

Q Can I just ask one more question?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Try one more.

Q Will you have governors, mayors, members of Congress on the Open the Country Council that you talked about a minute ago?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I think so. I think we're going to put some governors. I've gained great respect for governors, both Republican and Democrat. I've actually become friends with some of the Democrat governors that I wouldn't have really had the privilege of getting to know.

And Governor Murphy of New Jersey is a very liberal guy. I'm not. But we've had a great relationship. John Bel, as you know -- I call him "John Bel" -- John Bel Edwards. People call him "John Bel." It's sort of a cool name -- from Louisiana. I have a very good relationship with him.

Gavin Newsom. Honestly, I think we've fight on every -- hey, we're fighting right now. I want automobiles to be made cheaper and safer and stronger. And -- but you save three, four thousand dollars per automobile. And environmentally equal, or better, maybe. And we're fighting on that. We're fighting a lot of different things. We fight on the border. He wants open borders. I want -- I want people to come into our country legally. But I've gotten very friendly with Gavin Newsom. He's done a very good job here.

I think I've gotten very friendly. I mean, he's been, I think, sort of a friend of mine for a long time. Don't get to see him much. But Governor Cuomo of New York -- we talk all the time. I told you, I spoke to him literally the last call, just before walking in here.

I've gotten to -- I've really developed a lot of good friendships with the governors and, including governors of (inaudible.) I think -- Mike DeWine, Republican, but I think he's done a great job in Ohio.

So, yeah, I want to put on both parties. I want to have some governors. I'm not going to have all of the governors, but I'd like to put some representative governors on the council. Yes, I would like to do that.

Q And have you asked any to serve yet?

THE PRESIDENT: I have. I've asked a couple of them. They've all said yes. So far, everyone said yes. I think everybody would like to be on that council. That's a very important council.

Go ahead, in the back. You haven't gone yet.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Two questions, if I may. Do you

have a message to those pastors who are still planning to have Easter services, defying the Public Health's guidelines?

THE PRESIDENT: You're going to have to say it louder. To those what?

Q To those pastors who are still planning to have Easter services in person.

Q Pastors who are defying --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, the pastors. I didn't understand your word. Okay, you have a very nice voice but it's a little bit low, and you're far back.

I've had talks with the pastors, and most of the pastors agree -- and this is a very complex subject, let's face it, you know, for the obvious reasons. I don't have to go into it. And most of the pastors agree that they are better off doing what they're doing, which is distancing. They feel that, "Let's get this over with," and they want to get back to church so badly.

I mean, can you imagine? We have Easter Sunday and I'm going to be watching Pastor Robert Jeffress, who's been a great guy, that I tell you. He's been a great guy, and I'm going to be watching on a laptop. Now, a laptop is not the same as being in his church or being in another church. It's not, no matter what you say. You know, we can say, "Oh, isn't it wonderful?"

But I've done this for three weeks, and they've had tremendous -- I let people know who it is. They've had the biggest audiences they've ever had. They have millions of people now watching, and people are really liking what they're hearing.

So I'm going to be with, on Easter, Pastor -- I don't even know if he knows it yet, but he will soon. I think he will in about

two minutes. Pastor Robert Jeffress. And he's a terrific guy, a terrific man. I've gotten to know him very well. He's a man of great compassion. He loves our country. And I'm going to be with him on Easter -- meaning I'm going to be with him, watching on a laptop. Doesn't sound good, but it's, you know, it's one of those things -- it cannot be church. You know, I'm not going to get into it. It cannot be church.

Most pastors and most people of faith -- people that we listen to and respect and admire. Franklin Graham is a person I have great respect for. Most people will -- and who's done an incredible job in New York on Central Park, where they put up Samaritan's Purse. He's done an incredible job.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Incredible.

THE PRESIDENT: The son of the late, great Billy Graham. His family is incredible. He's incredible. Franklin Graham, the job he's doing on -- I mean, he loves to do it. He has such a passion. And that's why he's so good at it. He does it with -- with incredible love.

And he will tell you -- we're all saying, "We've got to get our country cured." I know there are some pastors and ministers and others that want to get together. I would -- and I have great respect for them. Two of them I know.

But I would say first heal -- I'm a Christian -- heal our country. Let's get healed before we do this. And there's time to do that. We'll do it for hopefully the rest of our lives.

Please.

Q Thank you. The Mercy and the Comfort seem to be underutilized --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- in Los Angeles and New York. Is there any consideration either to sending the medical units into the cities to -- to help --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q -- the hospitals there or to --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: In the hotspots.

Q -- or to moving the hospital ships?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. So the Mercy and the Comfort were sent when projections were much higher. And I say it -- Tony backed it up, Deborah made the statement -- they said you're not going to need these many rooms, but we wanted to be prepared. I mean, you know, we had the ship. They did an incredible job with -- the Comfort was supposed to be in maintenance for a period of four weeks and they hadn't done in three and a half, four days. And it came up. And so we had it there.

If there was a disaster from the standpoint of you needed all of the -- now, I'll tell you, the Javits Center -- Andrew will tell you, we were ready to go. It's incredible, the job they did. But they're -- they're using less beds. This is a good thing, not a bad thing. They're using less beds.

Now, Javits has been pretty busy over the last couple of days. And the death numbers are horrific. But you go back now and you're finding they're going to start to come down very substantially just based on the fact that the bed usage, the number of beds are much, much less. Much, much less.

So the Mercy and the Comfort were there in case they needed

them. Los Angeles, where you have the one and New York where you the other, they just don't -- fortunately, we haven't hit numbers where they would have need, they would have been used. They're always going to be sort of overflow because they're on the edges. You know, they're not as convenient as certain places. But the people were ready, willing, and able. They were ready to go. They were going to do a great job.

But fortunately we don't need -- just like we didn't need as many ventilators. When they were asking in New York for 40,000 ventilators, I had experts -- these people, I listened to them -- they said you'll never need that many. And they were right. And New York now has it's -- and I dealt really well Mayor de Blasio. We got him a lot of ventilators. We got Andrew a lot of ventilators. But we never felt you needed the numbers that you were talking about and we were right on that.

Now, with all of that being said, we have a lot of ventilators ready to go. We have almost 10,000 in the stockpile. That 10,000 can move rapidly. We can be within 24 hours almost anywhere. And hopefully we're not going to have to be but it's just -- it's really -- this has been a great military operation. It hasn't all been military because we're dealing with great companies. We have companies that are making masks. We're -- and we're all set up in the masks too.

I just told you we have an order coming in soon: 500 million masks. 500 million. We have companies -- you know the story with GM -- or 3M -- also GM, but 3M is doing a great job. I spoke to the CEO the other day. We settled it out. We had a dispute with them. And it's now all settled. And I think they're trying to show the country something -- maybe me, but the country something.

So, we've done, you know, I think -- and not me. I'm not talking about me. This country, our country, the people that are doing

it: Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, these people sitting right here, people that we have in the back that are watching every word that we're saying -- they've done a fantastic job. They really have done a fantastic job.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to ask you a question about testing. You've mentioned the impossibility of testing the entire American public. So has --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what do we have --

Q -- the Surgeon General -- hold on --

THE PRESIDENT: What do we have? 350 million people? You're going to do \$350- --

Q Three hundred fifty million. That's not what I'm getting at. What I'm getting at is priorities. And Dr. Birx has mentioned how there have been priorities in certain regional parts of the country. And I wanted to ask you specifically about one industry in particular, and that's food-processing plants. Is there a priority to get testing at food-processing plants all across the country?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you're asking that because of what happened -- it's a fair question, too -- what happened in Denver. Because in Denver, I've never seen -- I said, "What's going on?" We're looking at this graph where everything's looking beautiful and it's coming down and then you got this one spike. It's -- I said, "What happened to Denver?"

And many people, very quickly, and they -- by the way, they were on it like, so fast, you wouldn't believe it. They knew every aspect. They had people go and -- not only testing, "Who did you

see? Where were you? How many people did you meet? Were you out to dinner in somebody else's home? Where were you?" Where did -- where did this number of people come from? How did -- they are totally on it.

Now, this just happened. I just saw it this morning. I'm looking at everything smooth, going down, topping out. And then you have this one spike in Denver. It's like, where did this come from?

So we'll be looking at that. And we don't want cases like that happening. This was -- but this -- this is the kind of thing can happen. This is very complex.

This is a very brilliant enemy. You know, it's a brilliant enemy. They develop drugs like the antibiotics. You see it. Antibiotics used to solve every problem. Now one of the biggest problems the world has is the germ has gotten so brilliant that the antibiotic can't keep up with it. And they're constantly trying to come up with a new -- people go to a hospital and they catch -- they go for a heart operation -- that's no problem, but they end up dying from -- from problems. You know the problems I'm talking about. There's a whole genius to it.

We're fighting -- not only is it hidden, but it's very smart. Okay? It's invisible and it's hidden, but it's -- it's very smart. And you see that in a case like a Denver.

But, you know, I think we're doing well, and they're on Denver like you wouldn't believe. I came in this morning; it was a flurry. I said what's going on? They said, "Denver." I said, "What happened to Denver?" Because Denver was doing pretty well. And they've got that under control. But, yeah, that would be a case where you do some very big testing.

Peter.

Q Mr. President, we've learned that more than 16 million Americans filed for unemployment over the past three weeks. It's Good Friday. It's payday. We are seeing troubling, paralyzing lines at food banks around the country. What do you say to those Americans in need right this moment?

THE PRESIDENT: Number one, I love them. Number two, we're working really hard. It wasn't their fault, what happened. Sometimes they don't do a good job and they lose their job. That's one thing. This is a case where we take the strongest economy in the history of the world, which is what we had. More people working in the United States, Peter, than ever before. Almost -- I mean, look at the numbers: 160 million people, almost. Just short of 160.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me.

So, we have the greatest economy we've ever had. And, by the way, black unemployment, Hispanic unemployment, Asian unemployment -- the best numbers we've ever had in virtually every way. And then you get hit like this, and it's traumatic.

People that had great jobs, that went out to dinner, and they didn't have any problems, they'd take their family, they were making good salaries, all of a sudden -- you know, you use the term, "cold turkey." It's cold turkey. They go from that to having no money and waiting for their checks, which are being processed very rapidly. But they still -- they have to go out and look for money.

It's a terrible thing. All I say is: We love them, we're working so hard, and they're going to be back. And I hope they're going

to be back even stronger than before.

Q Let me ask you about that, if I can, just to follow up then. You chose not to do a national stay-at-home order. Now that you say you want to reopen parts of the economy, what authority do you have to do that? Isn't that ultimately up to the states to do that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Yeah -- no, it's really -- the states can do things if they want. I can override it if I want. But the national stay-at-home -- just so you understand, 95 percent of the country is stay-at-home.

Like, as an example, I was speaking with the great governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, the other day. He has a stay-at-home. A lot of people didn't even know it, but he had a stay-at-home. Some people reported Texas wasn't. He had a very strong -- actually, a very strong stay-at-home.

Ninety-five to ninety-six percent in South Carolina, as you know, has it, which at one point, a week ago, they didn't have. South Carolina -- another great governor -- McMaster.

No, 95 percent of the country is covered. Now, the states that aren't -- and again, constitutionally, from a federalist standpoint, if I thought there was a problem, if I saw a state with a problem, I would absolutely demand it. But they're doing great. And the states that aren't are states that have not had a big problem.

Q What authority do you have to reopen right now? The same way that it's up to the states to shut it down, it's up to them to reopen. What authority do you have?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I have -- I have great authority if I want to use it. I would rather have the states use it. I would

rather --

Q What does that look like?

THE PRESIDENT: And this is so shocking for me. A lot of people are saying, "Wow, he's really very reasoned, isn't he?" A lot of people are shocked. They think I do a -- I have absolute authority to use it. But, so far, our relationship with governors and the job they're doing, I haven't had to do it. Would I do it if I saw a state that was out of control and they didn't have the stay-at-home policy? I would do it in a heartbeat.

Jeff.

Q Mr. President, there's obviously a lot of interest in how you're going to make that decision.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q What --

THE PRESIDENT: It's a very big decision.

Q What metrics --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know that I've had a bigger decision than that, when you think. Right?

Q I would think --

THE PRESIDENT: I mean, think of that decision. Somebody said, "It's totally up to the President." I saw it this morning. It's totally up -- and it is. I don't know that I've had a bigger decision.

But I'm going to surround myself with the greatest minds. Not only the greatest minds, but the greatest minds in numerous different businesses, including the business of politics and reason. And we're going to make a decision, and hopefully it's going to be the right decision.

I will say this: I want to get it open as soon as we can. We have to get our country open, Jeff.

Q Can you say, sir, what metrics you will use to make that decision?

THE PRESIDENT: The metrics right here. (Points to head.) That's my metrics. That's all I can do. I can listen to 35 people. At the end, I got to make a decision. And I didn't think of it until yesterday. I said, "You know, this is a big decision." But I want to be guided. I'm going to be guided by them. I'm going to be guided by our Vice President. I'm going to make a decision based on a lot of different opinions. Some will maybe disagree, and some I'd love to see it where they don't disagree.

Will there be risks? There's always going to be a risk that something can flare up. There's always going to -- look, look at what's happening where countries are trying to get open and there's a flare-up and they'll go. But I'd like the flare-up to be very localized so that we can control it from a local standpoint without having to close.

It's -- it's -- there's always a risk. This is a -- this is genius that we're fighting. You know, we're fighting this hidden enemy, which is genius. Okay? It's genius, the way it's attacked so many countries at so many different angles. And -- I mean, you take a look at what's going on.

And the greatest doctors in the world -- I think they're close,

by the way, but they haven't figured it out yet. Look what it's done to some people. I mean, some people it's grabbed, and it's a -- it's a horrible -- it's a horrible way to go, if you want to know the truth. It's a horrible -- and then other people, it hardly has an impact on. We talked about it; it's the sniffles. It's less. They don't even know they had anything.

And some people -- I looked at New York this morning, and I look at what's happening and the amount of people that are dying and dying -- violently dying. It's -- it's a -- it's a very tough adversary. But we're going to win, and we're going to win it -- we're going to win it very decisively.

I'm going to have to make a decision, and I only hope to God that it's the right decision. But I would say, without question, it's the biggest decision I've ever had to make.

Q A quick follow-up for the doctors, if I may, for Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx. The models, as I understand them, are based on social distancing continuing through May. Is that correct? And if you were to open the economy on May 1st or sometime during that month, would that impact the models in terms of the deaths that you expect?

THE PRESIDENT: Want to answer that?

DR. BIRX: We're taking turns today?

DR. FAUCI: Yeah.

DR. BIRX: Good. That's good.

So the model -- the IHME model -- does state that it's through May. Every -- we've had these model discussions, haven't we, for weeks now? So the models are informed by the data, and you can see how much that model has shifted on the amazing work of the

American people. So I think that's what we're evaluating right now.

Remember when -- when I talked yesterday -- I've been in public health a long time. I have never -- except for Ebola, where we worked very closely with the communities about specific issues -- we've never taken a country-wide or a global-wide approach to mitigation. This is unprecedented.

I will tell you there is nothing in the literature about specifically what to expect, and I think that's why the models continue to modify themselves based on what actually has happened with social distancing and handwashing and all of the pieces that the American people are doing -- the decreasing, the closing of the bars, the closing of the restaurants, no communal eating. That was thought to be a very big issue in many of the other cultures that went through this virus.

So the models continue to evolve based on the impact. And so, therefore, it makes it very difficult to interpret each component of social distancing and which ones are absolutely critical.

Now, there's a way to do that in multivariate analysis, potentially. Now, I want to -- I want everyone to understand, there are states that are testing. There are states that are doing contact tracing. So, I mean, it's -- I think sometimes we get -- you know, we look at what New York is doing and Detroit, and we forget that there's a Utah and New Mexico and North and South Dakota and a whole series of states that have been doing testing and contact tracing, and have been testing at rates higher than that per capita rate that we all have discussed.

So we're looking at that: What did they do? Where are the most vulnerabilities? Where are the outbreaks most likely to occur? And that's why I've been talking about nursing homes, because we do believe that there's a relationship between age and

seriousness of disease. Not to say that there can't be young people with serious disease, but proportionally, it's a smaller piece with serious disease.

And so when you have that kind of spectrum where the older and the more complicated, the higher the severity, you get the impression that there may be more asymptomatic in younger age groups. And that's where the antibody test comes in.

So when you put all these pieces together, you're trying to understand where is -- where would be the first signals. So we have surveillance out there right now with the CDC's influenza-like illness. I hope you're all tracking that. It is showing these small changes. I think we can believe in that as a surveillance tool, married with their syndromic piece, giving us the insight about where to test and then where to proactively test in the nursing homes and other vulnerable groups. Because that has been the signal in a series of the states that have very, very low prevalence and incidence of disease. So that's the kind of factors we're putting altogether to really define the best way forward.

And we have superb roadmaps. I hope you all have seen them. There's been about six different roadmaps to opening that people have put online. And again, there's no literature that you can cite and said, "Well, we did this 20 years ago and what really worked." There's -- there isn't that. There's brilliant public health people giving us their insights.

Q I guess the core of the question is, because those are the models you've been using, if you do go with opening up -- starting to open up the economy again on May 1st, doesn't that lead to more deaths?

DR. BIRX: Well, look at how much it changed with mitigation. And now we're looking at those state by state. And

there's some states in there that are still in contact tracing. So we're looking at the impact of that model and what that model predicted, based on the type of contact tracing -- less mitigation; more contact tracing.

Are we -- are you getting what I'm talking about?

Q No -- (inaudible.)

DR. BIRX: Okay, so there are states that didn't stay-at-home orders, but were doing contact tracing from outbreaks. So we're looking at them and how they have done, and we're looking at certainly what's happened in the big metro areas. And we're integrating all of that data together to make a plan going forward.

So I can't tell you -- because look at how much the model has changed in just a week. Remember, just a week ago it was 80,000. Now it's 60,000. So -- and the curves -- I'm sure you're all watching it -- the curves are getting much broader confidence intervals.

There is still the dotted line, but the confidence intervals around the dotted line are getting bigger. When you see that, you know the model has a bit of instability, and so that's why Tony and I base a lot of our decision and discussion on cases and what physically is happening in that county, in that state, at the same time not ignoring the models but integrating the models as one piece of our thought process.

Do you want to come up here and say what you think about models?

Q Dr. Birx, can you update us on that Abbott Lab test?

THE PRESIDENT: I just want to say that, you know, you talked about, "Couldn't it lead to death," meaning, if you open up, it

could lead to death. And you're right.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: But you know what? Staying at home leads to death also. And it's very traumatic for this country. But staying at home -- if you look at numbers -- that leads to a different kind of death, perhaps, but it leads to death also. So it's a very big decision. As I say, it's the biggest decision I'll ever make.

All right, we'll do a couple of more and we'll go. Thank you.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Before you came out here, you said one of the last people that you talked to was Governor Cuomo.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And at his news conference today, he said that he was asking you to use the Defense Production Act to require companies to make more tests, to streamline testing. Is that something that you would consider? Because you've considered it with ventilators and masks.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, the other side seems to keep using that. And I have used it. You know, I've enacted it, you do know. And I've used it -- some people thought viciously. Just ask a couple of companies. If you want, you can just look up the names.

And I'm surprised that he would have said that. We actually have great tests. We have others under development. You don't need full testing, as the doctors have been talking about ad nauseam.

So I would be surprised that he would have said that, meaning it

that way. If he -- if he did, I'd have a much different type answer.

Go ahead.

Q You all didn't talk about it over the phone?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about testing, yeah. We did talk about testing. And one of the things I did was I put the two doctors in charge of that call. I said, "You know what, Andrew? I have two very talented people standing here. We're getting ready to go on. Let me put them and let me have them talk to you." And they talked to him, really, at length. And I think by the time they finished, he understood what he was -- what we were saying. He understood it very clearly. Okay?

Q One more question, please. You've talked a lot this week about holding the World Health Organization responsible --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- for its response to the coronavirus. I'm curious if you've given any more thought to holding China financially responsible for the part that it played and --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I understand.

Q -- the economic toll that it's taking on the American people.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I understand the question very well. Look, nobody has done to China, or treated China as strongly as I have. I use the word "strongly." As you know -- you've reported on it -- billions and billions of dollars is flowing into our Treasury, because of what I've done with China.

I think it's a very sad thing that happened. And I think if people knew, including the World Health Organization -- and I do believe they knew, but they didn't want to tell the world. And we're going to get to the bottom of it. And we'll have reports on all of this. And we are -- we are not happy about it, but I wanted to leave the World Health for later.

And I can tell you that we're constantly in touch with China. We're talking to China. And we've expressed how we felt. We're not happy about it. We're not happy about it at all, Kristen.

Okay, one or two more. Yeah, Jim.

Q Mr. President, we hear from a lot of people who see these briefings as sort of happy-talk briefings. And --

THE PRESIDENT: No happy talk today.

Q -- you and some of the officials paint a rosy picture of what is happening around the country. If you look at some of these questions: "Do we have enough masks?" "No." "Do we have enough tests?" No." "Do we have enough PPE?" "No." "Do we have enough" --

THE PRESIDENT: Why would you "no"? Look, the answer is "yes."

Q -- "medical equipment?"

THE PRESIDENT: I think the answer is yes. I think the answer is yes. Who -- who said no to that?

Q I -- I'm saying this is what --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, you're saying no, but who said no?

Q We hear -- we hear from --

THE PRESIDENT: But you asked, "Do we have enough masks?" Yes.

Q We hear from the doctors. We hear from health experts.

THE PRESIDENT: No, you didn't say that. You said, "Do we have enough masks?" Yes.

Q Does the country? Does --

THE PRESIDENT: "Do we have enough tests?" Yes. Plus, we're developing new tests.

Q But they're not --

THE PRESIDENT: "Do we have enough -- do we have enough ventilators?" Yes. "Do we have enough hospital beds?" Yes. We've built 20,000 hospital beds. We have enough hospital beds.

Go ahead, Jim. Let's go.

Q So what do you say to -- I mean, you watch the coverage.

THE PRESIDENT: You know what I say?

Q You've been watching a lot of the coverage.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, a lot of it's fake news.

Q These doctors who -- no, no, no. Not --

THE PRESIDENT: A lot of it's fake news. A lot of it's fake news. Let me just tell you --

Q When the doctors and the medical experts come on our air and --

THE PRESIDENT: The governors -- the governors reported --

Q -- say that we don't have enough tests, we don't have enough masks."

THE PRESIDENT: The governor -- yeah, depending on your air, they always say that, because otherwise you're not going to put them on.

Let me just tell you something: The governors have said -- last night, they had a group of governors, 14 governors. They were together someplace, and they said, "It's been unbelievable what's happened."

We've been totally responsive. Ventilators -- everyone has the ventilators they need, to a point where we're getting calls from foreign countries saying, "You have all the ventilators. Can we get some? And we're going to try and help some of these countries.

These people have done an incredible job. This is not happy talk. Maybe it's happy talk for you. It's not happy talk for me. We're talking about death. We're talking about the greatest economy in the world. One day I have to close it off. And we did the right thing, because maybe it would have been 2 million people died instead of whatever that final number will be, which could be 60, could be 70, could be 75, could be 55. Thousands of people have died. There's nothing happy about it, Jim. This is sad talk.

Q But when you say there's --

THE PRESIDENT: This is the saddest -- these are the saddest --

these are the saddest news conferences that I've ever had. I don't like doing them. You know why? Because I'm talking about death. I'm talking about taking the greatest economy ever created -- we had the greatest numbers we've ever had in almost every aspect of economics, from employment, to companies doing -- look at the airlines. They were having the best year. Now, all of a sudden, we have to save them. Okay?

There's no happy talk, Jim. This is the real deal. And I've got to make the biggest decision of my life. And I've only started thinking about that. I mean, you know, I've made a lot of big decisions over my life. You understand that. This is, by far, the biggest decision of my life, because I have to say, "Okay, let's go. This is what we're going to do."

Q But when you have doctors, when you have hospitals administrators --

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. But you have many doctors that say "unbelievable job." I watched this morning, and I watched a certain network, and it wasn't Fox, and you had doctors saying that we've done an incredible job. You just read off these "no, no, no." Well, we have ventilators. We have equipment. We have beds. How about beds? I mean, Governor Cuomo just told me, a little while ago, he's got plenty of beds. In fact, they're having a hard time filling Javits Center. We built them 2,900 beds.

So that's not a fair question.

Q But when you're -- when you're sanitizing masks --

THE PRESIDENT: Jim, look -- Jim.

Q -- and you're talking --

THE PRESIDENT: Jim.

Q -- about reusing --

THE PRESIDENT: Jim.

Q -- PPE, obviously, you don't have enough of --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. No, excuse me. We have masks. We have everything. And we were trying to get ready for the surge. And a lot of people said it will never happen. Deborah said it: "You'll never need that many beds." They said we needed 40,000 ventilators. Forty thousand. It's like building a car. Forty thousand ventilators. People said -- I felt it too. You'll never need that many.

Guess what? We have tremendous -- we have -- we're the envy of the world, in terms of ventilators. Germany would like some. France would like some. We're going to help countries out. Spain needs them desperately. Italy needs them desperately. Mexico needs them desperately. He asked me last night, "Would it be possible to get 10,000 ventilators?" Within a short period of time, I'll be able to help out Mexico.

No, Jim -- just the opposite of your question. It's not, "No, no, no." It's, "Yes, yes, yes." We're in great shape. And you know what? What's happening now is those numbers are horrible, but take a look at the number of beds. We have beds available all over New York. New York really being the epicenter. New York -- New York has experienced something that has been absolutely horrific.

I saw Hart's Island yesterday. I saw those people being buried yesterday. Fortunately, we have the beds. And you can speak to Mayor de Blasio. You can speak to Governor Cuomo. People are -- people can't even believe the job we've done. They can't even

believe it.

And I give tremendous credit to the military. This has been a military operation, with private people.

Q Do you --

THE PRESIDENT: But wait a minute -- wait, wait. I give tremendous credit to our military, to the Army Corps of Engineers, to FEMA, to these people. The job they've done is incredible.

And you shouldn't be --

Q But do you accept the criticism that --

THE PRESIDENT: -- asking that kind of a question. Jim, honestly.

Q -- had the country been better prepared --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Look, I really don't believe you're that bad of a guy.

Q -- onset of this --

THE PRESIDENT: You shouldn't be asking that kind of a question. You should say, "You know what? It's been really incredible what's been happening."

Q That's the reality, Mr. President. That's the reality.

THE PRESIDENT: Jim, nobody is asking. What governor --

Q You got 2 million tests. That's not enough --

THE PRESIDENT: Let me ask you this: What governor --

Q -- tests for everybody around the country.

THE PRESIDENT: We have more tests than anybody in the world. We have every --

Q But that's not enough for what's needed right now.

THE PRESIDENT: We have virtually every country in the world calling us, asking us: "How do we get these tests that you have? Your testing is the best in the world. How do we get it? They've done a fantastic job."

And when you ask a question like that, it's very insulting to a lot of great people.

Okay, one more, please.

Q For the doctors --

THE PRESIDENT: Please. Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. You may have seen how Sweden has responded to the pandemic. The schools are open. Bars and restaurants are open.

THE PRESIDENT: Sweden is different.

Q Do you -- do you do you regret not following that approach? Is that approach working?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we could've followed that approach.

Q Could we have that approach?

THE PRESIDENT: And if we did follow that approach, I think we might have 2 million people dead. And Sweden is having a lot of difficulty. You know, look, I'm very friendly with the leadership in Sweden. They took a different approach. They're a very disciplined country to start off with, but they did take a different -- and, you know, other places tried it.

The UK tried it -- the herd approach, okay? Herd. And they tried it, and you saw what happened in UK. It set them back a lot -- a lot of time. It's been -- you know, they're having a tough time. Other countries have tried it. And Sweden is suffering greatly. I mean, Sweden is suffering greatly.

If we did the herd -- if we went with the "herd," as they say, we would have had potentially -- I mean, you see the charts. Nobody knows. Nobody will ever know, fortunately. Because we're going to be substantially less than the minimum, I certainly hope, unless something happens. That would be tragic. So they had a minimum number, if we did.

One of the reasons we're so far below that number is because nobody thought the American people could be so disciplined. Nobody thought it was possible. And, I guess, when they watched us up here every day, and they watched other people, and they listened to their representatives and governors -- nobody thought that the American people could be so disciplined. They've been unbelievable.

And because of that -- so you have a minimum number of 100,000, and then you had the 2.2 number that, if we did nothing -- if we did -- just kept working, everybody go to work -- people would be dropping dead on the subways. No.

If we would have lost a million people -- take the 2.2 million and cut it in half. Make it -- cut it in more than half. Make it a million people, okay? Now take that number and cut it in

half. Make it 500,000 people. That's if we did nothing, right? It's unacceptable. It's too many people.

So we have -- we've spent more money on stimulus. Who cares by comparison? You take 2.2, you cut it in half, you cut it in half, you cut it in half -- you keep cutting it in half. I don't care what number you choose -- 500,000, 400,000. Well, we're going to have -- we're talking 50, 60, 65 [thousand]. Maybe. Maybe. But if we would have done what one country tried -- and it has been very tough for them. You know that. Very, very nasty. Very tough. But if we would have done that here --

And again, you got to remember: UK tried it. And I was a little surprised. And I watched it. They were going about -- what, two weeks? And they said, "We got to stop." Because it was -- they were going to have a whole country infected.

So, with all of that being said, we got to get back to work. We got to get -- we got to get our country open. But we could have lost 2 million people. We could have lost 1 million people. We could have lost a half a million people.

If we would've lost 500,000 people -- and I'll say this also: From the standpoint of being President and Vice President, and we're up there and we're doing that herd, and we're going to bullet through -- do you honestly think people like Jim and yourself and other people would've -- Jeff -- would have put up with it, as people are dying all over? They would have said, "This man is crazy." Because the numbers, Tony, at a minimum, would have been many, many times greater than the numbers we're talking about.

So I'm very honored by our decisions, all of us. We talk about it all the time. I said, "Do you want to let them just -- you just ride it. You just ride it right through." We would have

lost potentially millions of people.

No. It would have been unsustainable. It would have been impossible to do.

And the American people have been so disciplined. It's been my honor to be their President. I've said it before, I'll say it again, I'll say it always: It's been -- it's been my great honor to have been their President.

And I have a big decision coming up, and I only hope to God that it's the right decision. But it'll be based on the input from a lot of very talented people, very smart people, and people that love our country.

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you very much.

END

4:06 P.M. EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2020 4:42:30 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH Pool Report 6 -- mental health conference call info

From: Shirish Date <sv.date@huffpost.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 4:40 PM

Subject: WH Pool Report 6 -- mental health conference call info

Per the WH:

Today, President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, First Lady Melania Trump, and Second Lady Karen Pence spoke by telephone with hundreds of American mental health professionals, leaders, and advocates to discuss the effects COVID-19 is having on the American people. Today's COVID-19 call was the first to bring these four influential leaders together on one issue. The President recognized that a great number of Americans are enduring hardships – including loneliness from social distancing, despair from being out of work, anxiety from the danger of the virus, and grief from the loss of a loved one. President Trump thanked the doctors, counselors, and many other mental health professionals on the call for providing vital mental health services during this time through tele-health. The mental health professionals thanked President Trump for his attention to mental health during this challenging time, including \$425 million for mental health and substance abuse services included in the CARES Act, expansion of tele-Mental Health services, and increased capacity of the Disaster Distress Hotline. President Trump remains committed to providing Americans with vital mental health resources and services and to continuing the Administration's efforts to combat drug demand and the opioid crisis.

The following individuals participated:

The White House

President Donald J. Trump

Vice President Mike Pence

First Lady Melania Trump

Second Lady Karen Pence

Kellyanne Conway, *Assistant to the President and Senior Counselor*

Joe Grogan, *Assistant to the President and Director of Domestic Policy*

Jim Carroll, *Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy*

Tim Pataki, *Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Liaison*

Trump Administration

Secretary Alex Azar, *Department of Health and Human Services*

Secretary Robert Wilkie, *Department of Veterans Affairs*

Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, *Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMHSA)*

External Participants

400 executives and leaders from mental health advocacy, policy, and provider organizations nationwide

-30-

S.V. Dáte

Senior White House Correspondent

HuffPost

202-624-9338 o

(b)(6) ■

@svdate

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 12:19:19 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In Town Pool Report #4

From: Debra Saunders <dsaunders@reviewjournal.com>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:17 PM
Subject: In Town Pool Report #4

Bishop thanked White House for including churches in coronavirus package.

Prayed

“Let medical science come forth”

Trump did not take questions

Mark Meadows stood on the room.

Out at 12:15.

DJS

Debra J. Saunders
White House Correspondent
Las Vegas Review-Journal
529 14th Street Suite 994
Washington, D.C. 20045
(202)662-7391

(b)(6)

Sent from my iPhone

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2020 10:52:53 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP,
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE
IN PRESS BRIEFING

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

6:24 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, everybody. I'd like to begin by saying that we just completed a meeting with the Secretary of Treasury Steve Mnuchin and Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao on proposals regarding the airlines and the airline business.

And we're working very closely with a lot of different people. We'll be probably putting out a proposal and giving them some of the details -- some of the very powerful details over the weekend. It's moving along quickly. The airline business has been hit very hard, as everybody knows. And we are going to be

in a position to do a lot to help them so that they keep their employees and they save their businesses.

And that'll be taking place, I think you can say, over the weekend. We may even have discussions with some of the airlines or all of the airlines over the weekend. And I think it's going to be a very acceptable package. It's a very big package and a very acceptable package. It'll be good for our country, good for the airlines, good for a lot of people.

Likewise, I just spoke with the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, and the King of Saudi Arabia, King Salman, and we had a big talk as to oil production and OPEC and making it so that our industry does well and the oil industry does better than it's doing right now. It's -- the numbers are so low that there'll be layoffs all over the world. There'll be certainly layoffs in this country. And we don't want that to happen.

We built a great, great energy business in the United States. So we have tens of thousands of jobs. We had a very good talk; we'll see what happens. But as you know, OPEC met today, and I would say they're getting close to a deal. We'll soon find out. So that was a conversation we just had, so we had a busy hour and a half.

And let me begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the American people. Millions of Americans are making profound and difficult sacrifices in their own lives because they know it will save the lives of countless others. And that's exactly what it's doing. You see what's happening and where we are and where we stand. And hopefully we're going to be opening up -- you can call it "opening" very, very -- very, very soon, I hope.

Together, our people are writing one of the most noble chapters in the proud history of our nation. Americans are also encouraged to learn that Boris Johnson, Prime Minister, has been

moved out of intensive care. That's a tremendous statement. And we continue to pray for him and his fast recovery. That's a very -- a very positive development.

As the New York metropolitan area continues its battle against the outbreak, the full power of the federal government is there to support them. As you know, the Javits Center has now been fully converted into a 3,000-bed hospital -- one of the largest anywhere in the country -- and by the incredible professionals.

I have to say, the Corps of Engineers, what they can do is just incredible. They've done a fantastic job and they're building, nationwide, 21 temporary hospitals and care facilities, adding 17,000 hospital beds. And they did that all within a very short period of time. It's incredible what they've done. Army Corps of Engineers. And FEMA has been fantastic.

Our sweeping airlift operation to keep doctors and nurses supplied with protective equipment, Project Airbridge, continues to expand with more than 24 flights already completed and 49 additional flights now scheduled in the near future. So that's been very successful. And that gear and those outfits are being handed out. As they arrive, they're going directly to point.

The American medical system continues to perform beyond our highest expectations, reminding us that the United States is blessed with the most advanced healthcare and the most skilled healthcare workers anywhere in the planet. Other countries are looking to what we're doing. And our testing operation has now become far and away the most sophisticated and the best anywhere.

And we want to thank all of the heroes on the frontlines as they fight to save American lives. We're at the top of the hill. Pretty sure we're at the top of the hill, and now we're

going downward. In some cases, we've already started that process.

Earlier today, I spoke with hundreds of mental health leaders and advocates from around the country to discuss the vital work and the vital work they're doing. We had the top doctors in the country, some international doctors. Mental health -- big factor. Not only has the virus inflicted immense physical suffering on many people, but also mental and emotional suffering as well. Even though we're staying physically apart, no American is alone, and we're all in this together. But the mental health doctors and experts -- it was a very great call. It was a very interesting call. They're working very hard.

We're also seeing encouraging signs in our race to develop breakthrough treatments and therapies. Pfizer revealed today that it has found a promising new treatment that might prevent the virus from replicating. And that hopes -- it hopes to begin testing in clinical trials very soon. It's going to be very, very soon. They have great -- great feelings for this particular therapy, and they think that a lot of good things are happening.

Through the FDA's Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program, 19 therapies and treatments are now being tested and 26 more are in the active planning ~~or~~ [for] clinical trial. So we have 19 therapies being tested currently, and 26 more are in the active planning for clinical trials. That's a big statement. That's a lot.

Trials for Gilead's antiviral drug, remdesivir, continue. And the company has also expanded emergency use for new patients getting good, early results, by the way. The companies that manufacture hydroxychloroquine are massively ramping up production.

As you know, many people are recommending, strongly, Z-Pak be

added -- the Z-Pak -- and also zinc. And the federal government continues to build our stockpiles and distribute millions of doses for doctors to use as they see fit.

And I'm pleased to inform you -- we're just having -- a lot of good things are happening, but we'll have to see how that all works out. But we have -- we've purchased and we have stockpiled millions and millions of doses, and we're distributing it. Some states want it very badly. Michigan -- we just sent a lot to Michigan and other areas.

I'm reporting today that we passed 2 million tests completed in the United States, first time -- most anywhere in the country. It's a milestone for our country. It's a milestone anywhere. Nobody has done anywhere close. Our tests are highly sophisticated and highly accurate.

At the same time, we're making important progress on the economic front of this war. In a few moments, Secretary of Labor, Eugene Scalia, will explain new steps that we're taking to ensure American workers swiftly receive unemployment and paid leave benefits and that employers protect the health and safety of all workers, including essential workers on the job, working very, very closely with workers and with employers.

To provide further economic relief, the Federal Reserve announced this morning that it'll provide up to \$2.3 trillion in support to businesses, states, and local governments. Six hundred billion dollars in loans will be available for mid-sized businesses with up to 10,000 employees. And \$500 billion will be available for states, counties with over 2 million residents and cities with a population of over 1 million.

My administration is also working with Congress to replenish the very successful -- incredibly successful the way it's going -- Paycheck Protection Program, which is allowing hundreds of

thousands of small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll, meaning it'll keep those businesses open.

We need both Democrats and Republicans to come together to get this leg- -- the legislation completed. And it looks like it's on its way, but we need both. And it should be for people that are working for the workers. And if you look and you see, we have a lot of people that are affected by that, and it's a very positive development. So we have to get a bipartisan approval of that. And hopefully that'll happen.

Today, the Department of Education is also announcing the availability of more than \$6 billion in emergency grant funding to assist college students impacted by the cancellation of classes and the suspension of housing. A lot of people had a lot of things suspended; housing is one of them.

Previously, we waived student loan payments for six months. So, student loan payments have been waived for six months, and we'll discuss it after that. It may go further.

Although this medical war has separated our citizens for a period of time, it's also united our entire nation, I think I can say, like almost never before. Americans are moving forward with common purpose and shared resolve, determined to vanquish the virus and lift our nation to even greater heights. We are supremely confident in the magnificent future that awaits the American people.

And with that, before I invite our Vice President -- our great Vice President -- and Gene Scalia to speak, we'll take a few questions. And then I'm going back into negotiations on oil and on airlines.

Yeah, please.

Q Could you tell us a little bit more about your conversation with President Putin and the King?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I had a very good conversation.

Q Did you organize that call? And do they understand the problems they're causing --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- with the oil output situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Yeah. No, there's a lot of -- there's a lot of -- there's so much production, nobody even knows what to do with it. That's how it's working.

And Saudi Arabia and, as you know, Russia -- it's well known that we're producing a lot, and they were perhaps fighting with each other over the production and the amount of oil being produced. And, frankly, there's not enough room to even store it. Our storage is now full -- going to be very soon. Our Strategic National storage is -- I said this is a great time to fill it up, load it up with oil that, frankly, is -- had pricing that nobody has ever seen before. I don't think we've seen this probably since the 1950s. That was with big dollars. So we'll see what happens.

The conversation was very good. They're getting close to a deal; that's OPEC and many other countries outside of OPEC. And we'll see what happens.

Q Are they still fighting with each other?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think they were getting along very well. We had a very good -- we had a very good call. I think it was a very good call. We're going to see what happens, but it

was a very good call. They'll probably announce something either today or tomorrow, one way or the other. Could be good. Could be not so good. But I think one way or the other --

Go ahead, Jim.

Q Yeah, Mr. President, how could the administration discuss the possibility of reopening the country when the administration does not have an adequate nationwide testing system for this virus? Don't you need a nationwide testing system --

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q -- for the virus before you reopen the economy?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We have a great testing system. We have the best -- right now, the best testing system in the world. But there are certain sections --

Q But people can't get the test right now.

THE PRESIDENT: There are certain sections in the country that are in phenomenal shape already. Other sections are coming online; other sections are going down. And we, in addition to that, are giving out millions of tests. And every day, we're doing it exponentially. We're picking up. And what we'll be doing in the very near future is going to certain areas of our country and do massive testing. It's not necessary, but it would be a good thing to have.

Go ahead.

Q Don't you have need, though, Mr. President, to make sure people are safe going back to work? You don't want to send people back to the workplace --

THE PRESIDENT: We want to have it, and we're going to see if we have it. Do you need it? No. Is it a nice thing to do? Yes. We're talking about 325 million people. And that's not going to happen, as you can imagine. And no -- it would never happen with anyone else either. Other countries do it, but they do it in a limited form. We'll probably be the leader of the pack.

Please.

Q Mr. President, what do you say to the 16 million Americans -- more than 16 million Americans who have lost their jobs in the last three weeks in fear that the economy won't just bounce back, like you said?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the economy is going to do very well. Now, that's just my feeling. It's a strong feeling. I've had good, proper feelings about a lot of things over the years. And I think we're going to do well.

We're doing very -- it looks like we're at the lower end of the curve in terms of death, which is a terrible word, a terrible, dark word that we've experienced like nobody has ever seen before in this country. I mean, we have numbers that are terrible. But when you look at the lower levels of 100- -- lower prediction levels of 100- -- 120,000 to 220,000 -- or, if we did nothing, up to 2.2 million people -- we're looking at a much lower level than the level of -- I hope than the level of 100,000. So we're going to see.

We're going to have to -- you can never -- look, you can never do anything about the people that lost their loved ones and love their -- lost their friends. And, I mean, the great friendships. And I'm not sure a lot of people will ever be the same.

But I think our country, from an economic standpoint, will end up being stronger than ever. We have tremendous stimulus. We have tremendous stimulus plans. We have things in the works that are going to really, I think, fire the country.

I think that what's going to happen is we're going to have a big bounce rather than a small bounce. But we will be back. And I think -- honestly, I think our country is going to be back, from an economic standpoint -- again, you can never replace the people that were lost. And to their families, certainly you can never do a thing like that.

But we will have succeeded in many ways, hopefully keeping the number way below our minimum numbers. And also, from an economic standpoint -- you know, we met with the mental health people today, and that takes a trem- -- this has taken a tremendous toll, mentally, on a lot of people. And I think we're going to open up strong. I think we're going to open up very successfully, and, I'd like to say, even more successfully than before.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Oil is trading today at about \$23 a barrel in New York.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q What would you want to see the price? Do you want it at \$30, \$40, \$50 a barrel?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I want to see it where there's a certain market, but I also don't want -- I don't want to see it where people are -- have no idea -- you know, we're opening up -- we'll be opening up areas for storage of oil -- massive areas for storage of oil -- because oil today is not selling.

And what happened is the virus knocked out 40 percent of the market immediate- -- you know that; you know the number. Forty percent.

Now, there was a lot of oil, but it was very controllable. All of a sudden, they lost 40 percent. You look at the roads, you look at the car -- you look at what's going on; there's nobody driving. There's no reason for it right now. That'll start coming back.

But we are storing millions of barrels of oil that nobody thought would even be possible. Frankly, ships turned out to be a good business for some people because they're filling up tankers, sending them out to sea, and not saying where to go. They're just sitting out there loaded up with oil.

So we want to save our energy. In this country, we want to make sure that our energy companies, businesses, and employees, workers remain strong. So that's how I'm involved. And I think that's going to happen.

So right now, if you look, you're probably talking \$23, \$25. If they announce a deal, we can get it up. We need a minimum number so the companies don't go out of business, so they're not going to lay off all of these energy workers who are important to our country.

And, you know, we're now energy independent. We could do something where we only used our oil. But I think the long-term benefit is to be able to just go with the market. And it's going to work out. It's all going to work out. If you looked at three weeks ago, as you know, because we talked about it, three weeks ago and two weeks ago, this was catastrophic. I think it's really hitting bottom, and I think that -- I mean, we've had a bottom. But now at \$23 and \$25 and probably heading up. At the

same time, we save our energy and we also produce great, cheap energy and we save our jobs.

Yeah.

Q Mr. President, I want to ask you about the Paycheck Protection Program because every day we're hearing from small business owners who are telling us that their banks don't know how to access this money, they're trying to apply, they can't figure it out. So where does the fault lie? Does it lie with the banks?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there's a fault. We're -- they're doing record numbers of -- of dollars. They're dealing with many community banks. They're dealing with Bank of America, Citibank, a lot of -- Wells Fargo, as you know, is very much involved. And they're dealing with the bankers. It can't go that quickly but I'm hearing it's a very, very successful rollout.

They did want changes in applications. They want changes in loan requirements, et cetera. But they're taking billions and billions of dollars' worth of loans. And in the very near future, the banks will be relieving the money. They'll be paying out the money.

Yeah. Please.

Q Thank you very much, sir. Are you still expecting the USMCA to take effect on July 1st? And considering the fact that the auto industry is hurting these days, are you ready to postpone the (inaudible) on the new rules?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have a deal. Yeah. The deal is with Canada. We're deal- -- with Mexico, we have a deal. And obviously the deal is different from the standpoint that production will be lower. But we have a deal. It's a signed

deal. It's a deal that's a -- one of the worst deals that we've ever had was NAFTA. One of the worst trade deals ever made by any country anywhere, and we'll be terminating that. And the new deal is a great deal for our country. So, that's something.

Now, again, we got hit by the virus, and we'll see where that all goes. But certainly, car production is going to be down for a little while. But, ultimately, good for our farmers, great for our farmers. We'll be helping our farmers, by the way. We have money going out to our farmers in the pretty near future, having to do with -- you see what's happened. The farmers got hurt very badly by all of this. People are eating less from the standpoint that there's -- no restaurants are open, no businesses are open, no hotels are open. They'll start to come back. But we're going to be helping out our farmers.

Yeah. Please.

Q Will you postpone the new auto regulations?

Q Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q Thank you, sir. Philip Wegmann of RealClearPolitics. Earlier, you mentioned Project Skybridge [sic] --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- and we're hearing that, through that project, a lot of the PPE that was sent out to other countries is coming back to this country. Do you -- do you know when we'll be able to bring a majority of that back? And then, are you frustrated that USAID allowed a lot of that aid to go out the door in the first place?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Should they have brought it back before?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not, because we're -- we're in very good shape. You'll be speaking with Mike Pence about this in a little while.

You look at the hospitals, you look at what's going on -- I spoke to -- yesterday, I spoke with the governor of Louisiana. I'm saying, "Do you think we need that extra thousand beds that we're in the process of building?" We are really in good shape. You're not hearing people are needing ventilators much. In fact, we're going to start helping other countries with ventilators. We're going to end up having a lot of ventilators for future, should something happen for hospitals -- ideally to keep and have.

But, no, I think we're in very, very good shape. We have calls with governors all the time. And the governors are in very good shape now. We have helped -- we have sent billions and billions and billions of dollars between ventilators, equipment, protective equipment, masks. We have 500 million masks coming -- 500 million from one group. Five hundred. It'll be 300 million and 200 million over a short period of time.

No, I think we're in very good shape.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Speaking of testing, some experts, including Scott Gottlieb, have talked about 750,000 tests per week being needed before the economy is opened. Can you address that? Do you agree with those numbers? If not, how many tests per week do you think we should have before the economy is open, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. I don't like using the word "needed" because I don't think it's "needed," but I think we're going to try and hit a number like that. That's a very high number, but we're going to be trying to hit it, and we probably might be able to do that.

Please. Go ahead.

Q When would you be able to do that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Today, the Democrats pushed for more rescue money for states and hospitals, which are complaining that they needed to fight the coronavirus pandemic. Do you think hospitals and states need this money? Would you support something like that?

THE PRESIDENT: I do. And I do support something, but I support it for the next phase. It's much simpler in the next phase, whether that phase is infrastructure or whatever.

So I'm going to leave you now with Mike Pence and with Eugene Scalia. And if you would -- I look forward to seeing you tomorrow. We'll see you tomorrow. We have a lot of -- I think a lot of very big news to report. We've had a tremendous day between I believe what's happening with the energy industry and I believe what's happening with airlines.

I look forward to seeing you. Thank you very much, everybody.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, good afternoon, everyone. At the present moment, we have now cleared more than 2 million tests across the country. And I'm pleased to report we're testing more than 100,000 people a day now. But we're -- we're working around

the clock to scale up the new types of tests that the FDA has approved in record time.

And every American can be confident that we'll continue to build out that structure going forward for the weeks ahead and the months ahead.

At the present moment, there's more than 450,000 Americans who have tested positive for the coronavirus, and sadly, more than 16,000 Americans have lost their lives. And as President Trump just said, our hearts go out to the families that have lost loved ones. And I want to assure you that all of us working at every level understand these are not numbers, these are lives. And our heartfelt condolences during this heartbreaking week go out to every American family that's lost a loved one to the coronavirus.

It has been a difficult week. But as Dr. Birx will reflect in just a few moments, as we look at the data, literally on a county-by-county basis every day, we continue to see evidence that -- that in areas where the epidemic has impacted most -- the Greater New York City area, Louisiana, the Detroit metro, the Denver metro -- we continue to see evidence of stabilization. And it appears, as Dr. Birx suggests, that we are -- we are close to the peak in each of those areas so impacted.

We also express gratitude and appreciation for the people of California and Washington State who continue to be low and steady and the number of cases that are emerging there.

We're watching the Chicago metro area. We're watching the Boston metro area. And as Dr. Birx will discuss, we -- we just continue to urge every American to put into practice the President's Coronavirus Guidelines. Because all evidence indicates, from the West Coast to what we're beginning to see in major outbreak areas on the East Coast, it's working, America. And it's working because you're doing it. And we encourage you onward in that.

Today, the White House Coronavirus Task Force met, but most of the team also met with Republicans and Democrats in two separate conference calls of the United States Senate. Secretary Mnuchin, our health experts, Admiral Polowczyk, Dr. Hahn joined us as we discussed a broad range of issues.

The Treasury Secretary touched on the Paycheck Protection Program, now in day five, reporting \$125 billion has been approved so far; 30,000 new individual users and 3,900 lenders are participating.

We also discussed that the Treasury Department will issue a new "frequently asked question" document tonight -- an FAQ, as they're known -- to clarify how seasonal businesses can participate in the Paycheck Protection Program as well.

With regard to direct payments to Americans, the Treasury Secretary assured senators, and we assure every American, that we remain on the timetable where the first payments and direct deposits will go out by the end of next week. For the average family of four, that'll be \$3,400 in direct financial support and will no doubt be welcome news.

Anyone who is interested in additional information on any of these programs can go to [Treasury.gov](https://www.treasury.gov) or [SBA.gov](https://www.sba.gov).

Since we last spoke, I spoke with Governor Laura Kelly of Kansas, Governor Andy Beshear of Kentucky. I also spoke to governors of Texas and Rhode Island. I assured each one of them, as we continue to work through the process of making sure that we distribute the resources at the point of the need, is that, at President Trump's direction, our objective, working through FEMA, is to make sure that states have what they need when they need it.

And to see the progress that we've made -- the President just reflected on -- in New York and New Jersey, Louisiana, and the partnership we've forged with governors in those states; California and Washington State before -- we trust, gives confidence to governors and leaders of states across the country and, most importantly, our dedicated healthcare workers that we will be there to meet that need should that need arise.

At the present moment, FEMA reports the President has approved 54 major disaster declarations, and states around the country have stood up 29,000 National Guard, 11,000 of which are fully funded by the federal government under Title 32.

Also, speaking of our military, at the present moment we received a report today from the Department of Defense that 4,100 active-duty military medical personnel have been deployed in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. And they are personnel that are working on the ground, at the Javits Center, working, of course, at the USNS Comfort ship.

But because at the present moment the utilization of both of those temporary facilities has been fairly modest, DOD actually worked with the City of New -- in New York to establish what amounts to a uniform temp service. They call it the "bullpen." And today they literally deployed, from the ship and from the Javits Center, 75 medical personnel to relieve dedicated healthcare workers within the hospital system in the city of New York and we'll continue to do that.

We're going to make sure those federal temporary hospital in Javits Center is fully staffed. We'll make sure that USNS Comfort is staffed. But -- but the physicians, those military personnel, are going to be -- also be deployed across the city to bring much-needed relief to our healthcare workers and our system.

From the VA standpoint, we've opened up VA facilities in New York City; East Orange, New Jersey; and Detroit, Michigan; and we are opening up the VA facility to coronavirus patients in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Finally, I mentioned that today we exceeded more than 2 million tests that have been performed across the country. And also, literally, working with the U.S. Public Health Service, states around the country have stood up hundreds of drive-through testing sites.

And just this week, FEMA and the U.S. Public Health Service announced that we will give an option to states to transition from a federal testing site -- dozens of which have been assembled around the country -- to a state-managed site. I want to emphasize that this is an option. We believe it gives states greater flexibility to style sites or manage sites in areas that they think are most important. But -- but we're also processing requests for continued federal participation in states from New Jersey, to Louisiana, to Illinois, Colorado, and Texas. And we want to assure people in communities all across the country that we'll continue to partner with states to the extent that they prefer us to be a part of it.

With regard to the air bridge, three flights were scheduled to arrive today in Chicago, New York, and Dallas-Fort Worth. Forty-nine flights are scheduled over the next three days.

And we continue to work supplies. We continue to, literally, leave no stone unturned around America and around the world. We're literally in the process of acquiring tens of millions of supplies that are being brought into a distribution system, organized out of FEMA, and focused on the areas most in need.

We're also bringing real innovation. And at the -- at the White

House Coronavirus Task Force, today, we tasked the FDA and CMS to review the feasibility of allowing hospital workers to use cloth gowns for performing procedures.

It was observed that, 20 years ago, most physicians and most surgeons wore cloth gowns every day and laundered them, but it's transitioned to disposable gowns. And we're working very rapidly in the next 24 hours, and we'll have guidance for hospitals and healthcare workers about the ability to -- to, in effect, recycle gowns and make sure that we have the supplies that we need.

As President mentioned today, the President and the First Lady, and I and my wife Karen were honored to be a part of a conference call with mental health professionals from all around the country. And we know while there are families that are struggling with the coronavirus and struggling with heartbreaking loss to the coronavirus, we understand this is a very challenging time for every American, but most especially Americans who struggle with mental disorders or struggle with addiction. And the President brought some incredibly dedicated people together to make sure that they know we're with them.

Early on, the President expanded access to telemedicine. And we've also issued guidance for using technology to remain connected to social support groups. And we just urge everyone -- everyone who may be feeling a -- an emotional burden or a vulnerability during this time to -- to reach out to the many resources that are there and to know that you are not alone, that we're with you, and we'll get through this, and we'll get through this together.

So despite heartbreaking losses that continue this week in communities from New York to New Jersey to Louisiana, there are signs of progress and hope abounds.

The reality is that we see new projections from the experts. And

if the projections are right, it's because it's working, America. It's because the American people are putting into practice the social distancing, caring for their neighbors and their loved ones and their family members, and putting their health first. And we just want to urge every American to continue to put those principles and guidelines into practice every day.

With that, I'm going to invite Dr. Deborah Birx up for an update, and Dr. Fauci. We'll hear from the Secretary of Labor and we'll take a few questions.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. So I wanted to cover, today, not only what we're seeing across the United States, but some of the testing data to assure, from the prior question, if we're testing -- I'm sure you're following our numbers every day and the amount we're going up. About 118,000 to 120,000 per day are being tested. So we're way over the 750,000 per week, currently.

We have some statistics. Now remember, we required this, thanks to Congress, to be reported. We have about 75 percent of that test data in now; about 1.5 million of those tests have been reported in.

I just wanted to give you some ideas because sometimes we think that we're only testing in the hospitals, so this should give you an idea of the quantity and the types of tests that have occurred.

So we've tested over 200,000 young people, up to age 25. They have about 11 percent positivity rate. Over half a million people between 25 and 45, they have a 17 percent positive rate. Now, remember, in order to get tested, you have to have symptoms. So this gives you an idea of the number of people who have symptoms that are not infected with coronavirus. Another

nearly half a million people between 45 and 65, their positivity rate is 21 percent. Another nearly 200,000 between 65 and 85, 22 percent positive. And a small group of about thirty-plus thousand individuals over 85, and they have a 24 percent positivity rate. And so this gives you an idea of -- we're testing throughout all age categories.

I see a lot of men in the audience today. I just want to remind them about the importance of healthcare. Of the male-female ratio, 56 percent of the people who are tested are female, 16 percent positive; 44 percent male, 23 percent positive. So again, it gives you an idea about how men often don't present in the healthcare delivery system until they have greater symptomatology. This is to all of our men out there, no matter what age group: If you have symptoms, you should be tested and make sure that you are tested. We appreciate you engaging in that. And also really recognizing the issues about comorbidities and making sure that we're addressing those.

I had a series of great calls with about 17 states that are in our more rural areas, specifically around our indigenous people and tribal nations. It was a very reassuring call and, you know, we're testing across the country. We do have about 63 percent of states that have less than 10 percent positive, despite significant testing. And within the indigenous peoples and tribal nations, they're seeing the same thing that we're seeing across the nation: increased issues around those with comorbidities and those of elderly, but also issues in nursing homes.

And so we're really -- they are testing -- many of these states are still capable of doing full contact tracing. And so they've been doing contact tracing from nursing home outbreaks and other outbreaks.

It really gives us a clear impression of -- no matter what we do

in the future, we need to really ensure that nursing homes have sentinel surveillance. And what do I mean by that? That we're actively testing in nursing homes, both the residents and the workers, at all times. That is where -- and that's how we saw this at the beginning. That's what we saw in Washington State. And that's what we're seeing in many of the states that have very low case attack rates.

The other thing that I want to leave you with -- I mean, we certainly know how desperate and difficult the situation has been in New York over the last few weeks. And we've been telling and talking about how this would be the week that would be most difficult because of the large proportion of cases that are coming from the New York metro area.

What's been encouraging to us -- those early states, outside of Washington and California, which still have extraordinarily low attack rates because of their level of mitigation, all of the new areas that are having new increase in cases -- we talked about them yesterday, Washington and Baltimore, and the Philadelphia metro area that includes Camden, Wilmington, and the counties around Philadelphia -- we're seeing that the case numbers -- what we'll get to as far as attack rates. And we talked about one in seven in a thousand in New York that are being measured. These are coming in, even with their progress up, their curve in the one- to two-per-thousand range, showing that when you start mitigation early, it has a very different impact.

All of this data is coming together. The testing rates, the seropositivity, the age groups, who really needs hospitalization, ICU, the innovative pieces coming from -- we heard a great report from Louisiana this morning on that phone call where they talked about a minimum now of 40 percent of people coming out of ventilators alive and leaving the hospital.

This is very encouraging to us. It really shows amazing

progress, clinically, at each of these hospitals, and the real lessons -- what we're learning and sharing across hospitals. But really shows us that the original outbreaks were very large, but the newer ones that we talk about in Washington and Philadelphia and Baltimore, it looks like their attack rates and the attack rates in Denver and some of these other states that we have been talking about are much lower than New York and New Jersey.

And this gives us hope about really understanding how to integrate this information together -- not dealing with the model but the real-life cases that are occurring, and understanding how to move forward together to really have a different future.

So thank you very much.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Dr. Fauci?

DR. FAUCI: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. So just reflecting about what we've been doing over the last few days -- remember last weekend when we made the forecast that this would really be a bad week? As I mentioned yesterday and the day before, it is, in the sense of deaths, a bad week. In fact, every day there seems to be a record of number of deaths compared to the day before. In fact, New York, today, had again another record of -- I think the city itself was about 820-plus deaths.

But what we were predicting -- with the increase and the real adherence to the physical separation, the guidelines that the Vice President talks about, the physical separation -- at the same time as we're seeing the increase in deaths, we're seeing rather dramatic decrease in the need for hospitalizations. Like, I think yesterday, it was something like 200 new hospitalizations and it's been as high as 1,400 at any given time. So that is going in the right direction.

I say that -- and I always remind myself when I say that -- that

means that what we are doing is working, and therefore we need to continue to do it. I know I sound like a broken record. That's good. I want to sound like a broken record. Let's just keep doing it.

I get questions a lot -- Dr. Birx and I -- about these numbers, the projections that you went with -- from 100,000, 200,000, now down to 60,000. That's a sign that when -- as I keep saying -- when you take the data you have and you reinsert it into the model, the model modifies. Data is real; model is hypothesis. Okay? So that's what you have to do and that's what I think we're seeing.

The other thing that -- some just broad, general, good news from the standpoint of a scientific standpoint: that there are a lot of candidate, potential therapeutics that are going into clinical trials now that we're sponsoring at the NIH. The kinds of clinical trials that will give us the answer: Are they safe? Are they effective? And just what is the -- the capability of using them under what circumstance -- as prophylaxis, as treatment in early disease, in late disease?

So as the time goes by and we have the public health measures to try and contain this, we're doing an awful lot from a scientific standpoint so that when we do get to next year, next fall, next winter, hopefully we'll have something that we can offer in addition to the very important public health measures.

So I'll be happy to answer questions later.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY SCALIA: Mr. Vice President, thank you. And thanks to the task force. And, of course, thanks to the President for his leadership.

The important public health measures that have been discussed so much in these briefings in this room have had a large impact in American workplaces. We saw that again today as the Labor Department released figures showing that 6.6 million new unemployment claims were filed last week. We're all mindful -- the President mentioned this -- that the American people are making difficult sacrifices. That has included being furloughed, laid off, or having -- having a small-business struggle.

That said, American workers can be encouraged by how swiftly and comprehensively the President and Congress have responded. Three weeks ago, the U.S. had never had a law requiring paid sick leave at U.S. companies. But three weeks ago, the President signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which did provide paid sick leave, as well as expanded family and medical leave for employees at small businesses, with those small businesses being reimbursed dollar for dollar for having provided that leave.

Last week we at the Labor Department issued rules to implement these leave requirements of the Families First Act, and we've been in near constant contact with employers and employees to help them understand the law, and, in a number of cases already, to help workers get the leave that they were entitled to.

Another unprecedented benefit for workers was provided in the CARES Act less than two weeks ago. That law, as you know, includes a \$600-a-week plus-up to unemployment benefits that are provided by the states. We have millions of unemployed Americans who are making a sacrifice for our national wellbeing. These bonus payments -- and they're unprecedented. The government has never provided a plus-up unemployment payment like this. These payments are intended to make those workers whole, as near we can.

This temporary benefit is available not just to employees, but also to the self-employed and gig-economy workers. Before the

President signed the CARES Act, gig workers, independent contractors were not available for unemployment compensation. Today, they are.

At the Department, our team has worked day and night to enable states to make this benefit available. I'm pleased that a number of states are now making those \$600 additional weekly payments. More states will follow in the coming days. How long it takes will vary by states. Some system -- some state systems will take longer. But we at the Department will continue to support them. We have already dispersed half a billion dollars to states to help them with their systems and making these payments. We have another half a billion dollars that we're ready to release.

And for workers who don't get this benefit when it's first due them, states will be able to catch them up later when their computer systems are able to make these payments.

Let me add that we're also mindful at the Labor Department that many Americans remain in the workplace, including on the frontlines in our hospitals, as well as our emergency responders.

My Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration -- or OSHA -- has been providing guidance to employers and employees on coronavirus since the early days of this health emergency. We are fielding and responding to calls from workers worried about their health, and sometimes from workers who believe they've been illegally disciplined by their employer for expressing health concerns. We will not tolerate retaliation. OSHA will continue to work with workers and employers to keep workplaces safe, using all the tools available to us, including enforcement if needed.

I wanted to finish by commenting on the Paycheck Protection Program, which we heard about earlier, run by the Small Business

Administration. This, of course, is loans to small businesses to enable them to meet certain costs, including utilities, rent, and, most important from my perspective, payroll.

As you know, if these companies receiving loans keep their workers on paylo- -- on payroll, these loans are largely forgivable.

Here's why that program is so important, from my perspective: We're seeing unemployment filings right now of a like that we've never seen before. But these numbers aren't the result of an underlying weakness to our economy. Our economy has been vibrant -- incredibly strong just weeks ago. If -- as we've heard again today, if we are disciplined now and adhere carefully to the guidance being provided by health authorities, we'll get that economy back.

The President spoke at the State of the Union of the blue-collar boom we are experiencing. We want to lay the ground- -- groundwork now for a blue-collar bounce back. We'll get there in part by helping companies hold onto their workers, which is what the Pay- -- Paycheck Protection Program does. Keep them on payroll so that, when businesses are ready to reopen, they have the workers they need and Americans have jobs.

We will continue -- at the Department and, I know, here at the White House -- to be laser focused on American workers and jobs until this is done.

So thank you very much.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Very well done, Mr. Secretary. Good job. Great. We'll take a few questions.

Yes, please.

Q Mr. Vice President, a question for you and then a question for Dr. Birx or Dr. Fauci. Just to clarify: On the federal funding for testing sites in the states, are you saying that federal funding will remain for those sites, and will it remain at its current levels?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It's not merely federal funding, but in many cases, we've provided personnel from the U.S. Public Health Service, and also flowed supplies, personal protective equipment that was required for some of the early forms of testing. But it's less required today with new formats for testing.

But it's -- it is an option. And as I've made clear to several governors, we'll -- we'll continue to partner with our states. But I -- I have to tell you that the way states stepped forward with the concept of drive-through and community-based testing is really inspiring. For our part, working with FEMA and our great team at the U.S. Public Health Service, we've stood up some nearly 50 different drive-through test sites around the country. But, literally, there are hundreds that have been deployed by states and by hospitals and local healthcare providers.

But, in this instance, we -- we wanted to at least give them the option to take control of that. But we'll continue to resource them with personnel, supplies, and -- and any other support that they need going forward. And --

Q And then just a question for the Doctors. I'm curious if -- did you see this information out of the CDC in South Korea today that shows that they're seeing evidence of reinfection in some people who have been cured of coronavirus? And what does that mean for our understanding of this?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Have you seen that?

DR. FAUCI: I'm not aware of what you're speaking about now, but clearly, there have been anecdotal mentioning of what appear to be reinfection. You have to really be very careful when you say reinfection, because -- and we were dealing with this with even Ebola, back during the Ebola time, that someone might still -- when that someone does a test on them, do a PCR on a body fluid of some sort and be able to detect what are likely nucleotides that are not replication competent.

So if you're -- if you're telling me -- which I don't think they're saying -- that someone has coronavirus disease, they get sick, it's documented, they get better, and then a month or so later they get sick with documented coronavirus disease, I don't think that's what they're saying. But I don't want to jump the gun on it until I see the data.

Q They used the word "reactivate." Is that different?

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. Well, yeah, what "reactivating" would mean is that -- it depends what you mean by "reactivating." If someone clearly is ill and they have virus isolated from them, that you may have a prolonged course. I'd like to see how long they reactivate. I mean, if they were sick and had documented virus, and then three months later, they had documented virus, is that reactivation or is that infection with another virus? I'd like to see the data before I really comment on that.

Q Can I ask you a question, Dr. Fauci? Dr. Fauci, I wanted -- I wanted to ask about medical criteria. You had a discussion with Dr. Birx and the other public health experts on Tuesday, I understand. Can you discuss what is the medical criteria that you guys are discussing in order to reopen the government? What is the medical criteria?

DR. FAUCI: Well, it's less medical criteria than it is public health criteria. And that is -- and I think it's really

important because often people say, "Reopen the government," like it's a light switch that goes on and off for the entire country.

We have a very large country with really different patterns of disease and outbreaks in different parts of the country. So it's not going to be one-size-fits-all. It's going to be: What is the kinetics of an outbreak? Is it on the way down? Is it essentially out? Is it still smoldering and possibly going up? I think you're going to have to take it individually and --

Q Are there some benchmarks that you're looking at, though? I mean, are there certain numbers that you're looking at, some data that you would like to see? What would you like to see before that happens?

DR. FAUCI: Yeah, well, I'll allow Dr. Birx to come up. But just my own opinion: I don't think they're going to be benchmarks that are going to be consistent from one to the other.

For example, I would not want to pull back at all in New York until I was clear that that curve really was doing what we've seen in other countries -- a very steep decline down -- and we had the capability, if there was a resurgence, of having everything in place to be able to do the containment, as opposed to struggling with mitigation with what we've been doing.

That's different than a relatively smaller city, town, or whatever you in the Midwest or mountain regions, which is generally very well controlled. But I wouldn't want to see -- do we have the capability of doing the isolation, contact tracing, and suppression of it? So it really varies differently. So I don't think there's one medical criteria.

But Deb --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: If you want to speak to it.

DR. BIRX: Yeah. Yeah. Thank you. So it's what I tried to cover in the brief presentation I gave. In talking to the 17 states that have indigenous populations and tribal nations and discussing with them what they were doing generally and what they were doing specifically through the Indian Health Service, they discuss the ability to find new cases and doing full contact tracing.

And so they are -- they have strike teams, they are very well organized. You don't hear about them every day, and I -- that's why I wanted to call them out. They're really doing amazing work at their public health institutions, with their governors and their mayors. And they are really -- they are in full contact tracing.

Yes, they're doing social distancing, but they're also doing full contact tracing and understanding all aspects of their epidemic. So we're looking at those pieces as well as when I was talking about blunting, really -- when you're starting to go up that curve, having that unbelievable blunting where you only get evident attack rates. And I want to be very clear about that. When we see cases, these are symptomatics that have been diagnosed. There's clearly, we believe, people we don't see. And that's why the antibody test is going to be helpful to us to really define that.

So those are the pieces that we're bringing together to really analyze that. I did want to say, the President talks about the 150-plus countries that are in -- experience what we're experiencing. I just wanted to do a call-out: We have Americans around the world in every embassy that are working with those countries now. This scarf came from Africa. It's one of my public health colleagues there. I just want to recognize that public health colleagues around the world who are doing all of this work together to change the course in their epidemics in

every single country around the globe.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Let me go to another question, if I can. But in response to that, just so you know, what the President has tasked us to do is there's a number of working groups and -- that are that are looking at not only how do we -- how do we reopen the country, but how do we stay open. And I think most of America knows that no one wants to reopen America more than President Donald Trump. But the President has told us we need to do it responsibly, and we're going to follow the data. We're literally following the data on a county-by-county basis.

This morning, we were literally presented with information of each county that had more than 100 new cases and had -- you know, went in the other direction; had, you know, less than 100 than the day before. It's really remarkable.

And so I think what you hear the health experts saying will inform the President's decision and timing. But make no mistake about it, that the best thing we can do to reopen America is put the coronavirus behind us, to reach the -- to reach the end of that curve with as little loss of life or hardship as possible; to have in place, that we soon believe we will, the kind of therapeutics -- I call them medicines that make you feel better -- by this summer; to have more widespread testing that we're scaling up each and every day; and also to have the kind of guidance that the CDC is even now developing for businesses large and small, for families and for schools, for that day that we do reopen America.

Question? Go ahead.

Q If I could just ask one more follow-up to the doctors. It touches on this question of when to lean back on mitigation. There is a study out of Los Alamos this week that I

hope you've seen. It's on the CDC website. It looks at this question of are R-naught, which -- it's a technical term that you understand, and it has to do with the reproductive rate of the virus.

The study shows that the R-naught for coronavirus isn't between two and three, as had been thought before, but it's actually closer to six, which means that one person, on average, is infecting six others. So with this information, how does that impact the model? How can you begin to think about when to reopen society if it's more contagious than we thought before?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I can tell you as the layperson on the stage --

DR. FAUCI: Go for it. (Laughter.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: -- we have known from the beginning that this is at least three times more contagious than the flu. And I believe that that fact alone has informed our projections and the modeling.

But now I'll let the experts respond.

Q But it's twice as contagious as you thought it was.

DR. BIRX: I'll go quickly, and then --

DR. FAUCI: And then I'll go --

DR. BIRX: We'll tag team together.

DR. FAUCI: Go ahead.

DR. BIRX: So, when we've been talking about the asymptomatic group -- and that's why I gave you that testing data where 11

percent of young people under 25 were positive, many of them with very low-grade symptoms.

What we will be triangulating for you is the testing data with hospital admissions, and then you'll be able to start seeing spectrum of disease. Because what you're not seeing in spectrum of disease is people who never even think that this is something significant that -- than what they have. We're seeing the significant cases.

When testing, you can see that we're getting a lot of people in with symptoms, who aren't positive. And so really finding out what is the R-naught. Is it six? Is it five? And the only way to do that at this point right now is to get the antibody tests out there and go into these places that had significant disease. When we talk about attack rates of seven per thousand, like New York; and five per thousand in New Jersey; and test the healthcare workers, the first responders, all of the nursing homes for antibody and really get to your question -- because right now, it's still theoretic. We understand they're modeling this. And we are -- we will get the data to actually look at that.

You will see what others have been presenting. So you presented the six. What others are presenting, importantly, is they're modeling what's happening with mitigation. And they're publishing that the R-naught with mitigation is approaching like 1.3 and 1.5. So that -- think of what that is. If it was six, and then with mitigation we have it into the ones, that really shows the power of the American people.

No one has varied R-naughts like that without a vaccine, but this is what's happening with the -- really, the power of the American people.

Tony.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Tony.

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. Ditto to everything that Dr. Birx said, but I couldn't help but thinking when you talk about -- you know what the worst enemy of an R-naught is? Physical separation.

Q But do we have enough testing --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: How about one more? One more. Go right ahead.

Q Do we have enough testing capacity in the country right now to reopen in the foreseeable future? I mean, because the President talked about 2 million tests. Are we going to have the testing capacity needed to make Americans feel comfortable going back into their workplaces? I mean, it seems to me that is a pretty critical question at this point. People are not going to want to go back to work if they think their coworkers might be carrying the virus. If we're not testing enough, how do we know it's safe to go back?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the American people see the incredible progress that's been made after President Trump brought in the largest commercial labs in the world to scale testing, the likes of which we've seen. We are, as Dr. Birx said, well over 100,000 Americans being tested every single day.

We have an antibody test that is coming online. Abbott Laboratories literally has thousands of machines across the country. We're working with hospitals and labs around the country to activate those machines for the 15-minute test.

Q Forgive me, Mr. Vice President: Do we have enough testing right now?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, let me -- let me say, we're -- we're moving every day toward meeting that moment. But let's be clear: Reopening the country, as the President is very anxious to do at the earliest responsible moment, will be through a combination of facts. First would be that we are at the end of the coronavirus for most major communities. Another piece of that is that we -- we have therapeutics for Americans to take medicines if they contract the disease.

Another piece of that is guidance from the CDC to public institutions to businesses large and small about how to conduct themselves in a safe and a responsible way. And testing is also a piece of that. And as Admiral Giroir has reflected, we -- we are spending a great deal of time expanding testing today. Every single day there's more and more tests across the country.

But we're also working to scale testing -- that, as we move into this summer and move into the fall, we'll have the testing we need to do what these doctors call not "diagnostic testing" -- which is to take a test of a person that has symptoms -- but "surveillance testing," so we can identify people that may have had it and may be immune versus people also -- people that we just need to know whether or not they were -- they were ever exposed or -- and were not exposed.

How about -- how about one more quick question here, if I can? I think he had one right here. Or I'll go to you in the back.

Q Thank you, Mr. Vice President. In the next few weeks, the Supreme Court is set to rule on DACA, about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival. And about 30,000 of those people who are under that program are frontline healthcare workers. Is the administration in any way ready to protect them if the ruling comes in your favor and takes the protection out, and they can no longer work in the health field as they're needed right now?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the President has been very clear on his desire to reach a solution on that issue with the Congress. But let me -- let me say, whether it be healthcare workers or people working in food supply, other people working in critical infrastructure, we're -- we're incredibly inspired by the way people across this country are stepping up to keep -- keep healthcare rolling and available, a high quality of care, even in areas deeply impacted by the coronavirus.

And also, as we said the other day, hardworking people in our food supply, from the farmers to processors, to distributors, to truck drivers, to grocers -- we received a good word that, over the last several days, we've actually seen a significant drop with one major company in absenteeism.

We issued new guidance from the CDC about how people who may have been within close proximity to someone who had the coronavirus could return to work before the 14 days if they didn't have a fever, if they tested themselves twice a day, and returned with a mask.

But the dedication of people to continue to work is -- is truly inspiring. And I know, as we go forward, we'll -- we'll work through a broad range of national issues. But we're going to be incredibly proud for a long time by the way that people all across this country responded to this moment.

So thank you all very much. We'll see you tomorrow.

END

7:28 P.M. EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 1:07:31 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In Town Pool Report #6

From: Debra Saunders <dsaunders@reviewjournal.com>

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 1:03 PM

Subject: In Town Pool Report #6

The president tweeted video of the Easter Blessing in the Oval Office.

In answer to a question, your pooler was not tested for coronavirus today and does not expect to be.

Briefing now moved to 1:30.

DJS

--

Debra J. Saunders
White House Correspondent
Las Vegas Review-Journal
529 14th Street NW Suite 994
Washington, DC 20045
202-662-7391
Cell (b)(6)

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 9:22:45 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Memorandum on Providing COVID-19 Assistance to the Italian Republic



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2020

April 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC
POLICY
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE
UNITED STATES
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

SUBJECT: Providing COVID-19 Assistance to the Italian Republic

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The Italian Republic (Italy), one of our closest and oldest Allies, is being ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has already claimed more than 18,000 lives, brought much of the Italian healthcare system to the brink of collapse, and threatens to push Italy's economy into a deep recession. The Government of Italy has requested United States assistance. Although the United States Government's first and foremost responsibility is to the American people, coming to the aid of Italy will help fight the COVID-19 outbreak and mitigate the impact of the crisis, while simultaneously demonstrating United States leadership in the face of Chinese and Russian disinformation campaigns, lessening the risk of re-infection from Europe into the United States, and maintaining critical supply chains.

Sec. 2. Support by Public International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID Administrator), in consultation with relevant United States embassies and missions, including the United States Mission to Italy, the United States Embassy to the Holy See, and the United States Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome, shall identify public international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including faith-based organizations, that are positioned to support Italy and Italian communities with respect to the COVID-19 crisis in Italy, and prioritize agency action as the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator deem necessary and appropriate to implement this

memorandum.

Sec. 3. Contribution of Equipment and Supplies. To assist with Italy's urgent need for medical equipment and supplies to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, and excluding provision of items that the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of Homeland Security determines are required for our Nation's domestic response to the COVID-19 crisis:

(a) the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and with the Secretary of Homeland Security, working through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall, if appropriate, facilitate contacts between Italian authorities and United States companies, and when appropriate, encourage United States suppliers to conduct commercial sales of items requested by Italian authorities or healthcare providers;

(b) the Secretary of Defense shall identify available nonlethal excess supplies that could be transferred to the Secretary of State for distribution for humanitarian relief purposes in Italy;

(c) the USAID Administrator shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, identify appropriate NGOs and public international organizations capable of providing supplies and equipment needed by Italy and prioritize agency action as the USAID Administrator deems necessary and appropriate to implement this memorandum; and

(d) the Secretary of State shall encourage corporations and NGOs with a presence in Italy, including faith-based organizations, to donate medical equipment and supplies to Italy.

Sec. 4. Using the Department of Defense's Existing Presence

in Italy. In light of the more than 30,000 United States military personnel and dependents in Italy, the Secretary of Defense shall, without jeopardizing force readiness or health of the force, without detracting from our Nation's domestic response to the COVID-19 crisis, and consistent with the policy limitations in this memorandum, make personnel and facilities available to assist Italy in its response to COVID-19 by:

(a) providing telemedicine services to Italian hospitals;

(b) facilitating transport and set-up of field hospitals and response equipment provided by non-United States Government sources;

(c) facilitating the transport of supplies, fuel, and food;

(d) treating, by referral, and in consultation with the medical treatment facility commander, Italian non-COVID-19 patients (with particular consideration given to military and civilian first responders) at United States facilities;

(e) providing support to Italy's Civil Military Operations Center in order to ensure a coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(f) offering, as appropriate, United States-operated military-to-military medical evacuation services for non-COVID-19 patients.

Sec. 5. Technical Support. In light of the ongoing partnerships between the Department of Health and Human Services and Italy's health sector, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, in consultation with the United States Embassy in Rome, provide technical support, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to assist in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Italy.

Sec. 6. Support to Italian Businesses. The Secretary of State, the USAID Administrator, and the President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, may use available authorities to support the recovery of the Italian economy, as appropriate and consistent with the policy limitations in this memorandum.

Sec. 7. Limitation. All support and assistance addressed in this memorandum are subject to the limitation that they shall not be provided if they detract from domestic requirements that presently exist or that may arise in the future for responding to the spread of COVID-19 within the United States.

Sec. 8. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its

officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 10:09:07 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In Town Pool Report #1

From: Debra Saunders <dsaunders@reviewjournal.com>

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 10:04 AM

Subject: In Town Pool Report #1

Good Friday,

Your pooler has had her temperature taken and is ready to roll.

There are two things on the menu today.

At noon POTUS participates in an Easter Blessing with Bishop Harry Jackson in the Oval. Restricted to Pool.

And then there's the Coronavirus Task Force daily briefing scheduled for 1 p.m.

DJS

Oval Office

Restricted In-House Pool

Briefing Schedule

1:00PM **Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press briefing**

James S. Brady Briefing Room

On Camera

--

Debra J. Saunders
White House Correspondent
Las Vegas Review-Journal
529 14th Street NW Suite 994
Washington, DC 20045
202-662-7391
Cell (b)(6)

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2020 9:51:13 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT
TV Corr & Crew: CNN
Print: Las Vegas Review Journal
Radio: FOX

EDT

10:00AM **In-House Pool Call Time**

12:00PM **THE PRESIDENT participates in an Easter Blessing with Bishop
Harry Jackson**

Oval Office

Restricted In-House Pool

Briefing Schedule

1:00PM **Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press briefing**

James S. Brady Briefing Room

On Camera

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2020 5:59:56 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves Idaho Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves Idaho Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Idaho and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

The President's action makes Federal funding available to State, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of Idaho impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named Michael F. O'Hare as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2020 3:33:15 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH Pool Report 5 – Tests for everyone in the briefing room

From: Shirish Date <sv.date@huffpost.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:24 PM

Subject: WH Pool Report 5 – Tests for everyone in the briefing room

The White House and WHCA announced that everyone who will be in the room during the briefing will be given a fast COVID-19 test, with results expected to be delivered before the start of the briefing.

-30-

S.V. Dáte

Senior White House Correspondent

HuffPost

202-624-9338 o

c

@svdate

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: Marks, Peter [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DFBB2B5BD38445CB9C9ADCA3F72DF53A-MARKSP]
Sent: 4/9/2020 1:26:50 PM
To: Ory.S.Rinat@who.eop.gov
CC: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: RE: My contact information

Dear Ory,

We had a call with both the blood collectors and the plasma collectors (b) (5)

We should know soon how this is going.

Thanks so much for your help.

Best Regards,
Peter

From: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Marks, Peter <Peter.Marks@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: FW: My contact information

See below

From: Hahn, Stephen <SH1@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:14 AM
To: Rinat, Ory S. EOP/WHO <Ory.S.Rinat@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: My contact information

Thanks, Ory. Keagan, would you let Peter know this is an option? It might expedite things.
Steve

From: Rinat, Ory S. EOP/WHO <Ory.S.Rinat@who.eop.gov>
Date: April 9, 2020 at 9:08:31 AM EDT
To: Hahn, Stephen <SH1@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: My contact information

We had discussed the (b) (5)

On Apr 9, 2020, at 08:46, Hahn, Stephen <SH1@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Ory.
Great to meet you.

Consult to EOP
[REDACTED]

From: Rinat, Ory S. EOP/WHO <Ory.S.Rinat@who.eop.gov>

Date: April 8, 2020 at 2:13:49 PM EDT

To: Hahn, Stephen <SH1@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: My contact information

—

Ory Rinat
Deputy Assistant to the President
& Chief Digital Officer
The White House

(b)(6)
[REDACTED]

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 8:22:59 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Photos of the Week



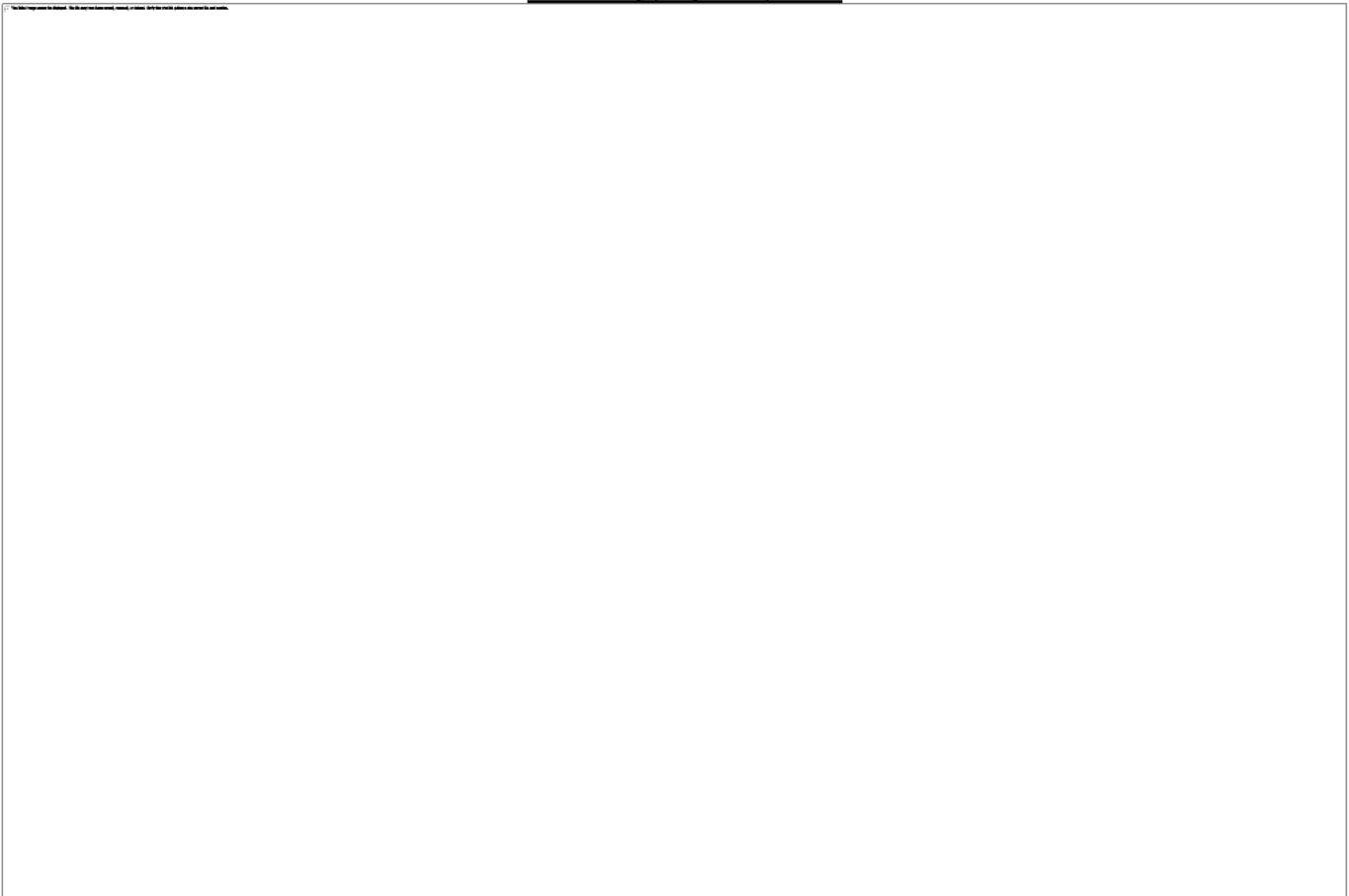
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2020

Photos of the Week

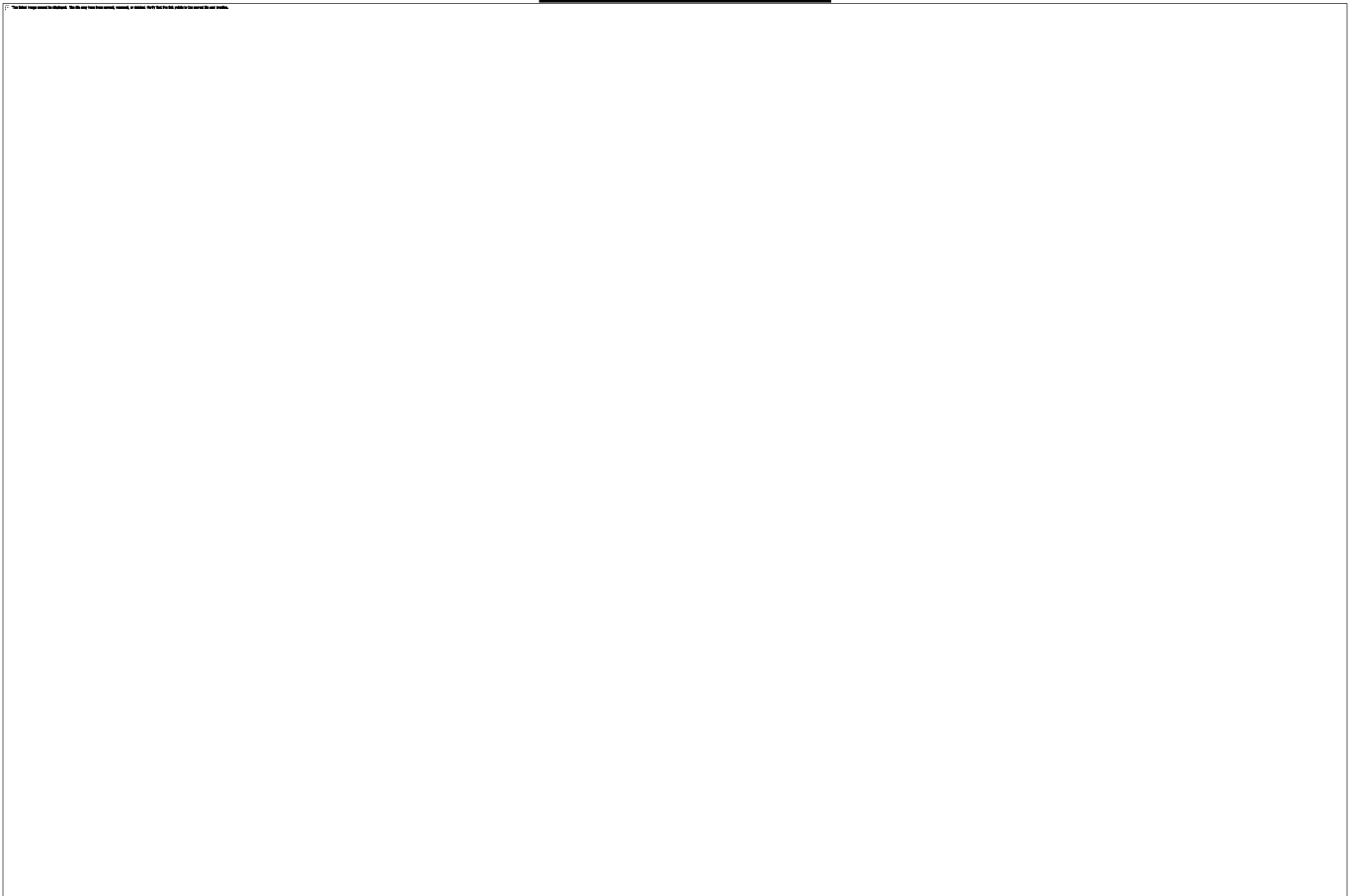
Saturday, April 4, 2020



President Donald J. Trump takes questions from reporters during a coronavirus update briefing Saturday, April 4, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo)

by Tia Dufour)

Sunday, April 5, 2020



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and FEMA's Supply Chain Task Force Lead Rear Adm. John Polowczyk, answers questions from reporters during a coronavirus update briefing Sunday, April 5, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence look on as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx points to a chart while delivering remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Sunday, April 5, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx participates in a coronavirus update briefing Sunday, April 5, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

Monday, April 6, 2020



President Donald J. Trump answers a reporter's question during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 6, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



Vice President Mike Pence, joined by Assistant Secretary for Health Adm. Brett Giroir, takes questions from reporters during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 6, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

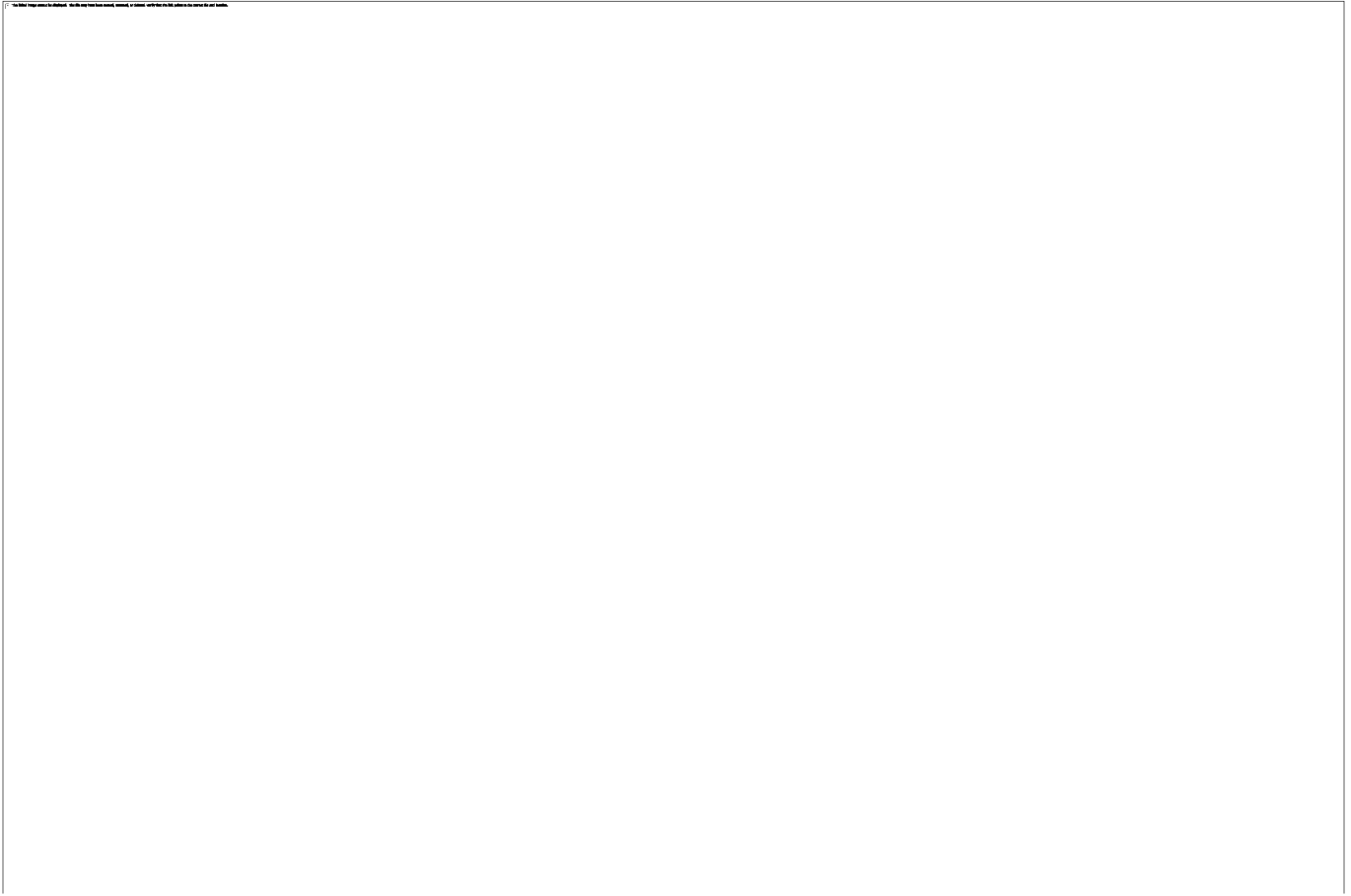
Tuesday, April 7, 2020



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, and Director of the National Economic Council Larry Kudlow, participates in a video teleconference with banking executives to discuss small business relief Tuesday, April 7, 2020, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx, listens as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony S. Fauci delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Tuesday, April 7, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Tuesday, April 7, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)

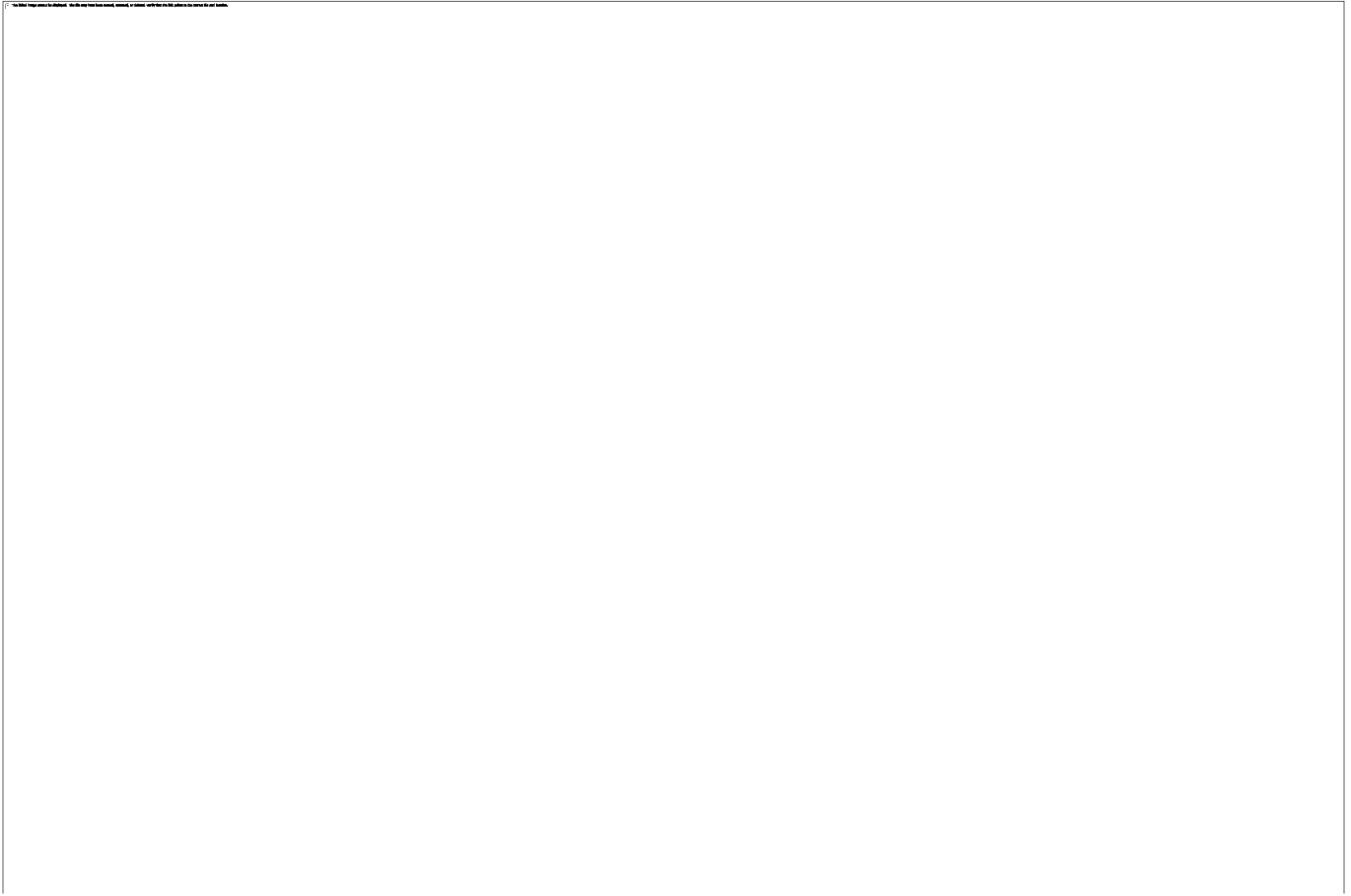


Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony S. Fauci and Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Seema Verma participate in a coronavirus update briefing Tuesday, April 7, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



The Full Pink Supermoon, the largest full moon of 2020, is seen over the White House Tuesday, April 7, 2020, in Washington, D.C. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

Wednesday, April 8, 2020



Tulips are seen in bloom Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence listen as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)

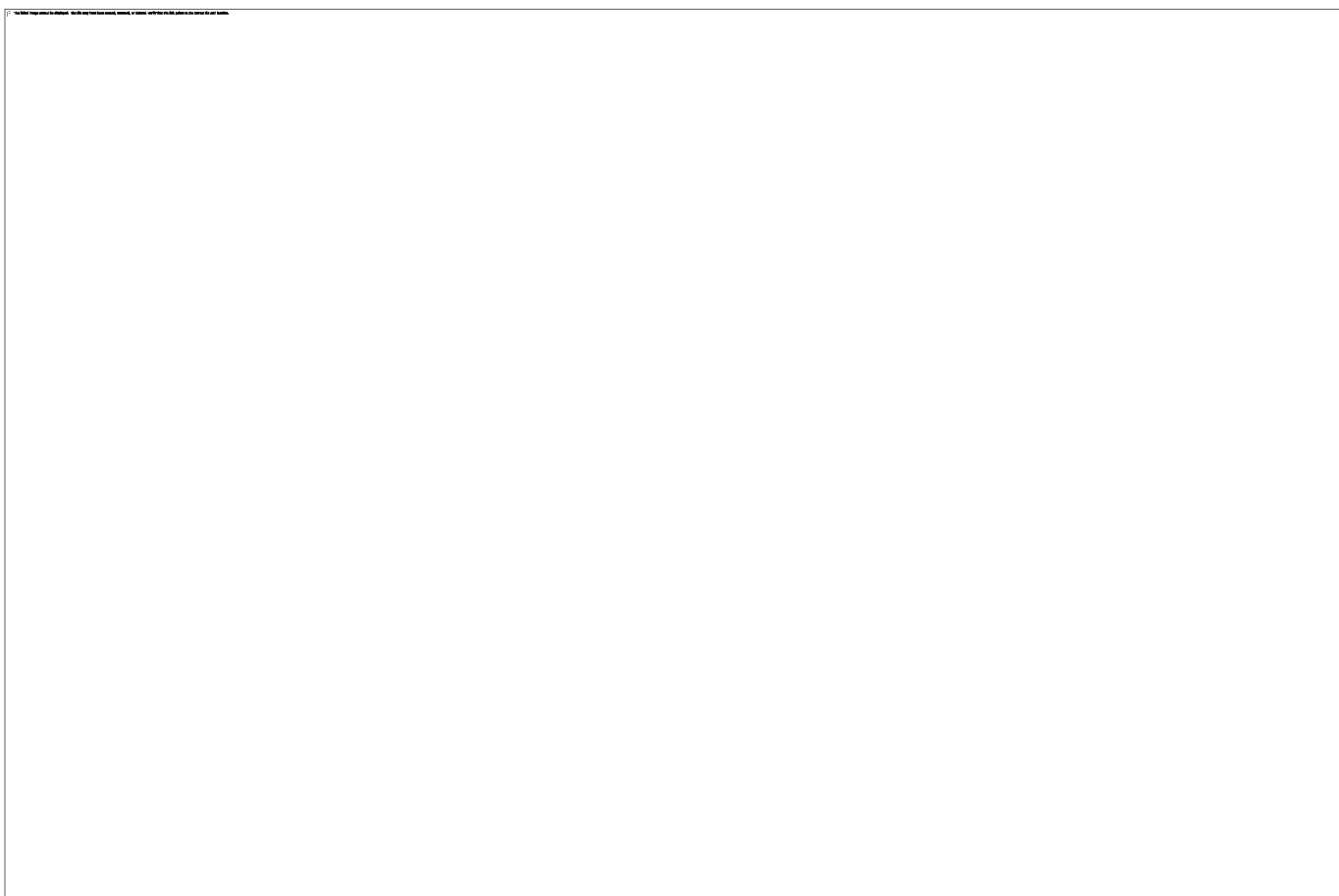


Vice President Mike Pence, joined by White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx, delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



Vice President Mike Pence participates in a taped interview with Sean Hannity of Fox News on the balcony of the Vice President's Ceremonial Office Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

Thursday, April 9, 2020



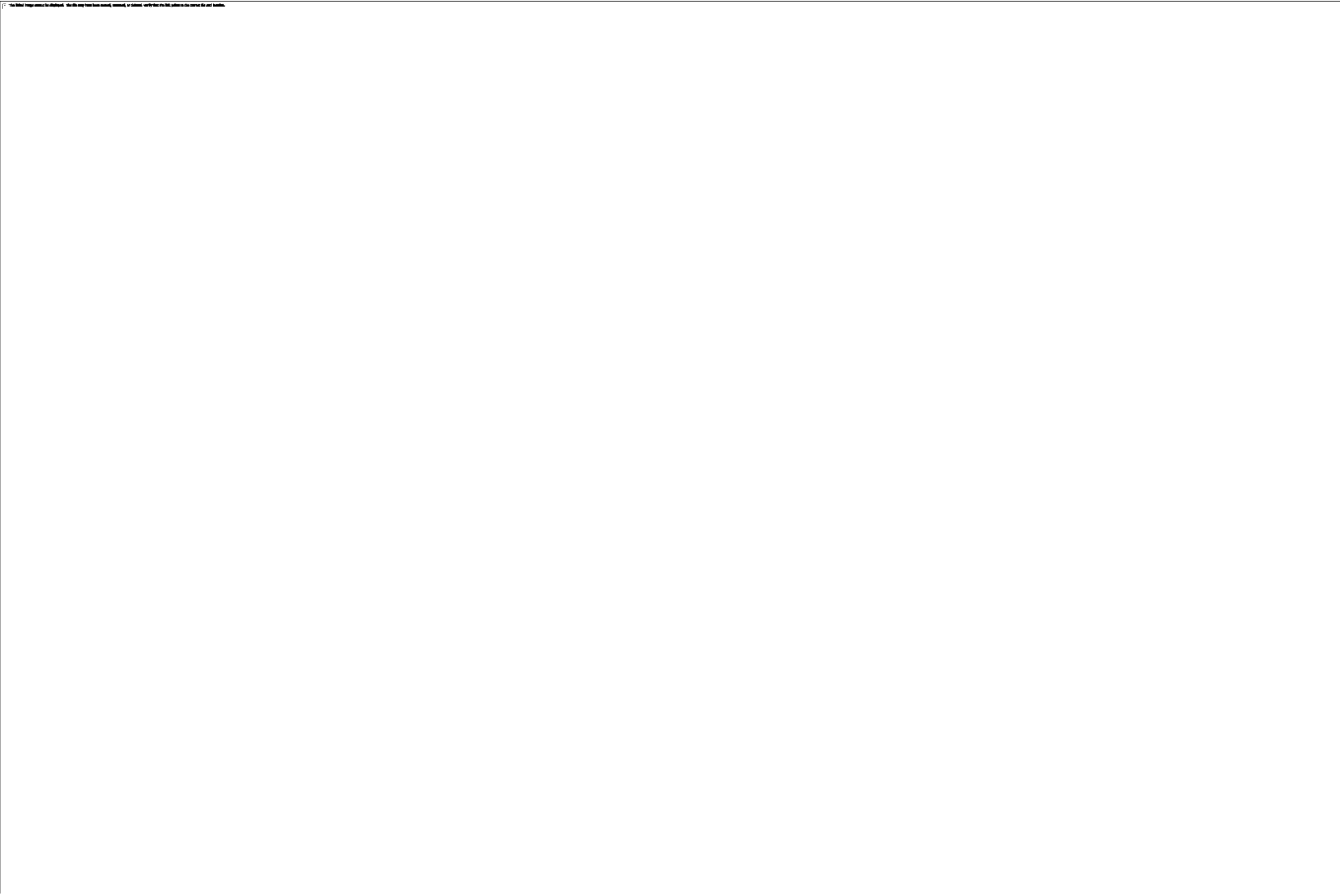
Vice President Mike Pence meets with members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force Thursday, April 9, 2020, in the White House Situation Room. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia, takes questions from reporters during a coronavirus update briefing Thursday, April 9, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Thursday, April 9, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



Vice President Mike Pence and Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia listen as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony S. Fauci delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)

Friday, April 10, 2020



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence bow their heads in prayer as Bishop Harry R. Jackson, Jr., offers an Easter blessing Friday, April 10, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



President Donald J. Trump talks to Bishop Harry R. Jackson, Jr., after offering an Easter blessing Friday, April 10, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)




Bishop Harry R. Jackson, Jr., offers an Easter blessing Friday, April 10, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, answers a reporter's question during a coronavirus update briefing Friday, April 10, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



United States Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams holds up his inhaler as he delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Friday, April 10, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, listens to a reporter's question during a coronavirus update briefing Friday, April 10, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2020 5:58:05 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves Alaska Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves Alaska Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Alaska and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to State, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of Alaska impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named Michael F. O'Hare as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 8:11:54 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Memorandum on Authorizing the Exercise of Authority under Public Law 85-804



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Authorizing the Exercise of Authority under Public
Law 85-804

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. On March 13, 2020, I declared a national emergency recognizing the threat that the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 ("the virus"), poses to the Nation's healthcare systems. I also determined on the same day that the COVID-19 outbreak constitutes an emergency, of nationwide scope, pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)). On March 18, 2020, I declared that health and medical resources needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19 meet the criteria specified in section 101(b) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4511(b)), including that they are essential to the national defense.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized to exercise authority under Public Law 85-804, as amended (50 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), to the same extent and subject to the same conditions and limitations as the head of an executive department or agency listed in section 21 of Executive Order 10789 of November 14, 1958 (Authorizing Agencies of the Government to Exercise Certain Contracting Authority in Connection with National-Defense Functions and Prescribing Regulations Governing the Exercise of Such Authority), as amended, with respect to contracts performed in support of efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs to combat the virus. This authority may only be exercised with regard to transactions directly responsive to the COVID-19 national emergency.

Sec. 3. The Department of Veterans Affairs is exercising functions in connection with the national defense in the course of contributing to the Nation's response to the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19. I deem that the authorization provided in this memorandum and actions taken pursuant to that authorization would facilitate the national defense.

Sec. 4. This memorandum shall terminate on September 30, 2020.

Sec. 5. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Sec. 6. You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

DONALD J. TRUMP

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 8:10:24 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Memorandum on Visa Sanctions



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBJECT: Visa Sanctions

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. In Executive Order 13768 of January 25, 2017 (Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States), I stressed the importance of cooperation between the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security to effectively implement the sanctions provided by section 243(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1253(d). Considering the profound and unique public health risks posed by the novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2, the need for that cooperation and timely and effective implementation is greater than ever before. On March 13, 2020, I declared a national emergency recognizing the threat that SARS-CoV-2 poses

to the Nation's healthcare systems. In recognizing the public health risk, I noted that on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the COVID-19 (the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2) outbreak can be characterized as a pandemic. Countries that deny or unreasonably delay the acceptance of their citizens, subjects, nationals, or residents from the United States during the ongoing pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 create unacceptable public health risks for Americans. The United States must be able to effectuate the repatriation of foreign nationals who violate the laws of the United States.

Sec. 2. Visa Sanctions. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Secretary of State, pursuant to section 243(d) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1253(d), if any government of a foreign country denies or unreasonably delays the acceptance of aliens who are citizens, subjects, nationals, or residents of that country after being asked to accept those aliens, and if such denial or delay is impeding operations of the Department of Homeland Security necessary to respond to the ongoing pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2.

(b) Upon receipt of a notification described in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of State shall as expeditiously as possible, but no later than 7 days after receipt, adopt and initiate a plan to impose the visa sanctions provided for in section 243(d) of the INA. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to alter or limit the authority of the Secretary of State to make exceptions consistent with the foreign policy interests of the United States.

(c) Sanctions imposed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall cease to apply if the Secretary of Homeland Security notifies the Secretary of State that a foreign country has resumed accepting aliens without unreasonable delay who are its citizens, subjects, nationals, or residents when asked to

accept those aliens.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) This memorandum shall cease to apply on December 31, 2020, unless extended.

DONALD J. TRUMP

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2020 9:59:54 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-town pool report #1 -- good morning

From: Morgan Chalfant <mchalfant@thehill.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:56 AM

Subject: In-town pool report #1 -- good morning

Good morning from the White House. I will be your print pooler today. The president does not have any public events on his schedule until the 5pm coronavirus task force briefing this evening. I will keep you updated if that changes. Let me know if you have any questions.

--

Morgan Chalfant

White House correspondent, The Hill

mchalfant@thehill.com

(b)(6)

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 10:08:50 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH In-Town pool report #1

From: Munson, Emilie <Emilie.Munson@hearstdc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 10:02 AM

Subject: WH In-Town pool report #1

Good morning.

It's a beautiful 63 degrees and sunny at the White House.

Here's what's on the schedule today:

At **3 PM**, President Trump will participate in "America CARES: Small Business Relief Update" in the Roosevelt Room. This is restricted in-house pool only.

At **5 PM**, a White House coronavirus briefing is scheduled.

I'll pass along any updates throughout the day.

Emilie Munson
Regional Correspondent
Hearst Newspapers

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2020 2:13:36 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves Vermont Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves Vermont Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Vermont and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of Vermont impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named W. Russell Webster as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2020 6:01:41 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-town pool report #5 -- two minute warning

From: Morgan Chalfant <mchalfant@thehill.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:45 PM
Subject: In-town pool report #5 -- two minute warning

We have been given a two-minute warning until the briefing. Reporters' temperatures were taken prior to the briefing, as has become common practice during the coronavirus outbreak. I will send highlights and color as necessary but a reminder that this is live-streamed. You can watch it here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/live/>

--

Morgan Chalfant
White House correspondent, The Hill
mchalfant@thehill.com

(b)(6)

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 12:02:31 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH in-town pool report #2/ Larry Kudlow speaks to reporters

From: David Smith <david.smith@theguardian.com>

Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 11:52 AM

Subject: WH in-town pool report #2/ Larry Kudlow speaks to reporters

Just after 10.30am Larry Kudlow, director of the National Economic Council, spoke to reporters in the White House driveway for 12 minutes. Video playback here:

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?470999-1/larry-kudlow-speaks-reporters-white-house>

Some highlights:

On the idea of a phase 4 stimulus package and a second round of direct checks to Americans:

"I think we've all said – the President has said, Secretary Mnuchin has said, I've said – particularly for the payroll protection program, if we need more money, we'll seek more money... I'm just saying, 'if'. Big 'if'. We've got a great start on that, a lot of loans.... \$38 billion and it's 130,000 loans from 2,400 lenders, big banks included, a lot of it's community banks.

"Let's see what happens. Our job is to execute what we've got. So you've got assistance going out to 175 million people. I keep using that stat only because for somebody like me, who's been around a while, it's unbelievable: government assistance, 175 million people."

He added: "Let's get it out. I think we're doing OK, frankly, I know there are always a few glitches but I'd give it an A. You might not agree, but whatever and, if we need more, we'll ask for more, but day at a time, week at a time, let's see how this works."

On the idea of coronavirus "war bonds". Would it be like selling a 30-year bond that's rebranded?

"I don't know, I don't know. We might want to rebrand it. My pal Jimmy Cramer's right. We've kicked this around before. The Secretary and I and the President and others talked about selling long term paper. If you have a mortgage, you should be refunding, if you haven't already."

Is it a serious proposal?

"We're just looking at it. Again, let's see where it leads. Again, we have to execute what we've got on the table, it's a massive package, give it a few weeks minimum, a month, and let's see how effective we are, let's see how efficient we are, and let's see if we need more money, we'll go and seek more money, and to that point, we'll finance it. I don't think it will be hard to be financed.

"I do want to add one point, that I believe one reason we've gotten off to a good start and covered a lot of bases, including the health care side, which is really in a sense the most important side, we're using the private sector. President Trump's great innovation over time with crises – I don't know if they're similar crises, but other crises I'll say – government tends to try to do things by itself, and President Trump has brought in the private sector, you've seen all these CEOs come here and we're constantly on the phone.

"At the risk of going too far I would say that some of these private people are a whole smarter than we are, they're more efficient than we are and they're more innovative than we, so I think that's a good thing."

On reopening the economy:

"Look, the task force meets every day, I'm on it, I sit through it. We're looking probably first and foremost at the data, the facts, and evaluating those facts. I don't want to make an evaluation. It's not my place. They're the experts, I'm not. Implementing the testing, the equipment, hospitals, whatever it is, get all that out.

"So they're working on their execution, we're all being guided by the facts, and the economics team has been working, too. We've been looking at various best ways and best practices ways to open up the economy for economic activity. As the president has said, we don't want the cure to be worse than the problem."

Kudlow added: "I still believe, given our assistance package and hope and maybe prayer that we're at a four-day week period, we can get a pretty good snapback, a good snapback. That's my hope... The sooner we begin to reopen, the faster that snapback's going to be. That's the rule of thumb that I think most economists would agree with. Again, as I've said, we came into this with a very strong economy. It got interrupted by the virus – if that's the right word – and if this can be stabilised fairly soon, yes I do think we'll see a snapback. That may be more of a prayer than a hope, I understand that, but that's my view. I'm an optimist – I can't help it."

--

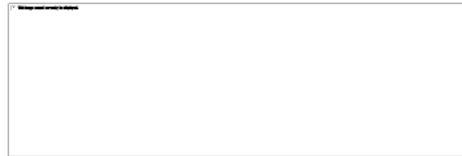
David Smith

Washington bureau chief
Guardian News & Media

■ (b)(6)
■

david.smith@theguardian.com

twitter: @SmithInAmerica



900 17th St NW, Suite 250,
Washington, DC 20006
theguardian.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 11:20:32 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing | April 7, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP,
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE
IN PRESS BRIEFING

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

5:43 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Today, we continue to send our love to the great people of New York and New Jersey. We support them fully. We grieve alongside every family who has lost a precious loved one. New Yorkers are tough and strong and brave. New Jerseyites are tough and strong and brave, and they're being hit very hard right now. And for the next week, hopefully not much longer than that, it's going to start to go in the other direction.

Our country is being hit hard, but some areas have done so incredibly well. We're so proud of them. They will beat this virus. We're going to beat it with the grit and the heart for which they're known and for which our country is known. And we appreciate everything that everybody is doing.

We also -- we pray for Prime Minister Boris Johnson. He's become a great friend of ours. He loves this country; he loves his country. But he loves the USA. And he's always been very good to us. Whenever we had difficulty, he was with us, and we appreciate it. So, we pray for Prime Minister Boris Johnson. He's going through a lot.

As we intensify our military campaign against the virus, I think that it must be brought out that we have to thank the American people for continuing to follow our guidelines on "slowing the spread" -- an expression that more and more people are thinking about. Nobody ever heard of it two months ago, and now everybody is talking about "slowing the spread," stopping the spread.

Even during this painful week, we see glimmers of very, very strong hope. And this will be a very painful week. And next week, at least part of next week, but probably all of it -- look, if one person dies, it's a painful week. And we know that's going to, unfortunately, happen. This is a monster we're fighting.

But signs are that our strategy is totally working. Every American has a role to play in winning this war. And we're going to be winning it. We're going to be winning it powerfully. And we'll be prepared for the next one, should it happen, but hopefully it won't.

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 heroic healthcare workers will be the beneficiaries of that. Twenty-seven more flights are scheduled in

the near future, over the next couple of weeks.

The Army Corps of Engineers is constructing facilities that will support more than 15,000 hospital beds to treat patients in need. So they're building now approximately 15,000. They just completed the big one in New York. They just completed and are in the process of continuing in Chicago and many other places. They're incredible. The Army Corps of Engineers -- we owe them a lot. What they're able to do in such a short period of time -- they'll build these massive facilities. Two thousand beds in four days. So it's really something very special. I know, I was in the construction industry, and you don't see that happen very often.

I want to remind governors and emergency managers that sharing real-time data with us about equipment and their needs is very important. All of their supplies, hospital occupancy is critical. A lot of the occupancy is really getting a little bit lower than anticipated, and that's good. We, sort of, thought that was going to happen.

And we're getting along very well with the governors. This whole situation with respect to talking to us about equipment and equipment needs -- giving us a little bit of lead time -- so important. All the supplies -- we're getting it to everybody like they never thought possible. But we'll ensure that we can rapidly deploy federal assets where and when they're needed, especially on ventilators.

We're actually getting some ventilators back. As you know, the State of California was great. They sent some back, which they won't need. And Washington State, likewise. And we have some others coming back, so we're using them in areas we need them.

We are pressing forward aggressively on the scientific frontier of the medical war. The companies I've spoke to -- the four leading -- I call them the "genius companies" -- they're doing incredibly well

with respect to cures and also with respect to a vaccine that's going to protect us -- totally protect us. And they have some great potential. It's going to take a little while yet, but they have some great potential. Some great early results.

And the governors have been working hard, and we are working hard with the governors. There's been great coordination, especially over the last little while. We've given them a lot of equipment, a lot of ventilators. But a lot of equipment of all types. And I will protect you if your governor fails. If you have a governor that's failing, we're going to protect you. But the governors are working well with us over the last period of time.

Today, in our stockpile of ventilators -- and again, we need the stockpile so we can immediately move them from place to place, wherever the monster hits. It's a monster. We have 8,675 ventilators right now, in stock, ready to move.

And we have all sorts of incredible soldiers. Our military is going to move them, should they be needed in, as an example, if we need additional in New York or the New York City area. You have state; you have city. And I spoke to Mayor de Blasio, and we really have a great, well-coordinated campaign with Mayor de Blasio. It's been really good. I spoke to Governor Cuomo. There's been great coordination. So, if they need something, we have it.

If Louisiana needs something, we have it. Same thing with Michigan. Same thing with Illinois. There are certain spots that are very hot. And we'll see what happens, but we'll know -- pretty much, we'll have time, and we'll be able to move it.

In addition to the 8,675 ventilators, we have 2,200 arriving on April 13th. We have 5,500 arriving on May 4th. These are ones that we're building, for the most part. And we have, as you know, great companies building them -- Ford, General Motors, GE. We have, really, some great companies that are doing it. On May 18th, we

have 12,000. On June 1st, we have 20,000. On June 29th, we have 60,000 ventilators coming. Sixty -- 6-0. So we have a total of 110,000 ventilators coming over a short period of time. I don't think we'll need them. Hopefully, we won't need them. I don't think we'll need anywhere near them. But we'll have them for the future, and we'll also be able to help other countries who are desperate for ventilators.

The UK called today and they wanted to know, would it be possible to get 200. And we're going to work it out. We got to work it out. They've been great partners, the United Kingdom. And we're going to work it out for them. So they wanted 200. They needed them desperately.

We now have 10 drugs in active trials, with 15 more soon to follow, as well as 2 vaccine candidates in active clinical trials. We'll do whatever it takes to secure needed medical supplies and bring more production of essential medicines back to our shores. We're doing that. We're bringing them back to our shores. A lot of these companies -- they went a little bit haywire. They went away from this great country and they had them produced elsewhere. So, we're going to start bringing them back. I've been talking about that for a long time, not only with medical, but lots of other things.

America continues to perform more tests than any other nation in the world. And I think that's probably why we have more cases. Because when you look at some of these very large countries, they -- I know they -- I know for a fact that they have far more cases than we do, but they don't report them.

We've performed 1.87 million tests to date. So that's 1 million 870 thousand -- million tests. Think of that: 1,870,000 tests to date. And now we're performing them at a level that nobody has ever seen before.

As we announced yesterday, CVS testing sites in Georgia and Rhode

Island will be using Abbott Labs rapid five-minute test. We're down to now five minutes. It's a five-minute test so that people can get their results back very quickly.

And we're actively engaging on the problem of increased impacts -- this is a real problem, and it's showing up very strongly in our data -- on the African American community. And we're doing everything in our power to address this challenge. It's a tremendous challenge. It's terrible. And provide support to African American citizens of this country who are going through a lot. But it's been disproportional. They're getting hit very, very hard.

In fact, while we have Tony here, I'd like to maybe have you come up and address that one, and then I'll continue. But if you could address that, it would be great, Tony. Please.

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President. We have a particularly difficult problem of an exacerbation of a health disparity. We've known, literally forever, that diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and asthma are disproportionately afflicting the minority populations, particularly the African Americans.

Unfortunately, when you look at the predisposing conditions that lead to a bad outcome with coronavirus -- the things that get people into ICUs that require intubation and often lead to death, they are just those very comorbidities that are, unfortunately, disproportionately prevalent in the African American population. So we're very concerned about that. It's very sad. There's nothing we can do about it right now, except to try and give them the best possible care to avoid those complications.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. And, Tony, I think you're going to have some pretty accurate numbers over the next few days,

right? But they are very -- they're very nasty numbers. Terrible numbers.

In total, 1,200 Abbott machines -- Abbott Laboratories, they've been fantastic -- have been shipped now nationwide. Up to 500 more are being produced every week, and 50,000 testing cartridges are being manufactured per day. That means a lot of very fast tests. No nation in the world has developed a more diverse and robust testing capacity than the United States.

We're dealing with other nations, helping them out because the testing is very tough for them. And our tests are very accurate. A lot of tests are out there, and they're not accurate at all. In fact, some of the tests, you don't have a clue what's going on. So we're working with other nations trying to get them help, also.

At a time when many Americans are experiencing increased stress, anxiety, and personal loss, we must also ensure that our country can meet the mental health needs of those struggling in this crisis. There are people struggling. They're struggling. And some people are getting to know each other, frankly. Some families are getting to know each other, on a positive note. But there are a lot of people struggling.

On Thursday, I'll be speaking to leaders and advocates from the mental health organizations all across our country. And we are going to be talking about resources and tools that we'll make available to them. They need help. And it's a big problem.

When you take something where it was the most successful country in the world -- still is -- the whole world is shut down. Think of it: We're down to numbers that are incredible.

As I said yesterday, I think it's 182 countries right now. One hundred and eighty-two countries are under attack by the -- by the scourge, by this virus.

But as we wage medical war on the virus, we're also speeding economic relief to our people. It's incredible. We just had a meeting that was absolutely incredible with the banks. I spoke with leaders in the banking and finance industry about our efforts to help American workers and employers.

As of today, small business has processed -- has processed more than \$70 billion in guaranteed loans and will provide much-needed relief for nearly a quarter of a million businesses already.

So we are going to be providing tremendous amounts of money to the small businesses of our country who have been absolutely clobbered. And they'll be keeping open and they'll be paying their employees, and they'll be all set to go. We're going to have a rocket upward.

I want to thank David Solomon, CEO of Goldman Sachs; Brian Moynihan, CEO of Bank of America; Gordon Smith, co-president, COO of JPMorgan Chase; Charles Scharf, CEO of Wells Fargo; Michael Corbat, CEO of Citigroup; Al Kelly, CEO of Visa; Michael Miebach, CEO of Mastercard; Noah Wilcox, CEO, chairman of Grand Rapids State Bank. And we had numerous others also on the call. And I just appreciate them.

They are -- we're way ahead of schedule, by the way. We're way ahead of schedule. The Paycheck Protection Program has been incredible.

So based on the incredible success of the program, I'm announcing that I'll be asking Congress to provide an additional \$250 billion for the paycheck protection, which will help keep Americans employed to facilitate a quick and full recovery.

We're doing very well. We're looking very bipartisan. A lot of people want to do it. And the -- the plan is amazing. You know,

they're processing hundreds of thousands of loans. And this is the big banks that are doing it, the community banks. But the biggest banks right now in our country are doing it, and they're -- they're doing it for a lot of reasons. One of them is they want to help people.

The WHO, that's the World Health Organization, receives vast amounts of money from the United States. And we pay for a majority -- biggest portion of their money. And they actually criticized and disagreed with my travel ban at the time I did it. And they were wrong. They've been wrong about a lot of things. And they had a lot of information early and they didn't want to -- they're very -- they seem to be very China-centric. And we have to look into that. So we're going to look into it.

We pay for -- we give a majority of the money that they get. And it's much more than that the 58. Fifty-eight million dollars is a small portion of what they've gotten over the years. Sometimes they get much more than that. Sometimes it's for programs that they're doing, and -- and it's much bigger numbers. And if the programs are good, that's great, as far as we're concerned.

But we want to look into it -- World Health Organization -- because they really are -- they called it wrong. They called it wrong. They really -- they missed the call. They could have called it months earlier. They would have known, and they should have known. And they probably did know, so we'll be looking into that very carefully.

And we're going to put a hold on money spent to the WHO. We're going to put a very powerful hold on it, and we're going to see. It's a great thing if it works, but when they call every shot wrong, that's no good.

We're in the midst of a great national struggle, one that requires the shared sacrifice of all Americans. In recent weeks, it's been

remarkable to see so many companies and organizations and individuals, like the banks that I just told you about -- biggest banks in the world. They stepped up to help small business. They have big business, small business. The small business will someday be the big business. But the small business is 50 percent of our economic strength. People don't realize when you add them up, but they just -- they just rose to the occasion. Everybody is rising to the occasion. It's been incredible to watch.

To honor and celebrate the extraordinary examples of patriotism and citizenship, we're seeing -- I'm asking Americans to use the hashtag #AmericaWorksTogether when sharing stories of how we're all working together, get through -- getting through this ordeal in a fashion that nobody would have ever thought possible. It's been incredible. And that's why the numbers are, so far, much better. We want to keep it that way.

If you look at the original projections: If we did nothing, it would be disastrous. If we -- we decided to do something. We closed it down; had no choice. It was a good move. That was a good move. The early China move was a good move. The early Europe move was a good move. Made a lot of good moves. But closing it down was a big statement. It was a big, important thing.

But we're looking to have far fewer deaths than originally thought. And I think we're heading in that direction, but it's too early to talk about it. I don't even want to talk about it now because we just want to work.

And I think that people are doing an incredible job. The doctors, the nurses, the firefighters, the police -- all medical people, what they're doing -- the bravery that they're displaying is just incredible.

Every citizen should take immense pride in the selfless -- selflessness and all of the courage and compassion of our

people. The workers -- the people that are working and construction workers going into hospitals, knowing nothing about this problem, other than it's dangerous. And they go in there to rebuild sections of hospitals. And you have people in really big trouble right next door. They know nothing about it. All they know is they're going to get it done, they're going to fix that wing so they can have more people in there. It's incredible.

But this is a national spirit that won our independence and settled the frontier and explored the horizons of space. And that's what we're doing. I mean, this is all -- this is all new territory.

It unlocked the miracles of science and what -- we're doing that when you -- I wish you could have heard the calls I had yesterday with these great companies that come up with cures to diseases. And the success they've had over the last 15 years is really amazing. So I just want to thank all of them. They're working very hard.

They're working with UK, right now, and the UK doctors -- hopefully helping with their great Prime Minister. But these people are really a -- tremendous signs of success are staring us right in the face. I think we're going to have something that's going to be great, in terms of vaccines and in terms of everything else that they're doing, just helping -- really helping us, helping the people of our country and helping, ultimately, the people of the world.

So I want to thank you all for being here. I will take some questions, and then I'm going to give it over to the Vice President and they're going to go into great detail on to what we're doing and all of the successful supplies and medical equipment that we're getting -- all of the ventilators. I've said it, but you can go over it in more detail if you'd like. But we're taking in and building thousands and thousands of ventilators. And they're very high quality. I said, "You got to go for the quality." And these are quality companies doing it.

So -- because there is a big difference between a good ventilator and a not-so-good ventilator, Tony, right? We've seen that. And -- big difference. So we're going top of the line.

Steve, please.

Q The Acting Navy Secretary submitted his resignation today -- Modly. Why did that become necessary? And what -- what role did you have in this, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I had no role in it. I've heard -- I don't know him, but I've heard he was a very good man. And it was a -- the whole thing was a very unfortunate -- the captain should not have written a letter. He didn't have to be Ernest Hemingway. He made a mistake, but he had a bad day. And I hate seeing bad things happen. The man made a mistake.

But, you know, you shouldn't be writing letters and you should -- you're in the military. You're the captain of a great ship, and you shouldn't be writing letters and sending them to many people and then it gets out to the media. And, you know, the question is, "How did it get out to the media?" So there's a lot of bad things happened there.

And I had heard he did because he didn't want to cause any disturbance for our country. So that was a -- because he wouldn't have had to resign. I would not have asked him. I don't know him. I didn't speak to him. But he did that, I think, just to end -- end that problem. And I think in one -- in really many ways, that was a very unselfish thing for him to do.

Q What should happen now to Commander Crozier, who left --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they're going to look at that. I think Secretary of Defense, as you know, is -- is -- you know Mark Esper,

and he's very capable. And I think he's looking at that right now. They're -- they're going to just take it under regular Navy channels to see what they want to do.

But he made a mistake, but he shouldn't have done that. And your Secretary probably shouldn't have said quite what he said. He didn't have to resign, but he felt it would be better for the country. So I -- you know, I think it's -- it will end it quickly.

Yes, please.

Q So, Mr. President, a couple on the economic front. The \$250 billion that was added today -- or will be added for the Small Business Loan Program, it brings it to \$600 billion in total. Do you think that figure is enough? Might there be some more down the line?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to find out. You know, when you see hundreds of thousands of applications -- don't forget, they're for \$3,000, for \$7,000, some for a couple of million. I guess one of the banks had a couple of million. So they're for different -- very varying amounts of money.

And there's a limit on the top, and then there's really no limit on the bottom as to what it might be. But it's really popular. It's hundreds of thousands of applications. They really like it. What I like is it keeps these companies together, these little companies. Just like we're going to help the airlines and the big companies, we're going to help the little companies.

And the banks are run- -- nobody is equipped to do a thing like that, but the banks are equipped. So, the banks are doing it. Big banks, small banks. We have many banks -- community banks -- and they're processing the loans and they'll be able to watch it and make sure it's done properly.

Q There was a lot talk today, sir, as well about potentially reopening the economy in the upcoming weeks. You mentioned the other day about a potential economic task force. Can you give us some sort of update as to where that may or may not --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're thinking about that. But we want to open up, and we want to get it open soon. That's why I think maybe we're getting to the very top of the curve.

I spoke with Governor Cuomo and he seems to think that he's getting close, and I think a lot of people think that a lot of places are getting close. We want to start heading that -- hitting the downside. And I think we're going to be doing -- this is going to be a very difficult week, however. This week will be a very difficult week. Because that's the most difficult week, when you're at that top position. And we'll see what happens. We'll see what happens.

Q When it does open up, what can the federal government do?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the federal government has done a lot --

Q Because there is a lot of --

THE PRESIDENT: -- and it's going to do a lot. We want to -- I really think that with the stimulus, we can maybe be -- even beyond -- we're going to do, perhaps, infrastructure, which you wouldn't have gotten approved before. And now people are looking to do it.

And the beauty is we're paying zero interest or very close to zero interest. In some cases, we're paying actually zero -- have no interest charge. And the dollar is very strong, and people are investing in the dollar. They want -- you know, the fact that we have the strong currency -- we have the currency. We -- our currency is -- is everything.

And other companies, other countries want to be in our currency. So we're -- we're getting all of the investment wanting to come into the dollar. The dollar is the strength. The dollar is the whole ballgame. We have a strong dollar. Other currencies are going down -- way, way down in some cases.

You look at other countries -- I won't mention them -- but other countries are going down 22 percent, 25 percent, 28 percent, and it's very hard for them. That makes it much more difficult with us. Our currency is relatively now stronger than it ever was -- or it was over the last few years relative to other countries. So it's always relative to other countries, but our currency is very strong.

So, therefore, people want to invest. If we do a bond issue to do infrastructure, everybody wants a piece of that issue, even at zero interest.

Yeah, please.

Q Thank you, sir. Did you see these memos that reportedly Peter Navarro wrote back in January? When did you see them? And how does that -- these memos sort of square with what you've often said that nobody could've predicted this. It sounds like he was predicting it.

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't see them, but I heard he wrote some memos talking about pandemic. I didn't see them. I didn't look for them either.

But that was about the same time as I felt that we should do it. We -- that was about the same time that I closed it down. I asked him about it just a little while ago, because I read something about a memo. I said, "Did you do a memo?" I didn't look for -- I didn't see it. I didn't ask him to show it to me. He said, "Yes, I talked about the possibility of a pandemic." Nobody said it's going to

happen, but, you know, there is a possibility. There always has been a possibility, but people wouldn't talk about it.

But it was right about the time that I closed it down. And interestingly, the World Health Organization was not in favor of us closing it down. And if we didn't close it down, we would have lost hundreds of thousands more lives. So, we did a good thing. We did a good thing.

Yeah, please.

Q So at the time, though, when -- when Peter Navarro did circulate those memos, you were still downplaying the threat of coronavirus in the U.S. You were saying things like, "I think it's a problem that's going to go away within a couple of days."

THE PRESIDENT: Which I'm right about. It did go -- it will go away.

Q You said, "Within a couple of days, the cases will be down to zero."

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the cases really didn't build up for a while. But you have to understand, I'm a cheerleader for this country. I don't want to create havoc and shock and everything else, but ultimately, when I was saying that, I'm also closing it down. I obviously was concerned about it because I closed down our country to China, which was heavily infected.

I then closed it down to Europe. That's a big move -- closing it down from China and then closing it down from Europe, and then, ultimately, closing it down to the U.K. So -- and it was right about that time. But I'm not going to go out and start screaming, "This could happen. This could happen."

So, again, as President, I think a president has to be a cheerleader

for their country. But at the same time I'm cheerleading, I'm also closing down a very highly infected place, specifically the location, as you know, in China that had the problems. And we're closing it down, but we closed it down to all of China, then we closed it down to all of Europe. Those were big moves, and it was right about that time.

Q Sir, just a quick -- just a quick follow-up, Mr. President. Mr. President --

Q Can you just clarify: Did you just learned about this today?

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

Q You learned about the memo today?

THE PRESIDENT: I read about it maybe a day ago, two days ago.

Q You feel like someone in your -- among your staff or Peter Navarro himself should have told you about the memo earlier?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not at all. It was a recommendation. It was a feeling that he had. I think he told certain people in the staff, but it didn't matter. I didn't see it, but I did -- I closed it down. I don't remember it even being discussed.

We had a meeting where there were a lot of people. Most people felt they should not close it down -- that we shouldn't close down to China. But I felt we had to do it. And that was at almost the exact same time as the memo.

Q If you had read the memo at the time, how would that have changed the steps you took or the statements that you made around the time about the dangers of the virus?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it would've changed, because I did --

I basically did what the memo said. And the memo was -- you know, the memo was a pretty good memo, from the standpoint that he talked. I guess, I didn't see it yet.

Q He was seeing that the U.S. would -- warning that the U.S. could lose trillions of dollars and millions of lives.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you're not going to lose millions of lives, but you'll lose plenty of money. But I couldn't have done it any better because it was about the same time, and I closed it down to China.

Q And just lastly, so you maintain confidence in him, in Peter Navarro?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, I maintain con- -- he wrote a memo and he was right. And I haven't seen the memo. I'll see it later on after this, but it didn't matter whether I saw it or not, because I -- I acted on my own. I guess I had the same instincts as Peter. Peter is a smart guy and he's a good guy, and he's done a wonderful job. But he wrote a memo and, I guess, he talked to various people about it.

But ultimately, I did what the memo -- more or less what the memo said just about the time the memo came out. I closed it down. I took a lot of heat. The World -- you know -- Health Organization was very much against. They didn't like it. They actually put out statements about it.

In all fairness to Joe Biden, he called me xenophobic, like I don't like China. I like China. I like -- the Chinese people are phenomenal people. So, I was called xenophobic, I was called racist. "How could I do a thing like this?"

Now, since then, Joe said that he was wrong, and he said that I was right. But I closed it down, and I was called names by some of the

morning show hosts who don't have a clue what they're talking about. They're not smart people. And I was called all sorts of names when I closed it down to China. Now they try and hide that -- you know, the tape of them saying terrible things. But that was a great decision.

If I didn't do it -- if I didn't do that, we would've had hundreds of thousands more people dying.

Yeah, please.

Q You talked a lot about the WHO, and I was wondering -- Dr. Fauci had discussed them earlier, so if I could ask you a question about that.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he respects the WHO, and I think that's -- that's good. And he's worked with them for a long time. But they did give us some pretty bad play calling.

Q But they've also, I think, given lots of countries in the world accurate coronavirus testing that's been central to your guys' data modeling. And so, I'm --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that, I don't know. I can only say that, with regard to us, they're taking a lot of heat because they didn't want the borders closed; they called it wrong. They called -- they really called, I would say, every aspect of it wrong.

Q So say that the funding freeze does not -- doesn't --

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not happy about it. Look, we fund it. Take a look. I mean, go through step by step. They said there's no big deal, there's no big problem, there's no nothing. And then, ultimately, when I closed it down, they actually said that I made a mistake in closing it down. And it was -- it turned out to be right. But at the time they -- you know, they did that.

So we're just going to take a look at it. You know, we fund it. And -- and they seem to be -- you know, I said recently -- and social media said, "They seem to be very China-centric." That's a nice way of saying it. But they seem to be very China-centric.

Q But if your public health advisors are telling you --

THE PRESIDENT: And they seem to err always on the side of China, and we fund it. You know, so I want to look into it.

Yes, please.

Q Thanks. A quick follow-up on that. So is the time to freeze funding to the WHO during a pandemic of this magnitude?

THE PRESIDENT: No, maybe not. I mean, I'm not saying I'm going to do it, but we're going to look at it.

Q You did say that you're going to --

THE PRESIDENT: We give a tremendous --

Q You said you'd put a hold on it.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I didn't. I said we're going to look at it. We're going to investigate it. We're going to look at it. But we will look at ending funding.

Q And to --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, because you know what? They called it wrong. And if you look back over the years even, they're very much -- everything seems to be very biased toward China. That's not right.

Q I wanted to follow up. You talked about African Americans and how they've been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus.

THE PRESIDENT: Seems to be, unfortunately.

Q Do you plan on requiring the CDC, any federal agencies or state agen- -- public places doing tests and private companies doing tests to collect that data on the race of the people being tested and the race of the people being treated and the outcomes?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're just seeing tremendous -- we're seeing tremendous evidence that African Americans are affected at a far greater percentage number than other citizens of our country, because we're dealing with our country. Now we're looking at it from a worldwide standpoint. Tony Fauci is looking at it very strongly, but these numbers have started to come out, and they're -- they're very strong. And they're pretty obvious. I mean, you're -- you're talking about --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Seema has --

Q And you will release that -- but you will release that publicly?

THE PRESIDENT: Seema, would you like to talk about that for a second? Please.

ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: I think one of the things that we're going to --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: She has the data.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: -- be doing with our Medicare data is to do

that analysis. We're going to look back at the last month or so, and look at, you know, related-type illnesses.

Going forward, we now have a code for coronavirus, so we can actually stratify by demographic information so we can look at race as a factor. We can also look at what the underlying health issues are as well. So we'll be providing that data very shortly, but we will be doing that analysis.

THE PRESIDENT: We're working on that very hard. This is something that's come up over the last -- I hadn't heard this. And then, over the last few days, this has come up more and more. And I don't mean by a little bit. I mean, many times. It's a real thing. Now, we want to find cures, we want to find therapeutics, we want to find vaccines, because that will solve everybody's problem.

But why is it that the African American community is so much, you know, numerous times more than everybody else? And we want to find the reason to it. And Dr. Fauci, Seema, both of them and others are working on this, and they're going to have very good -- I would say over the next -- in less than a week --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Two days.

THE PRESIDENT: -- I think you're going to have very good statistics.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Two days.

THE PRESIDENT: Couple of days.

Q So do you plan to do something specifically aimed at those communities that are being hard hit? Those black communities that are being hard hit?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're helping them a lot. But what's

happening is we're trying to find out why is it that it's three and four times. Now, maybe that's not going to be the final number. But why is it three or four times more so for the black community as opposed to other people? It doesn't make sense, and I don't like it. And we're going to have statistics over the next, probably, two to three days. Okay?

Q Mr. President --

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, please. In the back.

Q Thank you. I'd like to ask a question on behalf of myself and a colleague who couldn't be here due to social distancing.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Who are you with? Who?

Q With Hearst Newspapers. I'm the print pooler today. Thank you. Some banks are only providing Paycheck Protection Program loans to clients with whom they have existing banking relationships. And you spoke to banking CEOs today.

THE PRESIDENT: I did.

Q I wonder if you'll ask them -- these lenders -- to accept applications from all small businesses --

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q -- not just the businesses with whom they have existing relationships.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. They'll be doing that. But we're also working with small community banks. So they will be doing that. It's a question I've already spoken about. I mean, in many cases, they have long-term relationships with thousands of companies. I was amazed to see how many -- you know, you saw the number of applications. It's hundreds of thousands. It's a lot of work. But I did ask that question, and they are working on that.

Yeah.

Q Thank you. And my second question from a colleague is: Congressman Gerry Connolly, a Democrat from Northern Virginia, told the local D.C. CBS station that you personally requested the CARES Act stimulus bill be stripped of \$25 billion for the Postal Service. Connolly claims that unless the USPS gets that \$25 billion, the agency will be run out of money by June. He accuses you of hastening the demise of the Postal Service. Could you respond to that, please?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the biggest -- oh, I'm the reason the Postal Service -- the Postal Service has lost billions of dollars every year for many, many years. So I'm the demise? This is a new one. I'm now the demise of the Postal Service.

I'll tell you who's the demise of the Postal Service are these Internet companies that give their stuff to the Postal Service -- packages. And I don't know why they're not -- you know, I don't run the Postal Service. You have a group of people, so-called "independent" people, and they run it.

But these packages are -- they deliver -- they lose money every time they deliver a package for Amazon or these other Internet companies, these other companies that deliver. They drop everything in the Post Office and they say, "You deliver it." And if they'd raise the prices by actually a lot, then you'd find out that the Post Office

could make money or break even. But they don't do that. And I'm trying to figure out why.

These are independent boards. They were appointed by other administrations. They're, sort of, long term. They're there for a long time. And I've been talking to them also. You can look it up. Take a look. They should raise -- they have to raise the prices to these companies that walk in and drop thousands of packages on the floor of the Post Office and say, "Deliver it." And they make money, but the Post Office gets killed. Okay? So they ought to do that, and we're looking into it. And we've been pushing them now for over a year.

And you know that because you've seen the stories. I'm pushing them. It's not fair for them to -- these great, wonderful, modern companies, they walk into our old Post Office with all these routes that could never be built; you could never build them. They go into areas that you could never do, and they say, "Here. Deliver this." And they lose a lot of money per package. And they have to raise their prices, but this Postal Commission doesn't do it. Now, we just got a chance to appoint a couple of people onto the Commission, as I understand it, and that's good. But they have to raise their prices; otherwise, they're just going to lose a lot of money.

And tell your Democrat friend that he ought to focus on that, because if he focused on that, he could truly save the Post Office. The Post Office has been losing billions of dollars a year for many, many years. And have him take a look at that, because that's the way to solve the problem.

Q Thank you so much, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Please. Go ahead.

Q Thank you so much. Mr. President, you say this week will be

very painful, very difficult. But a few weeks ago, you said this was just like a flu. What have you learned --

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't say two weeks ago it was a flu.

Q A few weeks ago.

THE PRESIDENT: No -- you know what? Can I tell you what?

Q The question is, Mr. President, what have you learned --

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me. Ready?

Q -- that you could offer as advice to foreign leaders who are still skeptical about this pandemic and who are against social distancing? What is your advice? What have you learned?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. You said I said it was just like a flu.

So the worst pandemic we ever had in this world was a flu, and it was called -- you know that. It was in 1917, 1918. And anywhere from 50- to 100 million people died. That was a flu, okay? So, you could say that I said it was a flu or you could say -- the flu is nothing to sneeze at.

Q But my question, Mr. President: What can you offer as advice to foreign leaders who are skeptical about this pandemic and who are against social distancing?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think there aren't too many of them. If you look throughout the world, and everyone -- just about everyone that has practiced that is now closing up. Well, the U.K. was an example.

Now, they talk about Sweden, but Sweden is suffering very gravely. You know that, right? Sweden did that. "The herd." They call it "the herd." Sweden is suffering very, very badly. It's a

way of doing it, but the -- you know, everybody has been watching everybody else. And so far, almost every country has done it the way we've done it -- we've chosen to do it. If we didn't do it that way, we would have lost hundreds of thousands of more people. Okay?

Q Mr. President, there's voting going on today in Wisconsin. There were reports of thousands of people waiting in hours-long lines as they've had to weigh their own personal health and their civic responsibility. What -- do think that the Supreme Court was right in its decision, sir, that voting should go forward and that the absentee extension should not take place?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course they were right. Yeah. Look, the Supreme Court -- well, of course they were right, because what the Democrats wanted -- and you know why this happened. I supported a man named Justice Kelly, who's -- Daniel Kelly, highly respected justice. And I supported him just the other day -- social media. I know of him. He's a -- just a, you know, fantastic judge, justice. And I endorsed him.

And as soon as I endorsed him, they wanted to move the election. They didn't want to move the election. As soon as I endorsed him, the Wisconsin Democrats say, "Oh, let's move the election to two months later." They didn't mind having the election until I endorsed him, which is very interesting.

Now they talk about, "Oh, safety, safety." Well, it was 15 minutes after I put out an endorsement that they said, "We have to move the election." They didn't want to move the election before that. The other thing they wanted to do -- which is crazy -- at the end of the election, they wanted to have one week for proxies to come in or mailed ballots.

Now, mail ballots -- they cheat. Okay? People cheat. Mail ballots are a very dangerous thing for this country, because they're cheaters. They go and collect them. They're fraudulent in many

cases. You got to vote. And they should have voter ID, by the way. If you want to really do it right, you have voter ID.

But the Democrats -- and this was turned over in the Supreme Court yesterday; I give great credit to the court -- they actually didn't want to have an Election Day. They wanted to have Election Day, and then a week after Election Day, you choose your cand- -- but all of these ballots come in. These mailed ballots come in. The mailed ballots are corrupt, in my opinion. And they collect them, and they get people to go in and sign them. And then they -- they're forgeries in many cases. It's a horrible thing.

And so what happened is, the Democrats in Wisconsin, they had no problem with the election being today, until I endorsed the Republican candidate, Justice Kelly -- Daniel Kelly. And as soon as I endorsed him, they went crazy. They went crazy. And you know that's true. And now all of a sudden --

Because -- go back two weeks, go back two days: They didn't want to move the election. They were having the election. They were fine because they thought they were going to win the election. Then I endorsed him, and all of a sudden they think they're not. Now I understand there are lines that go back a long way. I hope they're going to vote for Justice Kelly. Okay?

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q With millions of pills of hydroxychloroquine donated, is there a plan or system in place --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- to track the potential side effects?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q There have been reports --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you saw the representative --

Q -- of serious harm.

THE PRESIDENT: Look -- look, is there a plan that --

Q So is there a plan to track the side effects of the clinical trials?

THE PRESIDENT: The side effects? The side effects are the least of it. You have people dying all over the place. And generally, the side effects are really with the Z-Pak having to do with the heart. The Z-Pak -- that's the antibiotic. Not with the hydroxychloroquine.

So, a woman last night -- I watched her on one of the shows -- a good show; Laura -- and she was -- she thought she was dead. She was a representative from Michigan. She was just in horrible shape for 12 days, 14 days. She thought she was dead. I think she said that her doctor said she's -- you know, it's going to be very tough.

She saw me talking about this, and she asked her husband to go to the drugstore. Now, this is a Democrat representative -- a person that, you know, perhaps wouldn't be voting for me. I think she'll be voting for me now, even if she's a Democrat, even if she's a Democrat representative.

And they went to the store -- which I made available, because we have millions of doses. We have, I think, 29 million doses of this drug. And she asked her husband. She said, "Please go out. I'm not going to make it." You have to hear her story. "Please go out. Get it." He went at 10 o'clock in the evening to the

drugstore. He got it. He gave it to her.

Now, you know, it's -- I don't say it works like this at all. Four hours later, she awoke and she said, "I feel better." And then shortly thereafter, she felt great. This a woman that thought she was going to die. It's -- I mean, she's a Democrat representative, a highly respected woman, African American woman. I don't know if you saw it. You asked a question about African American.

Q I did -- I did see.

THE PRESIDENT: She was an African American woman. A great woman. Her manner of speaking, her -- the way she told the story was beautiful. "I asked my husband to go and get it. He got it."

She is now okay. I mean, she was interviewed last night on television. And she thanked me. She thanked me even in a tweet. She said, "I want to thank President Trump. He saved my life."

Look, I don't say that happens with everybody, but that's a beautiful story. There are many of those stories. And I say, "Try it."

Okay, please.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: I mean, if you're in trouble, if you're going to die and you're going to die -- I mean, it's -- you're not going to die from this pill. Now, there could be some side effects, but the side effects is really more so from the Z-Pak.

Q Is there a plan to track those side effects?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no -- doctors have to recommend it. I want

doctors -- I'm not saying -- I'm not a doctor. I'm just saying, we hear great results. And some people say, "Let's go to a laboratory. Let's test it for a couple of years. And then..." No, I got -- we got people dying in this country and all over the world, right now, not in a couple of years. They're dying. As we speak, there are people dying.

And I really think it's a great thing to try, just based on what I know. Again, I'm not a doctor. And I say, "Get a physician's approval." And they have physicians in these hospitals. Great physicians. Brave physicians. They also say it's good for the hospital workers to take them. That it's -- you know, it's a -- it keeps it away. Keeps it out of your system. I don't know. But there's a lot of good examples.

And, you know, we have a 1,500-case study going in New York and it's almost complete. So it'll be very interesting to see what happens.

Go ahead.

Q Thank you sir. Can you that --

THE PRESIDENT: But I appreciate that woman. She was great. You have to see it to believe it. The way she spoke, it was like a miracle. And this was not a fan of mine, but she's a fan of mine now, and I'm very honored by it.

Go ahead.

Q Thank you, sir. Can you talk about your decision to remove Glenn Fine from the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee? And there's some -- that move and some of the criticism you've leveled at IGs, how does the American public have confidence that --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- there'll be oversight?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have a IGs in from the Obama era. And as you know, it's a presidential decision. And I left them, largely. I may change some, but I left them.

But when we have, you know, reports of bias and when we have different things coming in -- I don't know Fine; I don't think I ever met Fine. I heard the name --

Q He wasn't an Obama --

THE PRESIDENT: I heard the name. I don't know where he is. Maybe he was from Clinton. Okay? You have to check that out? Okay, maybe he's from Clinton.

But we did change him, but we changed a number. We have about seven nominations in. I believe we put seven very, very highly qualified people for the IG position. And, you know, that's a decision that I could have made three years ago and I could have made two years ago. But we're putting in -- not so much for him. We're putting in seven names. I think it was seven. And they're going in now.

Yeah. Steve?

Q When you talk about the WHO being "China-centric," what exactly are you talking about? Is it because China has underplayed how many victims they've had?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, they seem to come down on the side of China: "Don't close your borders to China. Don't do this." They don't report what's really going on. They didn't see it, and yet they were there. They didn't see what was going on in Wuhan. They didn't see it. How do you not see it? They didn't see it. They didn't report it if they did see it. They must have seen it, but they didn't report it.

Please, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, just turning back to the voting in Wisconsin and those long lines: Who will be responsible and who should be held responsible if people get sick after they voted?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, all I did was endorse a candidate. I don't know anything about their lines. I don't know anything about their voting. I love the state.

Q But you also encouraged people to get --

THE PRESIDENT: I won the state.

Q -- out and vote today as well. Will you take some of --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah --

Q -- the responsibility if some of those people get sick?

THE PRESIDENT: I won the state, which is rare for a Republican to do, but I want the state of Wisconsin. I'm going to win it again because we've been great to the people of Wisconsin, as you know, with our policies. And they like me and I like them.

But all I did was endorse a candidate that's highly qualified -- a very respected person -- and all hell broke loose as soon as I did that.

And then all of a sudden, they want to change. Before I endorsed him, they didn't want to change this voting area. There was no problem with the Democrats voting until I endorsed the candidate. Then they said, "Let's move it two months, let's move it three months later." "Safety, safety, safety," right? All of a sudden, they want safety. Well, before I did the endorsement, they

didn't talk about safety. It was fine for months. For months, it was fine. It was always going to be.

And now I endorse, and they want safety. So, you know, that sounds --

Q Mr. President, on the economy, sir --

Q Mr. President, can I follow on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Please.

Q Thank you. Just to follow up on that, how does the election -- them holding this election in Wisconsin line up with the social distancing recommendations that have come from your administration?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there you'll have to ask the people -- that you have a Democrat in Wisconsin as governor. Ask him. That's his problem. Okay? He should be doing it.

Again, some governors fail. And I won't let them fail, because when they fail, I'll help. But that's run by Democrats right now. Okay? It's run by Democrats. You had a great Republican --

Q But is it possible to socially distance when you're voting? You're going to have crowds.

THE PRESIDENT: You'll have to speak to the governor. What you should do is call the governor of Wisconsin and ask him that question. But also ask him how come it was okay to do this until I endorsed a candidate? And as soon as I endorsed him, these lines are formed. And I hear, Mike, the lines are through the roof. So, you know, hopefully they're going to vote -- they're going to vote for the right candidate.

Yeah, please.

Q Mr. President, can I just check in on oil again today? I was wondering if --

THE PRESIDENT: Oil?

Q Yeah, if there's --

THE PRESIDENT: Where is it today?

Q Well, I was wondering if you had --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, where is the price? Give me the price.

Q I'm not sure, to be honest.

THE PRESIDENT: How can you ask a question when you don't know the price?

Q I'll look it up for you. Uh --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, let me do somebody else then.

Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, you were highly critical of mail-in voting -- mailing your mail-in ballots for voting a few minutes ago.

THE PRESIDENT: I think mail-in voting is horrible.

Q But you voted by mail in --

THE PRESIDENT: It's corrupt.

Q -- Florida's election last month, didn't you?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, I can vote by mail for the --

Q So how do you reconcile that?

THE PRESIDENT: Because I'm allowed to. Well, that's called "out of state." You know, why I voted? Because I happen to be in the White House and I won't be able to go to Florida to vote.

But let me just say --

Q So what is the difference between mailing within state and mailing outside the state?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there's a big difference between somebody that's out of state and does a ballot and everything is sealed, certified, and everything else. You see what you have to do with the certifications. And you get thousands and thousands of people sitting in somebody's living room, signing ballots all over the place.

No, I think that mail-in voting is a terrible thing. I think if you vote, you should go. And even the concept of early voting is not the greatest because a lot of things happen, but it's okay. But you should go and you should vote. I think you should go and you should vote.

You look at what they do, where they grab thousands of mail-in ballots and they dump it. I'll tell you what -- and I don't have to tell; you can look at the statistics -- there's a lot of dishonesty going along with mail-in voting -- mail-in ballots.

Q Mr. President, you've heard state officials that buy their own medical equipment, but federal officials are kind of swooping in and scooping up those orders. How are you ensuring that --

THE PRESIDENT: That's not right.

Q -- it's being distributed fairly --

THE PRESIDENT: I've been hearing that so long.

Q -- and there's going to be more transparency?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're getting -- we're getting great prices on equipment. We're getting great prices on equipment, and we're helping the states. And the governors are very thankful. Mike Pence had a call yesterday with -- every governor was on the call and every -- it was like a lovefest. They're very happy. I don't know if they tell that to the press. Some of them don't. Some of them will never say good to the press, but they know we've done a great job. Not a good job, a great job.

Q So are you saying it's not happening? Because state officials are widely saying that.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, I think sometimes it does, and what we say is, let us know and we will immediately drop out of the bidding. Let us know. And we do that and we drop out. Sometimes we tell them to drop out because we've got a good price. You -- and then we'll deliver it to them.

Q Mr. President --

Q How do you ensure it's --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, go ahead, behind, please. Go ahead.

Q Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, no, no, not you. In front, please. Go ahead.

Q Some states have had trouble with getting accurate death counts, particularly because of lack of testing or no uniform --

THE PRESIDENT: Did you say "death counts"?

Q Yes. Because of lack of testing and no uniform system to put that into.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- when you say, "death counts," I think they're pretty accurate on the death count. When somebody dies, I think the states have been pretty accurate.

Q But if there's no testing --

THE PRESIDENT: That's a big deal, what you're just saying, right? No, the death counts, I think they're very, very accurate.

I do say this: I think if you look at China and if you look at some of these very large countries, when you talk about cases -- number of cases -- I would be willing to bet they have more cases than we do, but they don't do the testing like we do. But you look at, you know, other -- if you look at some of these certain countries, and I would be willing to bet a lot that they had -- have more cases. But we're more accurate and our testing is done very accurately, and we've got a good process.

Did you have one? Yes, please.

Q Mr. President, you have --

THE PRESIDENT: OAN.

Q -- you have been very consistently supportive of the payroll relief tax. And I know that --

THE PRESIDENT: Of what? Payroll?

Q Payroll relief. Now, I know you're still busy trying to implement -- roll --

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q -- phase three. But as we move towards phase four --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- are there still obstacles to that? Because that would put money in American pockets, like consistently throughout the year.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, you're right. I would love to see a payroll -
- good question. I would love to see a payroll tax cut. And I think, on behalf of the people, it would be quick. Now, it's a longer term -- you know, it's a longer time, because it's over a period of a year or whatever you want to make it. But I would love to see a payroll tax cut. There are many people that would like to see it as a permanent tax cut -- payroll tax cut.

Q What is stopping it from --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the Democrats right now are stopping it.

Q What are their reasons?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You know, I don't know if maybe they think it's good politics to stop it.

But you'd get a lot of people a lot of money immediately. The payroll tax cut would be a great thing for this country. I would like to have it regardless of this, but this would be a fantastic time to have the payroll tax cut.

The Democrats are stopping it, but I don't think they're -- you

know, I think it's -- I think there's a certain flexibility. I think it's something that we should do both for business and the people.

But this would get money into the hands of small business immediately, money in the hands of people -- the workers and people -- immediately. And it would be over an extended period. And it would be simple to do. It's so easy to do. It's a great tax cut, and I'd love you to speak to the Democrats, and let's get it done.

So I'm going to give this now to Vice President Pence, and they're going to go over some very good statistics with everybody.

And we'll have a couple of answers on that, because we're working very hard on the African American community with respect to what's going on because it's not -- it's not good. I don't like it. And we're going to have some very good statistics, Tony, I think over the next couple of days.

So thank you all very much. Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. A few updates and then I'll -- I'll introduce Dr. Deborah Birx to talk about what we're seeing around the country, what the data is telling us.

But suffice it to say, as the President said several times, this is a very tough week in America. And our hearts go out to all of the families that have lost loved ones to the coronavirus. But I know I speak for the entire White House Coronavirus Task Force when I say our hearts are with the people of the Greater New York City area today.

As we stand here today, in the midst of heartbreaking numbers of losses in New York City, I also want to assure the American people that there -- there's reason for hope. As -- as Dr. Birx will enumerate in just a few moments, despite the increase in losses, as

Governor Cuomo articulated today, hospital admissions continue to decline.

And in our report early this morning from Dr. Birx, we continue to see evidence of stabilization in some of the areas around the country of the most significant outbreak. The New York metro area, including New Jersey, Long Island, and Connecticut; New Orleans metro area; Detroit; Boston; Chicago; and Denver -- as Dr. Birx will explain -- continue to give evidence of stabilization, which, in a very real sense, is evidence that the American people are putting into practice the social distancing, the President's guidelines for our nation.

And for that, as the President said earlier today, we thank the American people. Even in the midst of hardship and loss at a time when we've seen more than 385,000 Americans test positive for the coronavirus and more than and more than 12,000 succumb to this illness.

The evidence that Dr. Birx will describe to you will show that the American people know our future is in our hands. And so, as I begin, allow me just simply to continue to urge every American to put into practice the guidance you're receiving from your state and local authorities. Take it to heart, take it seriously, share it with your family and your friends, and -- and -- and know that you're making a difference, America, because you truly are.

Today, for my part, I spoke to over 500 small-business owners in a conference call. And there, I heard about their enthusiasm for the Paycheck Protection Program. And that call took place before the President had the Secretary of Treasury indicate our interest in acquiring another \$250 billion for that program.

As of this morning, more than \$60 billion in forgivable loans that would cover two months of paychecks at small businesses had already been distributed and the number is going to grow, literally, by the

day.

But we also had a very productive call today with -- with some other American heroes. You know, the -- we all have in our hearts and in our minds our healthcare workers. And I'll speak for a moment about the supplies and resources that we're working to provide for all of them.

But right below our healthcare workers are all the people that are working in critical infrastructure around the country and -- and some of the most important people are working in food supply. I mean, from -- from the farmers and the ranchers, to our processors, to our distributors, to our truckers, to our grocers, Americans are keeping food on the table for our fellow Americans.

And let me begin by just saying what I said to some of the most prominent CEOs of the meat and grain industry companies in the country -- companies like Tyson Foods and Hormel -- today: Not just these companies, but to all the hardworking people working in food supply today, thank you. Thank you for what you're doing to keep those grocery store shelves stocked. Thank you for showing up for work every day and -- and working hard to keep that food supply rolling in America.

You know, it was more than five weeks ago that the President brought in all of the -- all the grocery store leaders in the country. And there he received a commitment that no grocery store in America would close, and they haven't.

But it's been these heroic Americans, from the farm to the fork, that have made it possible for Americans to have one less worry. And they are truly inspiring heroes.

Now, that being said, I did hear from the industry today that there have been reports of some plants having reduced capacity because of people having concerns about exposure to the coronavirus. In fact,

over the last several days, there's been some incidents of worker absenteeism and some plants have actually been forced to close temporarily.

And so, on behalf of the President, on behalf of our entire team, and on behalf of a grateful nation, let me just say to all of you that are working in the food industry at every level across the country: Just understand that you are vital. You are giving a great service to the people of the United States of America. And we need you to continue, as a part of what we call our critical infrastructure, to show up and do your job and know that we're going to continue to work tirelessly in working with all of your companies to make sure that that workplace is safe.

With that being said, let me talk about the other heroes that we always mention at this podium today, that Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci invariably mentioned, and that's our healthcare workers. At the President's direction, we've been working tirelessly -- literally around the clock to identify resources around the country and around the world to make sure our healthcare workers have the support that they need.

With some 51 major disaster declarations -- most recently, Minnesota -- being approved, states have stood up 27,000 National Guard. But personnel-wise, before the end of business today, there will be more than 3,000 Department of Defense and Health and Human Service medical personnel on the ground in the Greater New York City area. And those people will be redeployed once that region of the country moves through the coronavirus epidemic in that area. And -- and we salute those extraordinary, patriotic Americans for stepping forward to bring real relief to our healthcare workers.

With regard to equipment, Admiral Polowczyk reported to the task force throughout the course of the day today that we have continued to distribute ventilators across the country. We're -- we're sending additional ventilators from the Strategic National

Stockpile. Maryland will receive 50 ventilators, Delaware will receive 50 ventilators, and that will leave more than 8,400 ventilators still in the National Stockpile.

One correction from yesterday: After our press briefing yesterday, FEMA made a different decision with regard to what the State of California generously made available. And the ventilators -- some 500 ventilators that we, again, want to thank Governor Gavin Newsom and the people of California for donating to our nation's efforts -- 100 of those are being deployed to New York, 100 in New Jersey, 100 to Illinois, 50 to Maryland, 50 to Washington, D.C., 50 to Delaware, and 50 to Nevada.

With regard to the remainder of what we call personal protective equipment, again, we've been literally leaving no stone unturned anywhere in the country or anywhere around the world. And as Admiral Polowczyk described just a couple of days ago, we've established not just an air bridge, but a control tower system modeled after military logistics out of FEMA.

And while -- while FEMA is acquiring a small portion of -- of what's being acquired, 90 percent of the suppliers are being -- are being routed directly into our massive distribution system. And FEMA is using the data that Dr. Birx provides to target those resources to the areas most in need.

I asked them to break out a few details about resources that just in the last five days have been distributed. And I hope it's an encouragement to healthcare workers all across these regions and around the country about the efforts that are being made to make sure they have what they need.

You can see the New York metro area, including New Jersey, just in the last five days, more than 6 million N95 masks, more than 6 million surgical masks. When Governor Cuomo and I last spoke, he told me there was a real challenge for medical gowns in the New York

City area and in New Jersey as well. And 2.8 million gowns were distributed to that region as well.

Going next to New Orleans, where -- again, while we see some encouragement, challenges remain in that community. Some 837,000 N95 masks for healthcare workers, 165 surgical masks, other items, including almost 6 million gloves have been distributed.

Detroit continues to be a real focal point. We're working closely with Governor Gretchen Whitmer, as well as Mayor Mike Duggan, to meet the needs of healthcare workers in Detroit. Just in the last five days, 1.6 million N95 masks have been routed into the healthcare system in Detroit, nearly 700,000 surgical masks, and 24 million gloves -- just as a portion of what's displayed.

And in the Chicago metro area, which we continue to focus on each and every day, more than 1.7 million N95 masks have been routed into their healthcare system, 900,000 surgical masks, 25 million gloves.

I share these details in the hopes that healthcare workers looking on will be encouraged. At the President's direction, we are -- we are making every effort to make sure you have the resources you need to do your job, to do it safely, and to go home safe to your family, even while you provide that extraordinary and courageous care that our healthcare workers are providing literally around the clock in the midst of the coronavirus challenge.

The last slide is just the cumulative numbers that we have distributed. And I'm happy, in a few moments, to answer any questions about that.

Again, the system that we have in place is one that is essentially infusing our major distribution networks with millions of items. And then FEMA is directing, on a day-by-day and oftentimes hour-by-hour basis, where those resources are most needed. And we'll continue to do that as the coronavirus makes its way through

these communities and through communities that are very much on our watch list today.

And let me just lastly say that, again, I want to thank the American people for stepping up and doing your part. We continue to be overwhelmed with one story after another, where people are doing social distancing, where people are looking after one another, where they're checking in with a phone call to an elderly friend, a family member to make sure they're okay.

I mean, we are on the front end of "30 Days to Slow the Spread." And I will tell you, as a non-scientist up here, that I see glimmers of hope in the early numbers that we're seeing come out of the Greater New York City area, in New Jersey, even New Orleans, and Detroit, and Chicago. There does appear to be, as Dr. Birx will explain in more detail -- there does appear to be evidence of leveling, evidence of progress.

But this is exactly the time for all of us to redouble our efforts to do everything each and every one of us can, not just to protect our own health and that of our family and our loved ones, but to do our part to ensure that we lessen the impact of the coronavirus on America as a whole, but -- but even more importantly, that we -- that we lessen the impact on lives by ensuring that we do our part to make sure that no one that is vulnerable is unnecessarily exposed to this virus.

With that, let me yield to Dr. Birx and then Seema Verma and Dr. Fauci. And we'll take all your questions.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. So, hopefully, you can see from those numbers that we've taken a data-detailed approach, really bringing the power of granular data to the supply chain and moving supplies based on really what you would call "burden of disease" and need.

If I could just take -- start out by not just going to the numbers at the beginning, but really talking to the community of health advocates, to the community that works on the social determinants of disease, and the communities of historic black colleges and universities: We really need to improve messaging. And I'm asking them to help us increase the messaging around this.

We don't want to give the impression that the African American community is more susceptible to the virus; we don't have any data that suggests that. What our data suggests is they are more susceptible to more difficult and severe disease and poorer outcomes.

And we really need to make sure that every household is aware of what it's going to take to protect the individuals in that household that have pre-existing conditions. We could call on the indigenous nations, the tribal leaders to also be working very closely to protect the elders of their communities.

We know this is more difficult in multi-generational households. And it's really going to call for really unbelievable attention to details -- of hand washing and protecting others from each other -- particularly if you don't feel well.

This is really a call to action to the communities to make sure that we get messages appropriately out there so that everyone understands what it's going to take for us all to protect one another. And we know it can be done because we can see these changes. I wanted to go through the numbers at a high level so you understand why particularly these supplies went to these areas to begin with.

We talk about attack rates or the cases per population. So in the New York -- as a state, they have seven cases per thousand. This is the highest in the country. In New York City itself, it's closer to almost twice that -- in New York City.

New Jersey is four per thousand; Louisiana, three per thousand; Massachusetts, two per thousand; Connecticut, two per thousand; Michigan, 1.5 per thousand; the District of Columbia and the Baltimore area now 1.5 per thousand, and we're watching them very closely; Pennsylvania, one per thousand, but we're concerned about Philadelphia.

What is allowing us to move supplies based on burden of disease and need is the extraordinary West Coast that has had very low numbers. From Washington, that was less than one per thousand; California, that is less than 0.5 per thousand; and Oregon, that's even less than that.

And it's those states where there's large populations -- because of the enormous work that they're doing to prevent expansion and spread of the virus, it's allowing resources to go to these -- these states and these communities and these counties that need more support.

And so this kind of data analysis is allowing us to make very intelligent decisions about need, but also really understanding what's happening across the country in the development of the curves, as you have heard about.

And so we do see -- and I know you heard me caution that, over the weekend, sometimes there's decreased case reporting. And so there were increases in a series of communities on Monday. We're seeing that stabilize again. And when you look over three days, you're starting to see that we may be actually -- in a series of communities outside of New York and New Jersey and Connecticut -- creating a much flatter graph. A most -- a much flatter curve.

So you saw New York and their increase. And then you saw -- we're hoping, as -- as Governor Cuomo and May- -- and the mayor has described that they're getting to a steady state, where the next outcome is going down.

But we see across the country -- in Detroit, in Chicago -- some real -- not this extreme, going to seven cases per thousand, but really staying in the more two cases per thousand. And a different curve parameter than -- and it really shows the amazing, amazing activity of every American in those cities to really ensure that there's social distancing and, really importantly, to ensure there is less socialization between households and really ensuring that the household really remains independent and protected, and not really, at this moment, going out into the community or socializing anywhere, but a virtual way -- on computers, by Zoom, by FaceTime. And I think we can really see that in the data and it's really given us great heart.

I want to finish by really talking to my laboratory directors, because you're extraordinary and you've done an amazing amount of testing. Those nearly 2 million tests that we're getting to, those were all done in the last two to three weeks. But we do have excess capacity. So if all the lab directors could look in their laboratories, if they have an Abbott m2000, if they could get that up and running, we could double the number of tests that we're doing per day. That is a high-throughput. The machines are throughout the United States. There's hundreds of them. Right now, about 80 percent of them are idle. We're going to have a call with the laboratory directors of these laboratories to really ensure that this is an automated, robotic situation that they can run.

There's over a million tests sitting tests -- test kits sitting ready to be run. We have five platforms of test. This is one of our really high-volume platforms, like Roche. And we're really calling on them to really increase that capacity so that we can do not only increase diagnostic testing, which I think we're doing quite well right now, but also increasing the ability to do more healthcare workers, first responders, community testing, and surveillance.

And so -- and then finally, you will see -- and you've heard about

it happening in the U.K. and other places -- there's a series of antibody tests out there that have not been validated. We're working right now very closely with a series of companies that know how to make these tests, that have made these tests for us for decades, for HIV, for a rapid test. They're working on that technology to bring that quality of test, which is in the 90-plus percent sensitivity and specificity, to the American people for antibody tests.

But before -- until we get those, if you see them on the Internet, do not buy them until we can give you a test that's reliable for all Americans. And we are working very hard to have that happen and bring that to the American public. Some of the tests that may be available on the Internet may have very low sensitivity and specificity and give you a false reassurance that you either -- give you a false positive or a false negative, implying that you may be protected.

So please wait until we have those tests available and validated. People are working around the clock to make those available to the American people. We all understand how important that is because you've heard us talk about asymptomatic cases. And we really want to know how broad that is and how common that is.

And so in places like New York City, where I described that they had seven per thousand -- sometimes two, three and four times any other place in the United States -- being able to know what the number of people who never had symptoms but do have a positive test would be really critical at this point, particularly as we plan for any reoccurrence in the fall or in future seasons.

Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Great. And we have Seema Verma with the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services -- will discuss what we've done to support hospitals. As we support healthcare workers, we're going

to make sure the institutions that are providing the environment for care are well financed. And she's got a couple of funding streams, and help is on the way.

Seema?

ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. And let me just start with echoing the President and the Vice President's comments about our condolences to all the people out there that have lost somebody to the coronavirus. And also, you know, sincere appreciation and thanks to all our healthcare workers that are on the frontlines.

But we know that it's -- the impact on the healthcare system isn't just those front care -- frontline workers. Healthcare organizations across the nation are having increased expenses. They're having to spend more on supplies. You're seeing all of the supplies that are being sent to them. And that's having a direct impact on their -- on their bottom line.

Many of them are also having increased expenses because they're taking advantage of some of the flexibilities that we've given them. Hospitals without walls, they're putting -- you may see tents out in their parking lots where they're doing testing for screening. So they have a lot of increased expenses as well.

Other healthcare organizations are not performing essential surgeries or other services. A lot of them are moving to telehealth, and that represents lost revenue for these healthcare organizations across the country.

And so the President has asked us to -- to address this issue. About 10 days ago, we put out something called "accelerated payments" that we do in the Medicare program, and it allows us to advance payments to providers based on their historical Medicare revenues that they receive.

So just in 10 days, we've been able to provide payments to providers. We had about 25,000 requests; we've processed about 70 percent of these. It's happened in about five days. And the total on that is about \$34 billion that we've managed to put into the healthcare system.

But those are essentially loans. The President has asked us to go further with this and to start the implementation of the CARES Act. That provides \$100 billion to the healthcare system.

You've heard Secretary Azar talk about the focus on some of those dollars going towards the uninsured. But the President wants us to accelerate getting those dollars out. And so this week, we will be putting out another \$30 billion, which are grants. This is going to be based on Medicare revenue. There are no strings attached. So the healthcare providers that are receiving these dollars can essentially spend that in any way that they see fit.

Also, this is going to be done in a very easy, simplified way. For many of our healthcare providers, we actually do direct deposit with them. And so those dollars will just go right into their bank accounts. For other providers, all it's going to require is some very simple registration, and we'll be able to give them that money as well. So we're expecting that to happen this week.

The other thing to note is that this is not a first-come, first-serve basis because we're basing this on their Medicare revenue. They will get these dollars. So even if it takes a few days, there shouldn't be any panic in the system as well.

The other thing to recognize here is that our priority was on getting these dollars out as quickly as possible. We heard that from the many healthcare providers across the country that weighed in on this. They said the most important thing was to get these dollars out as quickly as possible. But we recognize that, in terms

of getting these dollars out, because it's based on Medicare revenues, there are providers out there -- pediatricians, children's hospitals, OB-GYNs, even our nursing homes -- that a lot of their revenue comes from other sources -- Medicaid or other payer sources. And so those organizations will be addressed in the second tranche of funding. And we'll have a priority for these organizations and these types of healthcare providers.

Also, I just want to say -- so together, between the loans that we've put out there with our accelerated payments and the \$30 billion, that's about \$64 billion for the healthcare system this week alone. And so I think, again, this is part of our effort to support the healthcare system. And -- and also just want to, again, say thank you to all our healthcare providers out on the frontlines.

To all Americans: The best thing that we can do to support our healthcare providers is to adhere to those guidelines around "30 Days to Slow the Spread." That is the best thing that we can do to support our healthcare workers.

Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Dr. Fauci, please.

DR. FAUCI: I just want to make a brief comment to get back to the discussion about the health disparities in -- in the African American community because it really is very important. And the reason I want to bring it up -- because I couldn't help sitting there reflecting about, sometimes, when you're in the middle of a crisis like we are now with the coronavirus, it really does have -- ultimately shine a very bright light on some of the real weaknesses and foibles in our society.

And as some of you know, I've -- the greater proportion of my professional career has been defined by HIV/AIDS. And if you go

back then, during that period of time when there was extraordinary stigma, particularly against the gay community, and it was only when the world realized how the gay community responded to this outbreak with incredible courage and dignity and -- and strength and activism, that -- I think that really changed some of the stigma against the gay community, very much so.

I see a similarity here, because health disparities have always existed for the African American community. But here again, with the crisis how it's shining a bright light on how unacceptable that is. Because, yet again, when you have a situation like the coronavirus, they are suffering disproportionately. As Dr. Birx said correctly, it's not that they're getting infected more often; it's that when they do get infected, their underlying medical conditions -- the diabetes, the hypertension, the obesity, the asthma -- those are the kind of things that wind them up in the ICU and ultimately give them a higher death rate.

So when all this is over -- and, as we've said, it will end -- we will get over coronavirus, but there will still be health disparities, which we really do need to address in the African American community.

Thanks.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well said. Questions for our panel, please.

Q Yeah. For Mr. Vice President and then a question for Dr. Birx as well.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q On the ventilator issue, with 8,400 of them in the stockpile and tens of thousands more coming, why are states like California and Washington needing to send ventilators to other states? And is that smart if they might need them later on?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm going to let Dr. Birx speak about what's happening in California and Washington because it is a real credit to the people of both states and the leadership of both states to see the progress that we've made.

We continue to witness that the numbers where the outbreak began -- we all remember when this first emerged in the Seattle area. The numbers continue to be steady and low. And what we've seen the governor of California do, what we saw the governor of Washington State do, and the governor of Oregon -- where the coronavirus hasn't arrived, to a large extent, in Oregon -- I think is in keeping with the highest tradition of the American spirit.

I mean, they're -- they are understanding what I think -- I think Americans are understanding more and more that while we tend to think of this as one large curve, in our minds, for when it began in our country, and we long for the day that it will end, and we want to hasten that day by putting into practice all these mitigation efforts -- that the reality is -- what these experts have explained to this layperson is that what we're actually going to witness is a number of small curves that will cumulatively mean that curve.

And for -- for Oregon, for Washington State, for California to recognize where the need is and then to partner with us and FEMA to make sure the resources are there at the time of the need and the point of the need, I think is really inspiring.

But, Dr. Birx, do you want to speak to that?

DR. BIRX: Yeah, I want to be clear: We didn't ask for their ventilators. They looked at their epidemiologic curves. These are -- these states have amazing health commissioners.

And I think when this is over, we'll really be -- all of the models were based on something we have never attempted to do anywhere in

the world. We have never attempted to do this kind of mitigation. It was always theoretic to many individuals. And now we see, across the globe, people mitigating against this virus, realizing that their own behaviors can change the course and future of this virus in their communities, which is really astounding: the power that gives us to actually understand that we can compete against this virus and do well.

And so I think their governors and their health commissioners looked at their curves, looked at their hospitals, looked at their ICU, and looked at their needs, and then decided that they didn't need those at this time and wanted to make it available for other states that were in more of that two per thousand, three per thousand, four per thousand, and seven per thousand. And I think we'll learn a lot from other states and other communities to really understand how to do this better next time. And I think this is what will teach us because we've never -- we've never attempted anything like this, at least in my lifetime, where we've had, you know, these "30 Days to Stop the Spread." I mean, we've not ever put out information like that.

So I think that -- I think you heard the CDC Director talk earlier today about, in the models, how different individuals thought communities would mitigate and the rate at which they would mitigate [sic] -- mitigate. And I think you can see that, across the world, we're learning that when you give communities the information that they need to understand what's going on and you're transparent, that communities can be part of the solution in a transparent and amazing way.

And I think this kind of education and dialogue is always critical when you want communities -- I think, when I first started here, five weeks ago, I said that we will win based on what the communities are able to do as a community of Americans. And I think we're all really deeply impressed about what they were able to do.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Inspiring. Inspiring.

DR. BIRX: So it was the governors who decided.

Q And on the testing backlog, I just had a quick follow-up question on that. How close are we to getting into that 24-hour window you've talked about being very important? And then what is the status of the self-swap test?

DR. BIRX: So we're tracking all of that very closely. I -- and I -- you know, I use my time here to appeal to people, specifically the health educators, the health advocates because I know the power with them. But to my lab directors, I really need the Abbott m2000 online, because that means we can do an extra 100,000 tests a day. And there's enormous power in that.

The self-test -- the ability to self-test, the ability -- last time I had my test here, I self-tested. So it can be done; it's straightforward. It works very well with that rapid five-minute test.

But what we now have to create -- and I know that's always difficult, because everybody wants one of something. We now have to create a mosaic that brings together where we know every single machine is in the United States, where our gaps are, and then align resources with need and gaps in the testing, and ensure that we have the right laboratory test for the right communities.

So you can see there would be communities, particularly the Indian Health Service and rural communities where that Abbott ID NOW kit could be incredibly helpful, because otherwise they're shipping it all the way to a capital maybe three states away. And that's going to add two or three days to the wait time, which we're trying to get away from.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q And is that where we're at in the backlog, two or three days? Or how -- what would you --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No. Actually, it varies.

DR. BIRX: It varies state by state. And we'll be talking with all of the states --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It varies.

DR. BIRX: -- about really changing how we do testing in the community to really ensure that we're testing optimally. Because right now, we have still focused very much on hospital diagnosis, because we know it will make a difference in treatment.

So these major laboratories are still putting drive-through tests at the back to all the hospital tests. And so that's where the backlog is in the drive-through test. So I know if you're an outpatient, not an inpatient -- but if you're an outpatient, that is where the delays right now are. But it's state by state. And so some states have 24 hours or 48 hours for both their outpatients and inpatients. Others have short for inpatient and longer in outpatient. And we're trying to reconcile those two pieces.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Right. Right. And the team is actually meeting tonight to review that. But one of the data points that we review is literally, on a state-by-state basis, what the turnaround time is for testing. And we continue to work that.

And these Abbott Laboratory devices are -- there's 18,000 of them across the country. When you go to your doctor office and get -- get a strep test, it's that device. All -- all Abbott Laboratories has done, with strong and swift efforts of the FDA, is create a test to put in that for the coronavirus and that's a 15-minute test.

And so we -- I want to renew our -- our call to all the healthcare providers around the country is: Find your Abbott device and we'll work our hearts out to get a test to you.

How about in the back corner?

Q Mr. Vice President, thank you. One for you and then one for either of the doctors, if you don't mind.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q For you, sir: Back to this idea of reopening up the economy, since it's not like there's a switch that you can just turn it back on. How does the administration envision this happening? Is it guidance from the White House and you hope that governors follow it? Are you going to put it in the governors' hands or the mayors' hands? How do you envision all of that working together?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, the -- the one thing I can assure you is that the President's decision in that regard is going to be informed by what the data shows and about decisions about when we can responsibly reopen America and put America back to work.

I can tell you the CDC will have new guidance tomorrow that the CDC will be publishing for people who were in proximity to an individual that tested positive for coronavirus but have no symptoms. And CDC will be publishing new guidance about how those individuals and the circumstances under which they might be able to return back to work using some facial protection and monitoring their temperature. But we'll detail that for you.

But what we're going to be doing, over the weeks ahead, is -- while we focus every day at the point of the need -- as the President said many times, our first mission is to save lives. And that means to slow the spread, bend the curve, to continue to engage the American people, which they are admirably doing, to continue to put all the

social distancing into practice.

But there is a dual track that the President has already initiated. Some of the best minds here at the White House are beginning to think about what recommendations will look like that we give to businesses, that we give to states. But it'll all -- I promise you -- be informed on putting the health and wellbeing of the American people first.

Dr. Birx.

Q Either for Dr. Birx or for Dr. Fauci. Do either of you want to take that or --

DR. BIRX: Go ahead.

Q Secondly, as a lot of parents are sitting home with their kids, and they've been at home with their kids for weeks now, and they're wondering -- maybe resigned to the fact that maybe their kids aren't going back to school this year, but are looking ahead -- what do you think summer camp holds? And what do you think the start of next school year holds, if you could look down the line? Do you think those start on time? Do you think school next year starts on time?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Can I say a word on behalf of teachers, since I'm married to one? My wife was all day yesterday at the elementary school she teaches at, loading up about 500 bins of art supplies for kids. And she's just one of millions of teachers across this country who find themselves having to distance-teach kids. And I'm proud of Karen, but, related to that, I'm proud of every teacher in this country.

The Secretary of Education was here not long ago, talking about our efforts to expand distance-learning resources even in K-12. To all of the teachers who are out there, we just want to say: Thank you. Thank you for what you're doing for continuing learning, even

in this challenging time.

And to all of the kids, just because you're home doesn't mean you don't have to do your schoolwork. Keep it up and --

Q For either of you, do you anticipate children being back in class -- in classes in August?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: What I will tell you is I'll yield to the health experts, but it'll be part of what we're looking at, in terms of guidance going forward, whether it -- whether it be summer school, or whether it be returning to school next fall.

But the most important thing we can do is put this epidemic behind us as quickly as possible.

Dr. Fauci?

DR. FAUCI: Well, my daughter is a schoolteacher, so she asked me the same -- the same question. You know, it is unpredictable, but you can get a feel for -- if we start talking about the things where the curve goes down, and we really have minimum -- how we respond and what kind of a rebound we see or don't see, I think, is going to have a lot of influence probably more immediately on things like summer camps than it does in the fall.

I fully expect -- though I'm humble enough to know that I can't accurately predict -- that by the time we get to the fall, that we will have this under control enough that it certainly will not be the way it is now, where people are shutting schools.

My optimistic side tells me that we'll be able to renew, to a certain extent. But it's going to be different, remember now, because this is not going to disappear. So we're going to have to have in place the capability of doing the things that we talk about all the time on this stage: to identify, to isolate, to contact

trace -- number one.

Number two, by that time, we'll have a better feel with the antibody test, about what the actual penetrance of this infection was in society. How many people have actually been infected? Who is protected? If you have antibody, it's very likely that you're protected. Who's vulnerable? Do you treat vulnerables different than you treat the people who are protected? All of these things are going to go into the decision of just how much back to the original way we'd like it to be in fall.

The bottom line is: No absolute prediction, but I think we're going to be in good shape.

Q Dr. Fauci -- can I ask one for Dr. Fauci or Dr. Birx?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yeah, of course.

Q Can you talk about your concerns about deaths being misreported by coronavirus because of either testing or standards for how they're characterized?

DR. BIRX: So, I think, in this country, we've taken a very liberal approach to mortality, and I think the reporting here has been pretty straightforward over the last five to six weeks. Prior to that, when there wasn't testing in January and February, that's a very different situation and unknown.

There are other countries that if you had a pre-existing condition and let's say the virus caused you to go to the ICU and then have a heart or kidney problem -- some countries are recording that as a heart issue or a kidney issue and not a COVID-19 death.

Right now, we're still recording it, and we'll -- I mean, the great thing about having forms that come in and a form that has the ability to mark it as COVID-19 infection -- the intent is, right

now, that those -- if someone dies with COVID-19, we are counting that as a COVID-19 death.

Q Are you -- can you be sure -- I mean, you hear from coroners that that's not necessarily the case. Are you sure? How can you be confident about that? And is there any concern that it skews the data that you're trying to collect, in terms of projections and things like that?

DR. BIRX: Well, I think that would apply more to rural areas that may not have the same level of testing. But I -- I am pretty confident in New York City --

DR. FAUCI: Yeah.

DR. BIRX: -- and in New Jersey and places that have these large outbreaks and COVID-only hospitals, I can tell you they are testing. New York and New Jersey together have -- by proportion, are testing extraordinary well -- as Washington State and Louisiana. So, I don't see that there's been a barrier in testing to diagnosis.

DR. FAUCI: No. I -- I think there's so much focus now on coronavirus that -- particularly if you take New York, which we all know is -- is having a disproportionately higher proportion of the burden of the entire country is right now in New York.

No, I can't imagine if someone comes in with coronavirus, goes to an ICU, and they have an underlying heart condition and they die -- they're going to say, "Cause of death: heart attack." I -- I cannot see that -- that happening. So I don't think it's going to be a problem.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: How about one more? Go ahead.

Q A question for Dr. Fauci on the virus hitting black communities

the hardest. I mean, these numbers are staggering. Louisiana and other states are reporting 40 to 70 percent of deaths are African Americans. Do you expect that pattern to continue nationwide? Some states have not even reported their data yet.

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. Yeah. You know, I -- I can't be confident to -- to predict patterns, but the underlying reason why that is happening doesn't change from state to state.

Q So you expect it to get worse?

DR. FAUCI: No, I expect that when African Americans get infected -- given the disproportionate disparity of the underlying conditions that lead to complications like the ones I mentioned -- I expect that we will still see the pattern that when you look at the proportion of people who get into serious trouble and die, again, it's going to be disproportionate towards the African Americans. I do expect that.

Q And is the federal government now leading the charge in collecting this information from the states? And when will it be made public?

DR. FAUCI: Yes. Yes. The answer is yes. It will be public as soon as you get enough data to be able to make a meaningful statement.

Q So can we expect this week or a couple of days?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The task force has assigned that to several members of the team. We're assembling that data now. It's a -- it is a great concern for us. And, but it's probably a good reminder that we have to be especially careful around people with serious underlying health conditions.

As we've said at many times from this podium over many weeks, that

the risk of serious illness from the coronavirus remains low for the average American. But for anyone from any community that has a serious underlying health condition, particularly senior citizens with serious underlying health conditions, the risk of tragedy is very real. And so, we're going to be very diligent about studying this and providing information and guidance in accordance with our best scientists.

But I do want to say to each and every American, the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America -- about wash your hands; if you're -- if you're sick, stay home; if you can work from home, if you're not in critical infrastructure like our incredible healthcare workers or are all those heroic people working to keep food on the shelves at our grocery stores and keep medicine at the pharmacies, we -- we ask you to -- we ask you to work from home, if you can. Avoid unnecessary travel. Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people. Use a drive-through at a restaurant; don't go in the restaurant. Not just to protect your health, but to protect those of every community of every background in this country who may have underlying conditions that make them susceptible to tragic outcomes.

That's how we can all do our part to slow the spread and to protect our most vulnerable. And the American people are doing it. And as we continue to do that, we will hasten the day that we put the coronavirus in the past and we reopen America and put America back to work.

Thank you all. We'll see you tomorrow.

END

7:27

P.M. EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2020 3:05:21 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-town pool report #3

From: Morgan Chalfant <mchalfant@thehill.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 2:57 PM

Subject: In-town pool report #3

White House deputy press secretary Judd Deere passes the following along:

Today, President Donald J. Trump participated in a call with thousands of State, local, and tribal officials to thank them for their partnership to respond to and mitigate COVID-19. The President and several other Federal leaders also underscored the Administration's commitment to empowering all levels of government to effectively respond to COVID-19. Senior officials from the Departments of Treasury, Health and Human Services, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Justice, and Transportation joined the discussion about the unprecedented communications, resources, and flexibilities that the Federal Government has provided to State, local, and tribal leaders to meet this shared challenge, which calls for solutions from every level of government. Federal officials also provided agency-specific updates on implementation of the unprecedented economic relief in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Since January 2020, the Trump Administration has held nearly 120 briefings with more than 60,000 State, local, and tribal leaders in every State and territory in the Nation.

--

Morgan Chalfant

White House correspondent, The Hill

mchalfant@thehill.com

(b)(6)

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 5:06:07 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-Town Pool Report #12 -- coronavirus briefing

From: Munson, Emilie <Emilie.Munson@hearstdc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:04 PM
Subject: In-Town Pool Report #12 -- coronavirus briefing

Your pooler is in place for the White House coronavirus briefing, which has not started yet.

You can watch live here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/live/>

Thus, I will not send highlights and quotes, but I will send any color not available on screen.

Journalists in the briefing room had their temperatures checked prior to the briefing and were given round, orange stickers.

Emilie Munson
Regional Correspondent
Hearst Newspapers
Twitter: @emiliemunson

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 5:43:28 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH in-town pool report #7/ Briefing brought forward

From: David Smith <david.smith@theguardian.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:39 PM
Subject: WH in-town pool report #7/ Briefing brought forward

The White House announced that today's Coronavirus Task Force briefing will in fact start in two minutes.

--

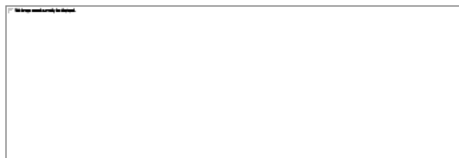
David Smith

Washington bureau chief
Guardian News & Media

■ (b)(6)
■ [REDACTED]

david.smith@theguardian.com

twitter: @SmithInAmerica



900 17th St NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006
theguardian.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 9:54:04 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: NBC

Print: Hearst Newspapers

Radio: AURN

EDT

10:00AM

In-House Pool Call Time

3:00PM

THE PRESIDENT participates in America CARES: Small Business Relief Update

Roosevelt Room

Restricted In-House Pool

Briefing Schedule

5:00PM **Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press briefing**

James S. Brady Briefing Room

On Camera

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 9:49:29 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH in-town pool report #10/ briefing ends and lid

From: David Smith <david.smith@theguardian.com>
Date: April 6, 2020 at 7:54:11 PM EDT
Subject: WH in-town pool report #10/ briefing ends and lid

The Coronavirus Task Force briefing ended after two hours and 10 minutes at 7.51pm.

A travel/ photo lid was called at 7.53pm.

--

David Smith

Washington bureau chief

Guardian News & Media

(b)(6)

david.smith@theguardian.com

twitter: @SmithInAmerica



900 17th St NW, Suite 250₂

Washington, DC 20006

theguardian.com

Download the Guardian app for [Android](#) and [iOS](#)

This e-mail and all attachments are confidential and may also be privileged. If you are not the named recipient, please notify the sender and delete the e-mail and all attachments immediately. Do not disclose the contents to another person. You may not use the information for any purpose, or store, or copy, it in any way. Guardian News & Media Limited is not liable for any computer viruses or other material transmitted with or as part of this e-mail. You should employ virus checking software.

Guardian News & Media Limited is a member of Guardian Media Group plc. Registered Office: PO Box 68164, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London, N1P 2AP. Registered in England Number 908396

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 5:35:42 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH in-town pool report #6/ Briefing delayed to 5.45pm

From: David Smith <david.smith@theguardian.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:31 PM
Subject: WH in-town pool report #6/ Briefing delayed to 5.45pm

The White House announced that today's Coronavirus Task Force briefing has been put back to 5.45pm.

--

David Smith

Washington bureau chief
Guardian News & Media

(b)(6)

david.smith@theguardian.com

twitter: @SmithInAmerica

900 17th St NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20006
theguardian.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 8:08:57 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Memorandum on Providing Federal Support for Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

April 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBJECT: Providing Federal Support for Governors' Use of
the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"), and section 502 of title 32, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to take measures to assist State Governors under the Stafford Act in their responses to all threats and hazards to the American people in their respective States. Considering the profound and unique public health risks posed by the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 ("the virus"), the need for close cooperation and mutual assistance between the Federal Government and the States

is greater than at any time in recent history. In recognizing this serious public health risk, I noted that on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the COVID-19 outbreak can be characterized as a pandemic. On March 13, 2020, I declared a national emergency recognizing the threat that SARS-CoV-2 poses to the Nation's healthcare systems. I also determined that same day that the COVID-19 outbreak constituted an emergency, of nationwide scope, pursuant to section 501(b) of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)). All States have activated their Emergency Operations Centers and are working to fight the spread of the virus and attend to those who have symptoms or who are already infected with COVID-19. To provide maximum support to the Governors of the States of Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia as they make decisions about the responses required to address local conditions in each of their respective jurisdictions and as they request Federal support under the Stafford Act, I am taking the actions set forth in sections 2 and 3 of this memorandum:

Sec. 2. One Hundred Percent Federal Cost Share. To maximize assistance to the Governors of the States of Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia to facilitate Federal support with respect to the use of National Guard units under State control, I am directing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security to fund 100 percent of the emergency assistance activities associated with preventing, mitigating, and responding to the threat to public health and safety posed by the virus that these States undertake using their National Guard forces, as authorized by sections 403 (42 U.S.C. 5170b) and 503 (42 U.S.C. 5193) of the Stafford Act.

Sec. 3. Support of Operations or Missions to Prevent and

Respond to the Spread of COVID-19. I am directing the Secretary of Defense, to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with mission requirements (including geographic proximity), to request pursuant to 32 U.S.C. 502(f) that the Governors of the States of Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, and West Virginia order National Guard forces to perform duty to fulfill mission assignments, on a fully reimbursable basis, that FEMA issues to the Department of Defense for the purpose of supporting their respective State and local emergency assistance efforts under the Stafford Act.

Sec. 4. Termination. The 100 percent Federal cost share for National Guard forces pursuant to this memorandum, and in my prior memoranda dated March 22, 28, and 30, 2020, and April 2, 2020, each titled "Providing Federal Support for Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19," is effective for orders of duty of a duration of 31 days or fewer. These orders of duty must be effective no later than 2 weeks from the date of this memorandum.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural,

enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) The Secretary of Defense is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

DONALD J. TRUMP

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO [Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 4:41:15 PM
To: Tantillo, Andrew [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c43045bfeef846fa99daa0c3d4772a1c-Andrew.Tant]
CC: Gross, Karas [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0b6d3dc4ee4b415d86ec634c536453b6-Kara.Gross]; Morse, Sara N (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4080ee237c084683ae674366e5cde21d-HHS-Sara.Mo]; Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: RE: Help needed asap

That's awesome!! Thank you for letting me know!

Virginia Heppner McMillin
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Legislative Affairs

(b)(6)

From: Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:21 PM
To: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>; Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Help needed asap

The relabeling has been completed and the entry is released, with notification going to DHL and Pinnacle Biolabs! We've told the Senators.

From: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:15 AM
To: Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>; Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Help needed asap

That is great, thank you. I did not realize from the article that these were the same tests. Also, Jordan forwarded me the invite for the call with Sen. Carper tomorrow so I'll plan to listen in on that.

From: Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 8:55 AM
To: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>; Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Help needed asap

Hi Virginia- The consignee notified us that the shipment was delivered to Nashville Saturday morning for relabeling. He is expecting to complete the relabeling today. We expect an update shortly.

From: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2020 9:50 PM

To: Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>; Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Help needed asap

Thank you again for this. Knowing folks have been working around the clock on any number of issues.. any chance there are any updates on this one?

I saw news reports that DE thankfully received tests from another source so hopefully that helps for now
>>[<<https://www.capegazette.com/article/ten-tested-delaware%E2%80%99s-new-rapid-testing-total-covid-19-positives-rise-673/200439<<](https://www.capegazette.com/article/ten-tested-delaware%E2%80%99s-new-rapid-testing-total-covid-19-positives-rise-673/200439)

Thank you!!

Virginia Heppner McMillin
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Legislative Affairs
(202) 881-6454

From: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 9:18 PM
To: Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>; Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: Help needed asap

Awesome, thank you! Really appreciate this. From Lynn it sounded like Carper might be talking to Adam Bohler tomorrow as well so wanted to make sure that was on your radar.

Virginia McMillin
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Legislative Affairs
(202) 881-6454

On Apr 2, 2020, at 9:04 PM, Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

That's right. We spoke with Sen. Coons tonight and he left satisfied we were going to proactively adjudicate this issue. Senior officials from the FDA offices involved were on the phone and all on board to do this ASAP. Strong sense Coons looped Sen. Carper in - he had requested a call but has since withdraw and delegated to staff, who we are working with.

From: Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>
Date: April 2, 2020 at 8:20:21 PM EDT
To: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>, Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>
Cc: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>, Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: Help needed asap

Happy Thursday!

Adding Keagan for awareness since everyone is emailing about this.

We've been in touch with both offices—had a call with Coons and offered a call to Carper (wasn't available, still working on it).

I don't have a specific timeline, but ORA and CDRH have already reached out to the importer to work through the labeling issue ASAP. We're actively working on this.

They are also reaching out to the head of DE public health labs to provide an update.

We can provide you more background on the actual issue, if helpful, but bottom line is these tests (believe they are from China) don't have an EUA and need labeled that they are not FDA approved.

We'll let you (and their staff) know when we have an update.

Also, adding Andy who was on the Coons call in case I got anything wrong.

From: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>

Date: April 2, 2020 at 7:41:04 PM EDT

To: Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>, Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: FW: Help needed asap

Hi, happy Thursday evening! Do you know how long it will take for Delaware to get clarity around their hospital using a test from China for COVID? It sounds like Carper and Coons are at their wits end trying to get answers. It sounded like Lynn had been in touch with you so I told her I'd follow up to see what we could do to help.

Virginia Heppner McMillin
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Legislative Affairs
(202) 881-6454

From: Sha, Lynn (Carper) <Lynn_Sha@carper.senate.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 6:21 PM

To: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>

Subject: RE: Help needed asap

Thank you for contacting me. Regrettably, the office is closed at this time. Out of an abundance of caution and following guidance from our local and national health and disease control professionals, we are temporarily remaining away from our workplace. As a result, there may be a delay in my response, but I will be in touch as soon as possible.

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 9:57:58 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT
TV Corr & Crew: ABC
Print: The Hill
Radio: BBC

EDT

10:00AM **In-House Pool Call Time**

11:45AM **THE PRESIDENT receives his intelligence briefing**

Oval Office

Closed Press

1:45PM **THE PRESIDENT participates in a phone call with State, Local, and Tribal Leaders on COVID-19 response and mitigation**

Oval Office

Closed Press

2:30PM **THE PRESIDENT participates in a phone call with faith leaders**

Oval Office

Closed Press

Briefing Schedule

5:00PM **Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press briefing**

James S. Brady Briefing Room

On Camera

###

Unsubscribe

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 9:53:39 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump at America CARES: Small Business Relief Update Meeting



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
AT AMERICA CARES: SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF UPDATE MEETING

Roosevelt Room

3:05 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I want to thank everybody for being here. It is a great tribute to the banking business. The money that's been done, and the money that's been essentially loaned -- these are great loans for the banks and they're great loans for small business, and we appreciate it.

We're looking forward to speaking with the top CEOs from the banking industry and finance industry. Some of you I know very well and great relationships with. You do an incredible job. Respected all over the world. You're the biggest and the best.

And we're meeting to further deepen our partnership to help American families, workers, and small businesses during this

pandemic, which is something that nobody ever dreamed of.

You know, I say it and I say it a lot: We had the greatest economy in history, the greatest economy that we've ever had, the greatest economy that anybody has ever had. And then, one day, they said, "You got to close it down. Close the country," because we have to get rid of the plague. And that's exactly what we had, is a plague.

And it's -- it's -- we're seeing light at the end of the tunnel. You see it. I see it. And I think we're going to go like a rocket ship once we get back to business. There's a lot of pent-up energy and demand.

But I also want to thank Secretary Mnuchin for the incredible job he's done in conceiving many of these ideas. We've talked late into the night. And he and his staff have been incredible. Administrator Carranza, Larry Kudlow, and my daughter, Ivanka Trump, who just wants to have people working. That's what -- I gave her lots of options, and -- "What do you like?" And she created over 15 million jobs working with some of you, but working with the biggest companies in the world. They were training and training like nobody has ever seen. But she started off with a goal of 500,000 jobs, and now she's up to over 15 million.

As our nation wages the war against the invisible enemy, we're grateful for the many ways in which your companies have answered the call to join our national endeavor. Thank you for donating tens of millions of dollars.

(Audio technical difficulties.)

Maybe it's not good equipment.

But thank you very much for donating tens of millions of dollars

for vital supplies and for supporting small businesses across the country.

America's small businesses are the backbone of our communities. When you look and we hear all about the big companies that we know so well, but the small companies, when added together, are actually a bigger force. A lot of people don't understand that. You do. We do.

Our nation's 30 million small businesses employ nearly half of our workforce. My administration will continue to take the boldest action in history to bring immediate relief to our small businesses.

So when we open up in a hopefully short -- very short period of time, we just -- we're back into business. That's what we want. And we have lots of stimulus. So I think we can actually -- with the stimulus and with the pent-up demand, I think we can really do numbers that are equivalent and maybe even better than we were doing before, within a fairly short period of time. That's what my hope is. And that's what the hope of many of you are too.

As you know, on Friday we launched the Paycheck Protection Program to help small businesses keep workers on the payroll. As of today, SBA has processed over \$70 billion in guaranteed loans, which is far greater than we would have ever thought at this time, I think, Steve. I don't think we ever had any number like that in mind. That will provide much-needed relief for the more than a quarter of a million businesses that have applied for these loans. And these numbers will continue to rise quickly. Again, far greater than anything we could have expected.

We thank you and we thank the thousands of employees for responding. And, by the way, we're going to be going for, it

looks like, a very substantial increase in the number because we'll be running out of money pretty quickly, which is a good thing in this case, not a bad thing. And Steve will discuss it. But we're in talks to supplement the fund and do more money. So it's a -- that's the way it's moving.

But we're going to help those small businesses receive these loans in record time. And we look forward to hearing about your incredible progress today, because many of you -- and most of you -- are going to be speaking for a couple of minutes, just to say what you're doing.

And we have a lot of media present. The room is loaded up with media, as much as they can, considering we have social distancing. We're practicing social distancing. I don't even know -- when I'm looking, I'm not sure if they're practicing it as hard as they should be, but they are practicing it. And there's a lot of media.

Our entire society has mobilized to defeat the invisible enemy, save lives, and save jobs. Your companies are playing a vital role in this fight, and I'm very, very grateful to you.

And, with that, I'm going to ask Ivanka to start and then Secretary Mnuchin, Administrator Carranza, and Larry Kudlow say a few words quickly. And then we're going to get to you, if you have any questions or anything, it would be great.

As I said today, we just asked Congress to pass legislation to fund an additional \$250 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program. So we're going to be raising it up to a new level. And the way it's going, we're going to need that because it's really going. People are loving it. They're really loving it.

So I'll start with Ivanka. Thank you.

MS. TRUMP: Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this incredible group of leaders in a socially very responsible way, via teleconference. And we appreciate everything that you've been doing. Anyone who knows you knows the heart you have for America's small businesses -- over 30 million amazing innovators and entrepreneurs that employ over 60 million people. So, just absolutely incredible.

And you all have been so instrumental, those that are joining us today, in helping us not only execute, in an enormously swift fashion, the Paycheck Protection Program, but also answer the President's call.

When we began making phone calls a couple of weeks ago to each of you, some of the largest lenders in the country -- bankers, credit card companies -- we asked you to provide additional relief, private-sector-driven relief to our incredible small businesses. And you've answered that call.

Among the things we've discussed and that you'll announce today include policies that will offer debt relief to your clients and your customers, payment deferrals, forbearance, loan modifications, and outright hardship relief.

So we're incredibly excited to have you share these initiatives today. And with that, I'll turn it over to Secretary Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza and Larry Kudlow to share a little bit about the Paycheck Protection Program and the unbelievable lift that your teams have undertaken in just the past week to make it as successful as it is today.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Ivanka.

First of all, I want to thank the broad number of banks. We have over 3,000 banks that have been participating since last

Friday. That's a combination of community banks, regional banks, and large banks.

I just want to thank the SBA and the Treasury. This is a brand-new program. It got up and running in less than a week. And last Friday, we saw the incredible response.

I spoke to the President over the weekend. I told the President, you know, it was so successful that we were concerned we'd run out of money. The President made very clear that we should go back immediately and ask for more money to make sure we can support small business.

Every single one of these people that's employed by a small business is one less person that's out of work and on unemployment insurance, and it's one more person that's part of a business so that when we're ready to reopen, 50 percent of America's workforce is in small business.

I had the opportunity this morning to speak to Mitch McConnell, Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, and Kevin McCarthy. I urged them, at the President's request, that they get us another \$250 billion approved. And we look forward to the Senate passing that on Thursday and the House passing that on Friday. This is much-needed support.

And we want to make sure that every single small business can participate. And we want to assure the workers that if you don't get the loan this week, there'll be plenty of money for you next week. And this isn't just small businesses; it's charities, it is independent contractors, sole proprietors.

So, again, I just want to thank everybody for their broad participation.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Steve. Thank you. Please.

ADMINISTRATOR CARRANZA: Very quickly, Mr. President. Small Business Administration has a mission of strengthening the economy by assisting small businesses. And, Ivanka, you mentioned we have 30 million. Absolutely. And I think they're all approaching our phone lines as we speak.

But we're also committed to sustaining their resiliency, as well as increasing the number of employees they keep on payroll. And so that's been our mission. And we have not been shy of accelerating and incorporating and also partnering with not only the lenders that are on this teleconference, but many of them. We have over 3,000 -- 3,200 banks -- as the Secretary has mentioned previously, and we have about 300 new lenders. So I'm very proud of the lending community and their partnership.

So, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you. And it's true; the community banks have been incredible. It's really amazing the way they stepped up. I'm very happy. And they know many of the people that we're dealing with, so it's really terrific.

Larry Kudlow, please?

MR. KUDLOW: Thank you, sir. I'll just be brief. I will say that, as our mitigation policies have taken hold successfully in dealing with the virus, and we move to what we believe can be a reopening of the economy in the weeks ahead, we started with a strong foundation, as the President mentioned, and there'll be some -- there'll be some transitions. But I see no reason why the second half of the year cannot resume a strong, solid growth rate.

I think that's an important point, and I think I want to stay as optimistic as possible on that possibility. And we are coming

down, I think, the home stretch. That's what the health specialists are telling us.

And I want to add one more thing. The President's whole program -- first time in history -- it's the largest relief assistance program in American history, by far, and his program has been based on a government-public-private partnership, every step of the way. We've had everybody here or on these teleconference calls, video calls, whether it's retailers, biotech, farmers, bankers, transportation, you name it. And that's characteristic of President Trump's own philosophy that has given us a strong economic foundation.

And once we can reopen this thing, I think it's going to be very successful, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Larry, very much. And, as you know, our dollar -- our currency has remained very, very strong. Other currencies are not doing well at all. But our currency has done incredibly well. Very, very strong. A lot of it -- assets to that. And sometimes it makes life a little more difficult for going outside of the four walls. But it's -- it means that everybody wants to be in. And we find anytime we go out, they just want to jump into our currency. There's nothing like it, and I don't think it's ever been any stronger or better or more powerful, especially relative to other currencies and other nations. I think that's a great thing. It's great for all of you -- that, I know.

Ivanka, please.

MS. TRUMP: Absolutely. I think the foundation of our economy was so incredibly strong until this virus hit. And this is something you recognize. This is something we're hearing from small businesses across the country. This was no fault of their own, and we're going to carry them through this really

devastating time. And it will be brighter on the other side because of commitments such as this public-private partnerships, and because we will come out of this hopefully sooner rather than later.

So, with that, I'd love to start with Brian Moynihan, the CEO of Bank of America, who is one of the SBA's first partners in implementing the Paycheck Protection Program.

Brian, would you like to share with us some thoughts and what you'll be announcing today?

MR. MOYNIHAN: Sure. Thank you. And, Mr. President and Ivanka, Secretary Mnuchin and Secretary Kudlow, and -- we are fast at work doing what we said we'd do. On March 11th, we met with you and a group of banks in the White House. We talked about consumer relief, mainly; deferral payments on loans for people with small businesses that our company (inaudible). We have 700,000 requests that have been processed since that time, in a few weeks.

Secondly, as we talked about the time -- and my colleagues have had the same experience -- in the month of March, our company extended \$70 billion in commercial loans during the month to help companies of all sizes make progress.

But Ivanka talked to us. Their question was, "What else can we do that's discrete for small businesses?" And so one of the programs we announced last week -- late last week -- was -- we worked with a group called Community Development Financial Institutions -- CDFI, so-called. We did two things there. We're one of the largest supporters of these organizations, which makes loans into communities throughout the United States. We gave them \$10 million in needed operating funds so that they could scale their business to help make loans. And then we added \$250 million to our \$1.5 billion outstanding in capital for these

enterprises, bringing our capital commitment to \$1.75 billion.

When we moved to the PPP, Secretary Mnuchin and I had many conversations, as our colleagues have, to get this program up and running from the start -- Friday morning, around 9:30 or 9:45 -- whenever it was. We're up to about 250,000 applications at our company. We are beginning to process those through to the SBA. It will take an automated fee, which the SBA team is working hard to get set up because when this starts coming, it's coming with a lot of volume.

We have 3,000 people working to make sure the customers that we serve have the clients -- have the documents needed to ensure they use the proceeds in the right way, for the right purpose, in the right amounts. And we're putting that all through.

And we thank both the SBA and the Treasury, how they worked on the program and streamlined it so we could actually get it done faster.

The numbers you gave before I don't think include, for us, a modest amount of loans. But they'll build, and it might (inaudible) that total. We continue to get several thousand applications every hour, and we're not yet to the second part of the program, which you spoke about earlier: the sole proprietors and the extension.

We are prioritizing our work to make sure we serve the clients who have a money relationship with us and a deposit relationship with us. And that is keeping us plenty busy, but we're here to continue to support this effort. There's a strong effort, and we also are ensuring our clients understand the commitment they're making to use these funds for the right purposes and keep the employment in America as high as we possibly can during this difficult time.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Brian, you've been fantastic, and Bank of America has been incredible. You were right out there, right at the beginning, and we appreciate it. You probably noticed I mentioned your name a few times two day ago, when it all started. So we appreciate it very much.

Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. MOYNIHAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. And a really great job.

And Goldman Sachs -- a friend of mine for a long time, David Solomon. Please, David, go ahead.

MR. SOLOMON: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for convening this meeting today, and thank you for what you and your administration are doing to support small businesses.

I also want to thank Ivanka for generously spending time with many of our small-business graduates, particularly focusing on minorities and women-owned businesses, which comprise 66 percent of all our participants.

In 2009, Goldman Sachs launched 10,000 small businesses to help thousands and thousands of small businesses across the country grow their businesses and create new jobs. At that time, we made the largest private-sector investment in vocational colleges and made the largest single commitment at the time to Community Development Financial Institutions.

In the last 10 years, we've built a best-in-class education model that has reached 9,700 businesses who collectively added \$12 million in revenues and have created over 175,000 jobs in the United States.

And network -- our businesses singlehandedly built up their communities brick by brick -- business owners like Angelica Rivera with Colmex Construction in hard-hit New Orleans. Angelica helped New Orleans come back after Katrina, and now she's part of the New Orleans COVID-19 story. She's taking care of her parents, her children, her business. And she is applying for a PPP loan and working hard to keep her employees. She represents the very real struggle that every small business in America is facing. And we know we need to act now to get capital to business owners like Angelica.

Just last week, we announced that Goldman Sachs will work with the Small Business Administration and CDFIs across the country. And today, we're proud to double our capital commitment to \$500 million and announce a total of \$550 million in COVID-19 relief efforts.

We've partnered with CDFIs and other mission-based lenders for over a decade, helping to deliver small businesses the capital and support they need to fuel their growth. Businesses need the support urgently, and we know that the expertise and experience of CDFIs will be crucial. They provide the far reach that's needed to rural areas, to big cities, to underserved areas, and, importantly, the many businesses who don't have a relationship with the traditional banking system.

While we do not have direct small-business customers as a firm, we are acutely aware of the power of small business and have worked hand in hand for over a decade with 10,000 women and 10,000 small businesses. In addition to loan capital, we'll provide grant funding to enable CDFIs to hire necessary staff and set up additional operations to help as many businesses as possible. We're working with the SBA and Administrator Carranza to swiftly mobilize this capital to those who need it most.

Before I close, we would like to respectfully request housing

modification, which I think also fits with your design, Mr. President, to increase the amount of money available, to make sure it does not run out before most of the community-driven lenders can access it to serve these underserved borrowers.

We believe the Treasury should work with the SBA to provide a designated tranche of the money that's being earmarked for CDFIs and other mission-driven lenders. We believe this can occur through new guidance. Otherwise, the businesses served by CDFIs will continue to face an uphill battle receiving the capital they so desperately and urgently need. We'd be happy to work with the Treasury on this, if you and the Secretary concur.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

MR. SOLOMON: Thank you for having me today. I appreciate the opportunity to participate.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, David, that's fantastic. It's \$550 million. I hope the media understands what that is. That's a lot. And we are going to work on that. We think you're right. And we appreciate it. And thank Dina Powell for me, please. She has been fantastic. A friend of ours for a long time. And we appreciate it. Great job, David. Great job. Thank you.

MR. SOLOMON: (Inaudible.) Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

And Darrin Williams of Southern Bancorp -- CEO. Hi, Darrin.

MR. WILLIAMS: Hi, Mr. President. Thank you very much for having us today. I really appreciate you including the voice of small America, of rural America in this call. At Southern Bancorp, we are a 1.5-billion-dollar Community Development Financial

Institution. Just one of those organizations that both Mr. Moynihan and Mr. Solomon were just talking about. And we serve the Arkansas-Mississippi Delta.

Mr. President, this Paycheck Protection Program is a bold and aggressive program, and it's doing exactly what it's intended: It is putting Americans back to work. And in places we serve, that is desperately needed. And we appreciate it very, very much.

As a CDFI, 60 percent of our lending activity must take place in low- and moderate-income communities. These communities are hurting. People are laid off and they often lack sufficient savings. Now, typically, in an economic downturn, cuts in lower-wealth communities are deeper and last longer than the wealthier communities. My bank and other CDFIs across America have been working day and night since the program opened on Friday, processing applications for both customers and non-customers.

Southern Bancorp has submitted over \$16 million in applications to SBA ourselves, and we began cutting checks to businesses on Friday, and we have hundreds and hundreds of more in the queue.

On Saturday, we processed an application for a small business in northeast Arkansas with less \$2,000 was their loan amount. Now, I know this may seem very, very small to many, but it was a lifeline for the employees of that small business. And we have countless more examples of small businesses in rural America that need this support.

And as you continue to push for additional support, let me thank you for your announcement today for pushing for an additional support of \$25 billion for the PPP. Please -- as Mr. Solomon suggested, please consider a carve-out for CDFIs -- that would include MDIs and other small community banks -- because we have a proven track record of promoting economic stabilization, job preservation, and job creation in some of the hardest-hit rural,

urban, and Native American communities.

And finally, one question to Administrator Carranza, on behalf of the small colleges who are looking for guidance -- and I will -- must acknowledge Congressman French Hill, who is my congressman, who's been very helpful on this issue. We're looking for -- to determine whether work-study students count against the 500 limit of the PPP program. Of course, that's a financial aid program and most students are not intended to be employees, but unless we get some guidance on that issue, we're not exactly sure what to do.

So, in closing, again, Mr. President, let me say thank you on behalf of America's small businesses. This program has been a lifeline for them. We appreciate you and the tremendous effort your administration put forth in such a small amount of time to get this program launched and off the ground.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank. Thank you very much, Darrin. Great job. Appreciate it very much.

We have Gordon Smith of JPMorgan Chase. Thank you.

MR. SMITH: Mr. President, thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: And thank you very much for including JPMorgan Chase today. I also just want to start by thanking the Treasury and the Small Business Administration. We have been working seven days a week, late, late into the night, in very close partnership to make sure that we could deliver the program. So just a huge thank-you to everything that you and your teams have been doing.

We're trying to get the money out to small-business owners as quickly as possible. And because of that, we're focusing primarily on our existing customers.

As of about 1 o'clock today, we've had 375,000 requests to apply from small businesses in the United States. That will range plus or minus \$40 billion in total loans.

To give you a little bit of the sense of the loans we've seen so far today, they tend to be, at a minimum end, \$4,000, and the largest loan of \$2.6 million.

We also have (inaudible) -- Brian Moynihan mentioned this earlier -- working very closely with the SBA to build a digital connection, which I think we'll literally hours away from. That will continue to accelerate the progress that were able to make in terms of getting money out for small businesses and quickly into the economy.

In addition, we continue to lend money aggressively. Revolving credit facilities, so far this year, have increased by \$57 billion. We have lent an additional \$40 billion to consumers and small businesses since the start of this crisis in February. We also announced the \$50 million in philanthropic support to address the immediate needs of health and long-term economic challenges for small businesses. And today, we're going to announce an additional \$150 million of lending capacity to the CDFIs that we've heard spoken about today.

And in addition -- we spoke about this down at the White House, Mr. President, just a few short weeks ago -- we are providing 90-day payment and interest deferral for credit lines, for home loans, for auto loans, for both consumers and for small businesses. We're deferring payments. We're waiving fees. We've increased all of the limits that allow a customer to deposit checks electronically, to avoid them having to come to a

bank branch and have them to be able to do that from home.

And as we speak, in addition to the work streams that I just articulated around small business, we're preparing for all of the work that, Mr. President, you have in line for the consumer side of the transaction over the course of the next two to three weeks. So a great deal of technologists are working on preparing for those checks and direct transfers to be made to U.S. domestic consumers.

So, again, thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Ivanka, for including JPMorgan Chase today.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much, Gordon. And that's a fantastic job. That's some number of loans. How you people do it, I don't know, but you do it. And a really great job. Thank you very much, Gordon.

And Wells Fargo? Charles? Are you ready Charles Scharf?

MR. SCHARF: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. President. And I also want to make sure that we thank Treasury and the SBA for all the work that they've done tirelessly over the last couple of weeks and moving the PPP program, (inaudible) the administration.

I'd like to take the opportunity today and share a few of the things. We've already provided substantial amounts of credit and liquidity to our customers to help them weather these times, which we all know were not predicted and caused great deal of uncertainty. So as we think about all that we can do as we look across all our businesses, and ask that question every single day.

In March alone, we extended nearly \$70 billion to our customers to help support them in terms of getting through this

environment. So far, we've deferred more than 790,000 payments, representing over \$2 billion to those who have requested it because they've been impacted by this virus in some way. And we've provided over 750,000 fee waivers. And all of these numbers will continue to grow as we take calls from our customers, and we're doing everything we can to make sure that they understand that we're here to support them.

We also -- we're proud to participate in PPP and providing all the support that we can. As you know, the need expressed by our customers has been huge.

We specifically are focusing on two segments. We're focusing on not-for-profits and small businesses with less than 50 employees. Small businesses with less than 50 employees represent approximately 17 million of the small businesses in the U.S. As we all know, they've been particularly hard hit and very often have fewer resources to help manage (inaudible) this environment.

We also made the decision that we would not be keeping the fees on the program. We will be contributing all the fees received to not-for-profits that support small businesses. It's just another thing that we think we can do to help the small-business community out there.

So beyond that, we stand ready to continue to serve our customers and our branch (inaudible) digitally. As my friends have said, we stand ready on the additional programs that are coming down the line so that we're ready to support our consumers, small businesses, and middle-market companies, as well, in the programs that we've outlined. And we'll continue to help any way that we can.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Charles. Great job you're doing. Appreciate it.

Grand Rapids State Bank CEO, Noah Wilcox.

MR. WILCOX: Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. President. I'm a proud fourth-generation community banker from northern Minnesota. I'm also the current chairman of the Independent Community Bankers of America.

As you know, during these unprecedented times, our nation's community banks -- and my bank, Grand Rapids State Bank and Minnesota Lakes Bank -- stand should to shoulder with their small-business customers, their consumers in the communities that we serve.

We've been doing modifications for our customers for weeks, doing interest-only, doing payment deferrals, and reinvesting and donating to local communities that we operate in. Despite some difficulties during the first couple of days -- getting into the system for some banks that had an impact on small businesses that anchor our economy -- we've worked through the nights and we've worked through the weekend to secure as much funding for those in need and those that qualify, and especially for those that are willing to continue to keep their workforce on the payroll, working to support what is an otherwise strong underlying economy.

We know from an informal survey that about one third of all community banks still do not have access to the system. And that means those community banks have been boxed out and unable to serve their communities and their customers.

And just imagine the awesome power and the difference the community banking industry could make if we had all 100 percent of those banks with access to the system.

ICBA remains steadfast in this mission to create and promote an

environment where community banks flourish. Part of that has been maintaining strong local communities with strong local businesses.

I want to thank you, Mr. President, Secretary Mnuchin, SBA Administrator Carranza for working to make these funds authorized by the CARES Act available to the small businesses of our great nation. And I ask that if the need to expand that amount comes more than what we've already allocated as a country, that it is done so expeditiously.

And I appreciate your earlier comments, Mr. President.

So thank you for the opportunity to be here today to represent the nation's community banks.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Noah. We'll get that done, and we'll get it done rapidly.

Visa CEO Al Kelly.

MR. KELLY: Mr. President, thank you. We're a little bit different type of financial institution than these terrific banks partners of ours. But we can do a lot to try to help them. We are and will.

Yesterday, we announced two grants, totaling \$210 million to small business. One of them aligned with our long-term focus on women's economic empowerment and economic development, and a second to help with short-term needs that have been caused by the spread of COVID-19.

We're doing all kinds of other things. We've frozen in our system at a time where we typically don't because we want to make sure that it's stable and resilient and secure at this important time in the U.S. We are working to make sure that we can help

distribute funds to small-business owners as quickly as possible.

Today, we distributed \$2 billion in real time, immediately to small businesses. And we want to work on broadening that capability.

We're waiving monthly fees for the next few months for people who need to get online, small businesses that want to create an e-commerce gateway. We're working with -- we have a Back to Business platform, which we've used during natural disasters, where we provide an online directory informing Americans what businesses are open. And we're going to expand that as this economy opens back up after we get past the buildup of COVID-19.

We also believe, Mr. President, that we could play a very big role in the actual recovery. I have a team that's working on business process and marketing plans to help small businesses and, for that matter, the travel industry, which brings many, many people here to America and brings our citizens to the cities and other countries around the world.

So again, thank you for all you're doing. And I want to thank the Secretary, who has done a terrific job; Larry; Ivanka, who's done a great job on this, as well as workforce board that I've sat and -- had the privilege of sitting on with her. And thank you, Administrator Carranza, as well for all you're doing.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Al. And bringing back the travel is going to be a very big thing. We're working with the airlines. And we're going to bring them back. I guess they need help, Steve -- right? -- at a high level. But we're going to bring them back. They're ready to go. So thank you very much for what you said and for the great job you do, Al.

Citibank.

MR. CORBAT: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: How are you, Michael? Hi.

MR. CORBAT: Good. Hi, sir, how are you?

THE PRESIDENT: That's good, Mike.

MR. CORBAT: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Great job. Thank you.

MR. CORBAT: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Secretary Mnuchin and Ivanka, for the opportunity for Citi and me to have the ability to talk about our efforts to help consumers and small business weather this crisis.

Mr. President, when we met in the White House in March, I told you that we were here to help support the American economy and American workers. And we've been working relief with our customers for more than a month now.

On March 6th, we announced assistance measures for retail bank customers and small businesses in the U.S. who have been impacted by COVID-19. Today, we expanded that assistance through a range of new measures, including credit card payment deferrals and additional fee waivers. We're now offering to waive late fees and defer minimum payments for 60 days for our credit card customers. And we know that our credit card -- many of our credit card customers are small business owners, using our products to meet expenses.

For retail bank customers, we're now offering fee waivers on non-Citi ATM usage. And we're also extending our earlier fee waivers for consumers and small business.

And we continue to meet the large and urgent demand of small business across the country with our after-hours and weekend support.

Over the past weeks, our bankers have been engaging with many of our small businesses to assess their needs and to deliver critical financial solutions.

Now, as part of the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program, we're going to be able to help a lot more of our small business customers. These SBA-guaranteed loans will provide a bridge to the other side of this health and economic crisis for many small businesses that are doing everything they can to retain their people, their employees, and their customers.

We started to take a limited number of applications to test our process and origination capabilities. And, so far, we've originated about a half a billion dollars of loans through the program. And we want to make sure that our process is as smooth as possible for our clients as we move from a pilot to a large-scale program.

And I got to say that Citi is proud to participate in this unprecedented and much-needed effort. Thank you again, Mr. President, Mr. Secretary, and Ivanka for having me today.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Great job. Thank you very much, Michael. We appreciate it. And, really, a wonderful job you've done. Remember when banking used to be a nice, simple business, fellas? You remember that? Nice and simple. Not simple anymore, is it? Thank you very much, Michael.

MR. CORBAT: Not as simple as it used to be.

THE PRESIDENT: (Laughs.) The Community Spirit Bank CEO, Brad

Bolton.

MR. BOLTON: Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to be a part of this event. You know, being accessible and responsive to our customers is what community bankers do. And I'm proud to wear the title of a community banker.

I'm also proud to represent Community Spirit Bank. (Inaudible) in 1908, we have a long history of serving our customers through good times and bad.

We come to you with a rural perspective, as we are a 150-million-dollar institution, serving four rural counties in northeast Mississippi and northwest Alabama.

Our bank, like banks across the country, we've been working proactively with our customers for weeks, allowing accommodative 90-day or more modification and deferment programs, (inaudible) our consumers and small-business owners.

We make sure that our customers' priority is on their health and that of their families, and we'll worry about taking care of their loans down the road. That's what community banks does across the country.

Mr. President, community bankers and Main Street customers that we serve are so thankful for your leadership in the passage of the CARES Act, and in addition to Payroll Protection Program.

And although my bank was locked out of the program until Sunday night, we worked through the weekend (inaudible) applications -- again, submitting loans. And as soon as we gained access, we started submitting those loans.

As a matter of fact, I was up three nights, up to 2:00 a.m.

submitting loans to get the money flowing. And as of today, we've gained approval for loans as small as \$7,000, and our average loan size is around \$82,000. So this is real money. It's about to begin flowing back to small businesses and their employees.

Mr. President, I know that you are a problem solver. No challenge is too big for your leadership. But I also want you to know that many of my community bank brethren do remain on the outside looking in, unable to gain access to the SBA E-Tran system.

I ask you to deploy the resources to get every community bank in this country in this system, because, Mr. President, community banks who represent the only banking presence and one-third of all U.S. counties make over half of small-business loans. And I'm confident, if we can unleash the full power of those community banks, including the one third listed in a recent survey by ICBA who are unable to gain access to the systems, small businesses will be restored, paychecks will be restored, and our communities can begin to restore and begin flourishing again.

Mr. President, I thank you and your administration for what you're doing during this crisis. I pray for you daily. I pray for your administration and for my fellow community bankers and the small businesses they serve. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of today.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Brad, that's really nice. I think you're the only banker that will pray for me daily. But I'm not too sure about some of those New York guys sitting there, if they pray for me. But they like me, but I don't know if they pray for me. So, I appreciate that very much, Brad.

Michael, you're up. Mastercard. Terrific job.

MR. MIEBACH: Thank you, Mr. President. The actions that you're taking, like the PPP, we think are set up to provide not only relief, but actually ensure that the economy is going to come roaring back as we get through this.

Now, we're really grateful you included us today. Ivanka and Mr. President, distinguished group of colleagues here from the sector: Everybody is stepping up, as Mastercard is. But as Al Kelly was saying earlier, we're a little bit different in this since we don't operate directly in lending.

Now, what we do is we enable commerce. The way we do it is we connect banks. We connect merchants. We connect other financial institutions here in the United States and around the world. And we basically enable that the everyday person can buy goods and services. So, today, that is buying your groceries online because that's what most people are doing these days.

Now, when you asked the question, "Where are these purchases taking place?" -- they're taking place at small businesses. So, if small business suffers here in the U.S., the economy suffers, commerce suffers, and the whole nation suffers.

So we have a longstanding commitment to the small-business sector. There's lots of products and solutions out there that we bring to the market with our banking partners.

Now, today, though, I'm going to make a very specific commitment to help this situation at this very needed time.

So, I want to take us back just three years for a moment. In 2017, the administration put forward the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act. At that time, Mastercard decided to take a step back and say, "What do with these funds that are now available to us?" We made the commitment to put half a billion dollars into inclusive

growth, which includes a good focus on small business.

Now, today, we are announcing that we are taking \$250 million out of that commitment and directing it very specifically to the small-business sector. That will include data. That will include financial resources, tools, services, insights -- whatever gets the small businesses back on track to grow their business and serve their customers.

Now, I give you one very specific example that is ready to go, as we speak, to help small businesses out there. Now, in this conversation the Small Business Administration is guaranteeing loans, and the banks that we have just heard from are facilitating the loans. Mastercard stands ready to support small businesses as they're trying to use those funds.

Many of these businesses are shifting the business online these days because physical interaction is just limited. That exposes vulnerabilities to cyber risk. It exposes vulnerabilities to identity theft and so forth.

Our solution in this space will be made available for free for the 30 million small businesses that are under the program and their 16 million employees. Two hundred and fifty million dollars very specifically targeted to the small-business sector over the next five years.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's fantastic, Michael. I appreciate it. And that really is very generous. It's going to be very good for you too. We really appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. MIEBACH: Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: This is the last, and then we're going to say a

few closing remarks.

And Live Oak Bank, Chip Mahan. Is Chip there? Chip Mahan. Chip? Live Oak.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: I think they're so busy making loans they -- (laughter) --

THE PRESIDENT: I think they're too busy, yeah. They're doing a lot of loans. That's all right. We'll miss them desperately. Everybody wants to hear about Live Oak. But thank you anyway, Chip. Good job. You saved us a little time.

I want to finish off -- just, I want to ask Ivanka to say a few remarks, and then Steve. And then I'll say something. But I -- we really appreciate what you're doing.

Ivanka, please.

MS. TRUMP: Thank you. Well, you had mentioned the pledge earlier and how we had called upon the private sector to step up and train America's current and future workforce for the job vacancies that existed in this country, and we were overwhelmed by the success of that initiative. So this was really born out of the same concept.

We are all in this fight together, as a country and as a nation. And so we called upon each of you to do more and to assist us in what is a really herculean effort.

So we're appreciative of what you've done. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay supportive of one another. And, really, thank you for doing your part and making these very substantial announcements today.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, honey, very much.

Steve?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Mr. President, again, thank you. You've instructed us to move very fast, and we're doing that. We're making sure that we get the \$2 trillion into the economy for American business and American workers. And we are working full time with the Fed for our other facilities; that could be as large as another \$4 trillion.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Steve. An incredible job. And I hope the media here can see what an incredible job the banks have done, all of the people we've just heard from have done, and that the Treasury and all of you -- the small business -- you've never been so busy in your life. You're setting records every day.

But it's really a tribute to government -- really well-run government. And there are few glitches. Very few. Any little glitch, we had worked out within minutes, within hours. And there were a couple of -- a little on applications, and they wanted to work it a little bit differently. Banks had some suggestions. And it was all done -- probably, I would say 100 percent of it -- in the first day.

I just want to congratulate everybody. This has become so popular. It's so good for business. It's so good for our country. And it's the engine of our country. Small business: the engine. They need a little help, and we're going to give them a little help, and it's going to be good for you all. So, it's good for our country. That makes it good for you.

So I just want to thank you. You're friends. So many friends up there. I'm looking at this beautiful screen and so many familiar faces and people I respect and very much admire. And just keep up the great work.

And any time you'd like, I'm here. I'm in the White House. I suggested maybe that, in about a month from now -- maybe when things calm down a little bit, with respect to our hidden enemy -- Steve will set up a meeting and we'll meet with some of the banks and we'll discuss what we can do for you to make it just go -- not just this program, but other programs that you want or that you have, or if you have ideas for us to make the country hum. And that's what we're going to do; we're going to make it hum.

So you think of some ideas. Whether it's a month or two months, we'll meet at the White House and it'll be a very productive meeting. So, Steve will set it up.

Thank you all very much. Congratulations on this success. Thank you.

PARTICIPANT: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Q Mr. President, how quickly can you move on that --

PARTICIPANT: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Q Mr. President --

PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

PARTICIPANT: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, everybody.

Okay. Please.

PARTICIPANT: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks. Thanks.

Okay. Yes?

Q How quickly can you move on that \$250 billion supplemental?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's moving now.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Mitch McConnell is prepared to bring it up on Thursday. And if it passes with unanimous consent, which we would expect it will, then it'll go to the House on Friday for the same approval process.

Q And would that be in addition to a second round of direct payments?

THE PRESIDENT: Separate.

Q Separate.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: That would be a separate issue. So we're right --

Q And how quickly would that move?

THE PRESIDENT: Totally separate.

Q How quickly would that move?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, we'll come back on that issue. Right now, we're focused on execution and making sure small businesses have all the money they need.

THE PRESIDENT: It just shows you, though, how positive it is. I mean, they're looking at a unanimous vote, and that's something. And then we're talking about we're negotiating a phase four. We'll see how that all works out. But this would be separate.

Q And also, Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to have a news conference in a couple of minutes, so we'll do that. Okay?

Q Very quickly: Did you see Peter Navarro's memo that he wrote, warning about the coronavirus on January 29th?

THE PRESIDENT: I know all about it. We'll talk about it at the press conference. Okay?

Q Can you tell us if (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. I want -- I want this -- I'd like you to focus on this because this has really been a tremendous success. And then what we're going to do is we're going to have a press conference at about 5 o'clock, 5:15. And we'll talk about that.

Q Sir, a question on this. You heard from a couple of the community bankers that were asking -- they were saying that one third of community banks were having issues accessing the system. What's the holdup there and what are you working on to fix it?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: There's just a lot of -- 30,000 new users coming onto the system. So they're all getting authenticated. We'll get everybody approved.

Thank you, everybody.

END

3:55 P.M.

EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: Amin, Stacy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CB3764B7438648838C22881A06FC6AFB-STACY.AMIN]
Sent: 4/8/2020 4:45:36 PM
To: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO [Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov]; Merkel, Theo W. EOP/WHO (b)(6); Roth, Lauren [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=52bfd08572694f269a20c508f3c04a03-Lauren.Roth]; Thallam, Satya P. EOP/OMB (b)(6); Brammer, Josh J. EOP/OMB (b)(6); Tatham, Steph J. EOP/OMB (b)(6); D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB (b)(6); Arbes, Sarah C (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1d762cd5e6ac41d0ae76ab5f15525359-HHS-Sarah.A]; Morse, Sara N (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4080ee237c084683ae674366e5cde21d-HHS-Sara.Mo]; Armstrong, Rebekah W (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ced6b9e2a4ba45bb9843f31a5daae598-HHS-Rebekah]
CC: Mednick, David [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ba9faf32217141efaf6904d00b795eb2-David.Medni]; Busch, Marcy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ec4ef9f06a684cafbe4307486233609e-Marcy.Busch]; Flannery, Ellen [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f3a88f0ebdf24b898ccd4814707daedf-Ellen.Flann]; Stenzel, Timothy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e181c337cf1d429bae363600706a5fc4-Timothy.Ste]; Shuren, Jeff [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=44335a0c2f834535bc8713dfd643905e-Jeff.Shuren]; Schiller, Lowell [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=77949b06919e4f91aa788e9a616c50c7-Lowell.Schi]; Shah, Anand [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e2172ebbd96946c08e189fd612855f51-Anand.Shah]; Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]; Anderson, Erika [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=98606928b9a64edfb25aba1e3573fdfe-Erangers]; Murtagh, Lindsey (CMS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=75cb77cbb2864cc3a2af99527085f47c-HHS-Lindsey]; Ackerman, Jacob (CMS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=59a6b3e05ace45b89f03f2c9b97d0648-HHS-Jacob.A]; Gross, Karas [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0b6d3dc4ee4b415d86ec634c536453b6-Kara.Gross]
Subject: RE: Serology Test Question

Thanks, Virginia and all. I understand CMS is working on an FAQ (this would be more in their lane, not FDA's). We'll give CMS a heads up to coordinate with Sarah Arbes and team on what they issue.

From: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:46 PM
To: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>; Merkel, Theo W. EOP/WHO <Theodore.W.Merkel@who.eop.gov>; Roth, Lauren <Lauren.Roth@fda.hhs.gov>; Thallam, Satya P. EOP/OMB <Satya.P.Thallam@omb.eop.gov>; Brammer, Josh J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Tatham, Steph J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Arbes, Sarah C (OS) <Sarah.Arbes@hhs.gov>; Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>; Armstrong, Rebekah W (OS) <Rebekah.Armstrong@hhs.gov>
Cc: Mednick, David <David.Mednick@fda.hhs.gov>; Busch, Marcy <Marcy.Busch@fda.hhs.gov>; Flannery, Ellen <Ellen.Flannery@fda.hhs.gov>; Stenzel, Timothy <Timothy.Stenzel@fda.hhs.gov>; Shuren, Jeff <Jeff.Shuren@fda.hhs.gov>; Schiller, Lowell <Lowell.Schiller@fda.hhs.gov>; Shah, Anand <Anand.Shah@fda.hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Anderson, Erika <Erika.Anderson@fda.hhs.gov>; Murtagh, Lindsey

(CMS) <Lindsey.Murtagh@cms.hhs.gov>; Ackerman, Jacob (CMS) <Jacob.Ackerman1@cms.hhs.gov>; Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Serology Test Question

Yes, a public statement would be great. Thank you.

From: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 3:25 PM

To: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>; Merkel, Theo W. EOP/WHO <(b)(6)>; Roth, Lauren <Lauren.Roth@fda.hhs.gov>; Thallam, Satya P. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Brammer, Josh J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Tatham, Steph J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Arbes, Sarah C (OS) <Sarah.Arbes@hhs.gov>; Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>; Armstrong, Rebekah W (OS) <Rebekah.Armstrong@hhs.gov>

Cc: Mednick, David <David.Mednick@fda.hhs.gov>; Busch, Marcy <Marcy.Busch@fda.hhs.gov>; Flannery, Ellen <Ellen.Flannery@fda.hhs.gov>; Stenzel, Timothy <Timothy.Stenzel@fda.hhs.gov>; Shuren, Jeff <Jeff.Shuren@fda.hhs.gov>; Schiller, Lowell <Lowell.Schiller@fda.hhs.gov>; Shah, Anand <Anand.Shah@fda.hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Anderson, Erika <Erika.Anderson@fda.hhs.gov>; Murtagh, Lindsey (CMS) <Lindsey.Murtagh@cms.hhs.gov>; Ackerman, Jacob (CMS) <Jacob.Ackerman1@cms.hhs.gov>; Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Serology Test Question

Great, this is one of those happy occasions when legislative intent lines up with text. Virginia do you recommend that we say something publicly?

From: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 2:49 PM

To: Merkel, Theo W. EOP/WHO <Theodore.W.Merkel@who.eop.gov>; Roth, Lauren <Lauren.Roth@fda.hhs.gov>; Thallam, Satya P. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Brammer, Josh J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Tatham, Steph J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Arbes, Sarah C (OS) <Sarah.Arbes@hhs.gov>; Morse, Sara N (OS) <Sara.Morse@hhs.gov>; Armstrong, Rebekah W (OS) <Rebekah.Armstrong@hhs.gov>

Cc: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>; Mednick, David <David.Mednick@fda.hhs.gov>; Busch, Marcy <Marcy.Busch@fda.hhs.gov>; Flannery, Ellen <Ellen.Flannery@fda.hhs.gov>; Stenzel, Timothy <Timothy.Stenzel@fda.hhs.gov>; Shuren, Jeff <Jeff.Shuren@fda.hhs.gov>; Schiller, Lowell <Lowell.Schiller@fda.hhs.gov>; Shah, Anand <Anand.Shah@fda.hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Anderson, Erika <Erika.Anderson@fda.hhs.gov>; Murtagh, Lindsey (CMS) <Lindsey.Murtagh@cms.hhs.gov>; Ackerman, Jacob (CMS) <Jacob.Ackerman1@cms.hhs.gov>; Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Serology Test Question

Senators Blunt and Alexander just sent this letter to Sec. Azar –

><https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Senate%20Letterhead%20Alexander%20Blunt%20Letter%20to%20Azar%204%208%202020.pdf>

“It is the express intent of Congress that this statutory provision applies to both the diagnosis of COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2 and the detection of antibodies to SARS– CoV–2 that indicate a person may be immune to future infection, at least for the short term.”

From: Merkel, Theo W. EOP/WHO <Theodore.W.Merkel@who.eop.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 12:29 PM

To: Roth, Lauren <Lauren.Roth@fda.hhs.gov>; Thallam, Satya P. EOP/OMB <Satya.P.Thallam@omb.eop.gov>; Brammer,

Josh J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Tatham, Steph J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
Cc: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>; Mednick, David <David.Mednick@fda.hhs.gov>; Busch, Marcy <Marcy.Busch@fda.hhs.gov>; Flannery, Ellen <Ellen.Flannery@fda.hhs.gov>; Stenzel, Timothy <Timothy.Stenzel@fda.hhs.gov>; Shuren, Jeff <Jeff.Shuren@fda.hhs.gov>; Schiller, Lowell <Lowell.Schiller@fda.hhs.gov>; Shah, Anand <Anand.Shah@fda.hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Anderson, Erika <Erika.Anderson@fda.hhs.gov>; Murtagh, Lindsey (CMS) <Lindsey.Murtagh@cms.hhs.gov>; Ackerman, Jacob (CMS) <Jacob.Ackerman1@cms.hhs.gov>; Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>; McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <Virginia.D.McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Serology Test Question

Excellent. + Virginia in OLA

From: Roth, Lauren <Lauren.Roth@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 12:23 PM
To: Thallam, Satya P. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Brammer, Josh J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Tatham, Steph J. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>; Merkel, Theo W. EOP/WHO <Theodore.W.Merkel@who.eop.gov>; D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB <(b)(6)>
Cc: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>; Mednick, David <David.Mednick@fda.hhs.gov>; Busch, Marcy <Marcy.Busch@fda.hhs.gov>; Flannery, Ellen <Ellen.Flannery@fda.hhs.gov>; Stenzel, Timothy <Timothy.Stenzel@fda.hhs.gov>; Shuren, Jeff <Jeff.Shuren@fda.hhs.gov>; Schiller, Lowell <Lowell.Schiller@fda.hhs.gov>; Shah, Anand <Anand.Shah@fda.hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Anderson, Erika <Erika.Anderson@fda.hhs.gov>; Murtagh, Lindsey (CMS) <Lindsey.Murtagh@cms.hhs.gov>; Ackerman, Jacob (CMS) <Jacob.Ackerman1@cms.hhs.gov>; Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: Serology Test Question

All,

On the call last evening, FDA was asked for our views on whether the language in section 6001 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), as amended by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), includes serological tests to detect COVID-19.

Specifically, we understood the question yesterday to be whether the language in Act—"an in vitro diagnostic test . . . for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 or the diagnosis of the virus that causes COVID-19" includes serological tests, which are a type of diagnostic that are used to detect antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. As discussed in more detail below, our view is, yes, this language includes serological tests.

If you have any additional questions, please let us know.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Lauren K. Roth
Associate Commissioner for Policy

Office of Policy
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
(240) 402-1671
lauren.roth@fda.hhs.gov



From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 5:34:20 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves Minnesota Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves Minnesota Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Minnesota and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to State, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of Minnesota impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named James K. Joseph as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 4:43:45 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH In-Town Pool Report #10 -- more from small business event

From: Munson, Emilie <Emilie.Munson@hearstdc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:38 PM

Subject: WH In-Town Pool Report #10 -- more from small business event

This email has fuller comments from administration officials from the Roosevelt Room small business relief event. I'll send some limited comments from the banks next, but you also got the information sent from the White House.

President Trump and Sec. Mnuchin answered four media questions at the close of the event.

Mnuchin and Trump said their request for more funding for the Paycheck Protection Program is distinct from Phase 4 coronavirus bill negotiations.

Asked about more direct cash assistance for Americans, Mnuchin said "We'll come back on that issue. Right now we're working on execution, making sure small business have all the money they need."

Asked about Peter Navarro's memo from January 29 regarding coronavirus, Trump said "we'll talk about it at the press conference," referring to the 5 PM briefing.

Asked about what the administration is doing to allow more community banks to make PPP loans after two community banks on the videoconference said that 1/3 of all community banks could not access the program, Mnuchin said "There's just a lot of new users coming onto the system. They're all getting authenticated. We'll get them all approved."

President Trump, Ivanka Trump, Larry Kudlow, Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Administrator Carranza all gave statements in the Roosevelt room at the top of the small business event. They sat at a long table facing a television screen displaying video feeds of the bank CEOs participating in the event in a similar style to a Zoom call.

Ivanka Trump, Mnuchin and President Trump made short closing remarks after each bank CEO spoke.

There were two technical glitches. At one point during Trump's opening remarks, the video feed played back a stuttered version of Trump speaking. Also, the last bank invited to speak, Live Oak Bank, was unresponsive and appeared not to be on the call when President Trump called on the CEO.

I already sent you some highlights from President Trump's opening remarks.

Secretary Mnuchin said over 3,000 banks have been participating in the Paycheck Protection Program since Friday.

He called the response to the program "incredible."

Over the weekend, he told President Trump it was "so successful we were concerned we would run out of money."

He said he spoke Sens. McConnell and Schumer and Reps. Pelosi and McCarthy today regarding additional funding for the PPP program.

"We look forward to the Senate passing that on Thursday and the House passing that on Friday."

Administrator Carranza said of all the small businesses in the nation, "I think they're all approaching our phone lines as we speak."

She said about 300 new lenders are working with the SBA on the PPP.

National Economic Council Director Kudlow expressed confidence that the economy will return strongly.

"I will say that as our mitigation policies have taken hold successfully in dealing with the virus and as we move to what we believe can be a reopening of the economy in the weeks ahead, we started with a strong foundation as the president mentioned and there will be some transitions, but I see no reason why the second of the year cannot resume strong, solid growth."

Check all quotes against the transcript.

Emilie Munson

Regional Correspondent

Hearst Newspapers

Twitter: @emiliemunson

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 10:30:55 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Presidential Message on World Health Day, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

Presidential Message on World Health Day, 2020

Public health plays a critical role in building strong, prosperous, and free societies around the world. Today, as our Nation and entire global community continue to combat the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, we reaffirm our commitment to do our part to stop the spread of this virus, care for the sick, and protect the health and well-being of our fellow Americans.

Each of us should follow the simple and necessary precautions set forth in the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America and by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities from the coronavirus. These guidelines include critical steps we can take to slow the spread, such as practicing social distancing, avoiding discretionary travel, following the directions of your State and local authorities, including regarding temporary closures of bars, restaurants, gyms, and other common gathering places, and voluntarily wearing cloth face coverings when out in public. Importantly, if you are showing common symptoms and feeling sick, stay home and contact your medical provider to discuss next steps in diagnosing and treating your symptoms. Additionally, older Americans and those who have serious underlying health conditions or other risk factors should take extra precautions to mitigate the risk of contracting the coronavirus. By adhering to these recommendations, as well as practicing good sanitation and hygiene habits, we are all helping win the battle against this invisible enemy.

The coronavirus pandemic has posed intense hardships on our society, but the strength, resiliency, and compassion of the American people are far greater. Each day, we are seeing the remarkable ways in which the men and women of our great Nation are helping others. One especially critical way healthy Americans can assist in filling a critical need brought on by this pandemic is by continuing to donate blood. The American Red Cross is currently facing a dire blood shortage. If you are of good health and satisfy the eligibility requirements, the process to donate blood is safe, and your donation is needed now more than ever. To learn more about additional ways in which you can help those affected by the coronavirus outbreak, please visit www.fema.gov/coronavirus/how-to-help.

The United States will defeat this invisible enemy. On this World Health Day, Melania and I join a grateful Nation in paying tribute to all of our doctors, nurses, healthcare administrators, researchers, scientists, educators, public health officials, and all of the extraordinary men and women who are helping diagnose, heal, inform, protect, and reassure the American people. Together, we will emerge from this challenge stronger, healthier, and more united than ever before.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 2:19:49 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP,
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE
IN PRESS BRIEFING

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

April 5, 2020

6:59 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you very much, everybody. All these people have been working very, very hard today, I'll tell you. For a long time, they've been working.

But before I begin, I want to express our nation's well wishes to Prime Minister Boris Johnson as he wages his own personal fight with the virus. All Americans are praying for him. He's a friend of mine. He's a great gentleman and a great leader. And he's -- as you know, he was brought to the hospital today, but I'm hopeful and sure that he's going to be fine. He's a strong man, a strong person.

Today, every patriotic American heart beats in solidarity with the incredible people of New York and New Jersey. They've really become a very hot zone, but some very good things are happening. In New York, the first time where the deaths were less from the previous day. That's the first drop so far. So maybe that's a good sign; it could be. And the hospital levels are starting to perhaps decrease. It's been very short, but perhaps decrease.

So we wish Governor Cuomo and all of the people in New York great. And, New Jersey, your governor is doing a great job. He's doing a great job in New Jersey. They got hit very hard.

I just want to say that the full power of the American government and American enterprise -- it really is. This is an all-out military operation that we've waged, and especially over the last number of weeks. Fifty states and territories have now been approved for major disaster declarations, which is very unusual.

Thanks to the Army Corps of Engineers, New York City's Javits Center is now one of the largest hospitals in the United States. It's designated for treatment of the virus patients and staffed by hundreds of federal medical personnel deployed from two Army hospital units, and they're doing a great job. This was something that we didn't expect to do, but they needed help in New York and we sent federal troops -- not only troops, we also sent a lot of very talented doctors, nurses, first responders. People are now running Javits.

Also, as you know, the USNS Comfort, which is in New York -- there's been a lot of publicity about that coming in and all. That was not supposed to be for the virus at all, under any circumstances. But it looks like, more and more, we're going to be using it for that. So we'll see. That was supposed to be for

people having other medical problems, but it's very interesting because there are virtually no cars on the road, no motorcycles on the road, no -- no anything on the road. Things that would normally be taken care of, we don't see anymore. So we haven't seen that in a long time. It's, perhaps, a positive.

But the ship is ready. And if it has to, if we need it -- if we need it for the virus, we will be using it for that. They'd prefer not, for obvious reasons, but if for any reason they need it, it's ready, willing, and able.

We have the best doctors, the best military leaders, and the best logistics professionals anywhere in the world. And we're orchestrating a massive federal response unlike anything our country has ever seen or done. We've never done anything like this. And, more and more, we're using our medical people because of the fact that jurisdictions, states -- in particular New York, New Jersey, the Connecticut area. Long Island now has become a hotspot -- part of New York. We're sending a lot of things, a lot of supplies, and now we're sending personnel where it's needed. Military personnel.

As of Tuesday, we'll have deployed over 3,000 military and public health professionals to New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and other parts of our country -- 3,000 -- and that number is going up. And we hope we're seeing a leveling off in the hottest spots of them all. So we'll see. You'll be seeing that over the next few days. Let's see what happens. But we're prepared.

In the last seven days, FEMA has airlifted critical supplies and protective equipment from every corner of Earth. They're coming from all over the planet, including from within the United States, where the equipment isn't as necessary.

Since last Sunday, cargo planes have delivered almost -- listen to this -- 300 million gloves, almost 8 million masks, and 3

million gowns. And many more fully loaded cargo planes are right now on the way. Three big ones landed today. And these supplies are being distributed directly to the hospitals and healthcare providers all across the nation so that that massive amount of material that we're getting in is being delivered all over the country.

Tomorrow, we'll deliver an additional 600,000 N95 masks to New York City to take care of the needs of the public hospital system. It was requested -- Mayor de Blasio. We've been working great with Mayor de Blasio, getting him a lot of stuff. He's working very hard; I can tell you that. And we're working, really, very hard with New York City and with New York State.

And at the request of Congressman Lee Zeldin, out in Long Island, we will also be delivering another 200,000 N95 masks to Suffolk County, where they need it very badly. So we're getting that out on an emergency basis. It should be there tomorrow.

We'll also be deploying millions of N95 masks to other locations that Admiral Polowczyk will detail shortly. The Admiral will be up in just a couple of minutes.

Over the last 24 hours, FEMA has delivered an additional 500 ventilators to New Jersey. Five hundred. And again, the governor has been very thankful. We're working very hard with New Jersey, including building hospitals.

We've also sent an additional 200 ventilators to Louisiana -- a definite hotspot. Three hundred to Michigan -- working very well, I think, with the governor.

Amazingly, 600 will be going or have gone to Illinois. And, I mean, there's a governor -- I hear him complaining all the time -- Pritzker. I hear him; he's always complaining. And yet, I just said, "Give me a list of a couple of the things we've done

in Illinois." And we're building a 2,500-bed hospital in McCormick Place; that's the big convention center in Chicago. And we're helping to staff it and probably will end up staffing it because he's not able to do what you're supposed to be able to do as a governor. He has not performed well.

And we're also sending 100 ventilators to Massachusetts.

So we have 600 to Illinois. We have 100 to Massachusetts. We have 300 to Michigan. We have 200 to Louisiana. We have 500 ventilators -- 500 -- going to New Jersey. And this is being done by FEMA. It's being delivered by FEMA. And it's -- that's some job. Just think of that. When you think about 500 ventilators, a ventilator is a big deal.

We're also establishing a federal medical station in the Washington, D.C., area to help Washington, D.C., and working very closely with the mayor and everybody in Washington, D.C.

At the same time, Governor Inslee -- we appreciate this -- of Washington State has returned 400 ventilators, which can now be deployed elsewhere in our country. So the State of Washington has done very well. They won't be needing some of the ventilators that have been sent -- about 400. That's a lot. And we appreciate that he's able to give them back. He feels confident that they are in good shape for the coming weeks, until we can declare a final victory.

In the days ahead, America will endure the peak of this terrible pandemic. Our warriors in this life-and-death battle are the incredible doctors and nurses and healthcare workers on the frontline of the fight. We pledge to them our eternal gratitude and everlasting support. They make all of us very proud. Our country is very proud. We have people -- they love our country. The world loves our country, most of it. Probably all of it; they just don't say it.

I can report today that the United States has now tested and given results -- gotten results of 1.67 million people. That's far more than any other country has been able to do. And you remember, we inherited a broken system. So a lot of this has been developed.

By Tuesday, 1,200 brand-new rapid point-of-care testing kits has been produced by Abbott Laboratories. A great company. And they'll be distributed to all of our public health labs -- that's a 15-minute test; even less -- as well as the Indian Health Service, the CDC, and the Strategic National Stockpile.

So we're going to have 1,200. And on a weekly basis, we're making a lot more. They go very fast. They're very accurate tests. And other countries are wanting them. So, at the right time, we'll be able to do that. But right now, we're getting them to all of ours.

So we've done 1,670,000 tests. Think of that: 1,670,000 tests. And we have a great system now. We're working with the states in almost all instances, but we have a great system.

And the other thing that we bought a tremendous amount of is the hydroxychloroquine -- hydroxychloroquine -- which I think -- as you know, it's a great malaria drug. It's worked unbelievably. It's this powerful drug on malaria. And there are signs that it works on this. Some very strong signs. And, in the meantime, it's been around a long time. It also works very powerfully on lupus. Lupus.

So there are some very strong, powerful signs, and we'll have to see. Because again, it's being tested now. This is a new thing that just happened to us -- the "invisible enemy," we call it.

And, if you can, if you have a -- no signs of heart problems, the

azrithromycin [sic] -- azithromycin -- which will kill certain things that you don't want living within your body -- it's powerful drug -- if you don't have a problem, a heart problem, we would say: Let your doctor think about it. But as a combination, I think they're going to be -- I think they're two things that should be looked at very strongly.

Now, we have purchased and we have stockpiled 29 million pills of the hydroxychloroquine -- 29 million. A lot of drugstores have them by prescription, and also -- and they're not expensive. Also, we're sending them to various labs, our military. We're sending them to the hospitals. We're sending them all over.

I just think it's something -- you know the expression, I've used it for certain reasons: "What do you have to lose?" What do you have to lose? And a lot of people are saying that when -- and are taking it -- if you're a doctor, a nurse, a first responder, a medical person going into hospitals, they say taking it before the fact is good. But what do you have to lose? They say, "Take it."

I'm not looking at it one way or the other, but we want to get out of this. If it does work, it would be a shame if we didn't do it early. But we have some very good signs. So that's hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin.

And, again, you have to go through your medical people, get the approval. But I've seen things that I sort of like. So what do I know? I'm not a doctor. I'm not a doctor. But I have common sense. The FDA feels good about it. They've -- as you know, they've approved it. They gave it a rapid approval. And the reason: because it's been out there for a long time and they know the side effects and they also know the potential. So, based on that, we have sent it throughout the country and we have it stockpiled -- about 29 million doses. Twenty-nine million

doses. We have a lot of it. We hope it works.

Driven by the goal of the brightest minds in science -- we have the brightest minds in science, but we're driven by the goal of getting rid of this plague, getting rid of this scourge, getting rid of this virus. These brilliant minds are working on the most effective antiviral therapies and vaccines. We are working very, very hard. I have met many of the doctors that are doing it. These are doctors that are working so hard on vanquishing the virus.

They're staying -- we strongly recommend staying at home, practicing vigorous hygiene, and maintaining social distance, so you're -- you're just not going to catch it. It's the most effective weapon in this war.

And I will tell you, the -- we are committing to the -- to you. We're committing to the people of our country like few administrations, few people, few professionals have ever committed before. They are -- they are working so hard. I see them. I see them before my eyes, exhausted -- people that I'm dealing with every day, exhausted. They haven't left their offices. They haven't left their hospitals. We meet with them. We see them.

And tremendous strides have been made. I think the vaccines -- we'll have a report on that. But the vaccines -- we're working together with other countries. We're also working with other countries -- many other countries. And we all want everyone else to be first. We're very happy. But we are very far down the line on vaccines. We'll see how that all works. Johnson & Johnson is doing a great job, working very hard. A vaccine would be great. Therapy -- a therapy and therapeutics would be great. We'll see what happens. In the meantime, you may listen to what I said about the two drugs mentioned.

My administration is rapidly implementing the largest emergency economic relief package in American history. You've seen what's been happening. Billions of dollars in small-business loans have already been processed through Paycheck Protection Programs.

So we went out on Friday and, literally, it's become so popular. It's been worked with the banks. They get it to the small business. It's all about employment. It's all about jobs. We want you to keep your jobs. It gives small business funding to keep the workers on the payroll. And we're sending direct cash payments to millions of Americans and rushing aid to the hardest-hit industries. We're saving industries. We will be -- you'll be seeing it. And if we do more, we're going to do more, and we're going to try and get directly to people that are hit so hard.

But we're going to take care of our workers. We're going to take care of our citizens. We're going to take care of our small businesses. We're going to take care of our large businesses: the airplane industry, the -- the airline industry. A lot of great industries that we have that are in trouble because of what took place over the last short period of time.

These are industries that were doing better -- for the most part, doing better than ever. The airlines were doing great. Oil was doing great -- oil and gas. And the energy industry was doing phenomenally well, and it got hit like nobody has ever been hit before. Just about like no industry has ever been hit before. There's never been anything like this.

But we see light at the end of the tunnel. Things are happening. Things are happening. We're starting to see light at the end of the tunnel. And hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, we'll be very proud of the job we all did. We can never be happy when so many people are dying, but we're going to be

very proud of the job we did to keep the death down to an absolute minimum -- the least it could have happened with this terrible, terrible virus.

In closing, I also want to note today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week for Christians in America and all around the world. While we may be apart from one another, as you can see from our great churches, our great pastors and ministers are out there working very hard. But we may be apart -- we can use this time to turn to reflection and prayer and our own personal relationship with God.

I would ask that all Americans pray for the heroic doctors and nurses, for the truck drivers and grocery store workers, and for everyone fighting this battle. I had mentioned yesterday, where I see the nurses rushing into hospitals, and they're putting on their outfits, and they're putting on their masks and goggles, in some cases. They're rushing into war. They're rushing into war.

And I see people from apartment houses screaming and shouting and singing their praises. It's an incredible thing. They're warriors -- these doctors and nurses. They're running into buildings, and they're literally putting it on as the doors are opening. They're putting all their stuff and running inside. And they're running inside to tremendous danger. Tremendous danger.

But, most of all, I'd like to ask for your prayers for the families who have lost loved ones. Ask God to comfort them in their hour of grief. It's a great hour of grief for our nation, for the world.

This morning -- I was talking 151. For four days, I said 151. A hundred and fifty-one countries. This morning, it's 182 countries. It jumped up a lot. So, as of this morning, it's 182

countries are under attack from this monster.

With the faith of our families and the spirit of our people, and the grace of our God, we will endure, we will overcome, we will prevail. We have learned so much. We will be stronger than ever.

And I just want to thank everybody. I want to thank the incredible professionals on the task force also. We had a big meeting today. We -- were calls all day long to so many different people. And I think our package to get everyone working when we're ready is really turning out to be successful. We may have to make it larger because it's been really successful. But all of that comes back to this country. We want to get them back. We want to get our people back to work. Everybody wants to be back. We want to open up our country as soon as possible.

So, with that, I'm going to ask Dr. Birx to say a few words, and she's got some charts to show you. And thank you very much. Thank you.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. President. As you can see from the hopeful signs in Italy and Spain, where we see, finally, new cases and deaths declining, it's giving us hope of what our future could be.

We wanted to give you an update on where all of the states were. We're looking at this as states normalized per 100,000 citizens. It looks very similar to last week. We wanted to update you. We've been covering throughout the week the states that were moving on this map.

You can see very clearly where New York is as a state, although this is very much still centered in the New York metro area. New Jersey is the orange line. The green line is Louisiana. That's

followed by Massachusetts, and then Connecticut and Michigan are together in those lines towards the bottom. And then, of course, Washington, D.C., is now visible on this map, which was not visible before. And the yellow line towards the bottom is Washington State.

Next slide, please.

So this just summarize all of the states we're tracking very closely at the county level. So we're tracing and tracking not only the epidemic at the state level, but understanding what's happening in county by county with new cases and, of course, also the deaths.

We're also triangulating that with all of the laboratory data. And just to tell you how we're kind of doing that: For New York, which you can see at the top, their serology is now about 36 percent positive. They were in the 40s. So, day over day, their percent positive is finally starting to decline. New Jersey's is increasing, however. They're now up to 42 percent of the specimens that come to the laboratory are positive. Louisiana, 25 percent. Massachusetts, 20 percent. Connecticut and Michigan, 20 percent. District of Columbia, 15 percent. Washington, 8 percent. And then, Illinois and Colorado are at about 16 percent. Pennsylvania, which is also new to the graphic, is it about 12 percent.

Next slide, please.

So, if we could go back one -- I'm sorry. If you go back one slide. One more. All of the states here, those are 38 of the states. Thirty-eight of our states have less than 50 cases per hundred thousand. They are testing. Their laboratory results are consistent with that. Their seropositivity rate for their laboratories are less than 5 percent.

So this is how we're tracking and triangulating both case reporting, mortality or fatalities, and also triangulating that with the laboratory.

The New York metro area, New Jersey, Louisiana, and a series -- and Washington State -- have all tested at a rate greater than Italy and Spain. I know many of you are tracking that. Remember, many of us, we pushed out a lot of those assays at the beginning, over the last two to three weeks. And I want to just thank Admiral Giroir and HHS, who's been working very closely to make sure that the states that were having an outbreak had access to all of their assays.

Next slide, please. And then next one.

So just to give you an idea of how we're looking at this, we look at cases every day. I want to just thank my data team. They spend all evening compiling data. I get it about 2 o'clock in the morning. And it looks at all of these metro areas by their granular counties. So we can see the counties that have new cases. That also helps us identify the hospitals and understand what hospitals will need ventilators or PPE.

So, this is the Detroit area; it's Oakland and Detroit. Wayne County.

Next slide.

We also then -- also track mortality. It gives us insight into how many clients are in the ICU and need care. And we want to make sure that we're meeting the needs both on cases and really appreciating the frontline healthcare workers that are really saving many people's lives.

Next slide.

This just gives you an idea from New Orleans. We are now also tracking St. John the Baptist Parish also. But this was the New Orleans and Jefferson County, and really tracking those on a case-by-case basis to look for changes over time. And next slide is their mortality. And you can see it's starting to stabilize.

So this is how we've been tracking and tracing the epidemic as it moves through states and counties and communities. But as we started, we just wanted to note again: We do see hopeful signs in Spain and Italy. They have completed nearly four weeks of mitigation with people really doing social distancing, staying at home, ensuring they were washing their hands. If they have to go out to the grocery store, they're extraordinarily careful; they send one person from the family.

And so we can really see that beginning to work, and we're very hopeful that, over the next week -- although we'll see rising number of cases of people who lose their lives to this illness -- we're also hopeful to see a stabilization of cases across these large metro areas where the outbreak began several weeks ago.

So thank you for your attention.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Admiral? Please.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: Thank you, sir. What I thought I would do is update on the average first, and then follow up on Dr. Birx and how we're geographically aligning the supply chain.

So the average: We had three additional flights come in today, bringing a million gowns, 2.8 million N95 masks, 2.8 million surgical masks, 11.8 million gloves, 18.6 thousand gowns on three flights. And that material will be pushed out across the nation, delivered to hospitals, nursing homes across the country.

Dr. Birx went through the geography. And so, over the last few

days, I've been aligning the supply chain to those areas, and then reaching down into those areas and extracting data from those areas on PPE burn rates.

So, for example, I spent the weekend talking to the chief operating officer of Detroit, Hakim Berry, for example, and talked to the leadership at Detroit Medical Center, Audrey Gregory; talked to the health officer at Oakland County, Michigan; and then also with the Chicago health officer, Dr. Allison Arwady. So, reaching down to the -- to a level to understand their needs.

So we're geographically aligning the supply chain. Right? So you can see Dr. Birx went through these counties, and we're getting down to the county level. And then aligning it by priorities of point of care: public hospitals, first, VA hospitals, private hospitals, nursing homes, first responders, acute care.

Over the coming days, we will be making a push to the geographic areas that Dr. Birx mentioned -- increasing the volume through the supply chain to those areas to give them weeks, not just days' worth of supply -- primarily using our industry partners that we are directing: Cardinal, McKesson, Medline, Owen & Minor, Henry Schein, Concordance Healthcare -- directing them to put product to the hospital door, the nursing home door, the first responders, directly to them.

We're also working to push out millions of doses of hydrochlor- -
-

THE PRESIDENT: Hydroxy.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: Hydroxychlorine [sic]. Right.

We are working the distribution there to push the same thing to

the same impacted areas, working to get it into hospitals and to every pharmacy.

And so my team is back there right now working the arrangements to make -- make that to the hospital front door and primarily to the local pharmacies so a doctor can write those prescriptions and you can get it prior to having to go to a hospital.

THE PRESIDENT: Great job. Thank you very much, Admiral. Mike, please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Robert Wilkie, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, good.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I know you didn't see him.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

SECRETARY WILKIE: Thank you, Mr. President and Mr. Vice President. My last appearance here, I mentioned that the President had given the Department of Veterans Affairs very specific instructions to be as aggressive as possible in response to the virus crisis, not only to protect veterans but also to help the American people.

As many of you know, we have three primary missions at VA: One is to support veterans health. The other is to provide veterans with benefits. And the third is memorial services. But we have a fourth mission, and that is to support the nation in times of national emergency, both in war and in peace.

We provide a bridge from the federal government to the states and localities during these emergencies. As a result of that, I have ordered our veterans hospitals to begin preparing more than 1,500 beds to make them available both at the ICU and the acute-care

level to the states and localities across the country. As a result of that, we have opened up approximately 100 beds in the metropolitan New York area, in Brooklyn, and in Manhattan, and East Orange, New Jersey.

We will be informing the governor of Louisiana, John Bel Edwards, tomorrow, that we will give him access to our VA Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, to come to the aid of the people of the Pelican State.

I've also given instructions to initiate the fourth mission in Michigan. We will be providing the people of Michigan access to hospital beds in both Ann Arbor and in Detroit. We've also provided a pharmaceutical trailer to be used by the governor of Michigan, at Cobo Hall, to support the citizens of Michigan who will be coming into that facility for medical care.

We have also informed the state -- the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that we will be helping them in their efforts to protect their most vulnerable citizens in two of their nursing homes.

So, in accord with the President's instructions, the 400,000 men and women of the Department of Veterans Affairs are in this fight. We are in the fight not only for the nine and a half million veterans who are part of our service, but we are in the fight for the people of the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Robert.

SECRETARY WILKIE: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Mike?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. And you all have just heard from several members of the President's White House Coronavirus Task Force, and we are -- we are truly blessed to have the kind of leadership that we have.

And whether it be Admiral Polowczyk, who is organizing the distribution of tens of millions of supplies; whether it be Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci, who are analyzing the data literally hour by hour; or whether it be that whole-of-government approach that you stood up, Mr. President, calling on every agency of government, including the VA, HHS, and every agency -- I hope the American people know, at this President's direction, we are -- we are sparing no expense. We are doing whatever it takes. We're marshaling the full resources of the federal government to respond to the challenges facing communities impacted today by the coronavirus and making sure every community in America has the support.

We've also -- as the President has said so many times, we forged a seamless partnership with states around the country. As the President just reflected, by this Tuesday, with another 840 military medical personnel arriving in New York City, there will be some 3,000 Department of Defense and HHS personnel on the ground to supplement and to provide relief to healthcare workers, really, at the epicenter of the coronavirus in the New York City area. And you just heard the VA is opening up -- opening up bed space.

In New Jersey, I spoke, at the President's urging today, with Governor Murphy. Five hundred ventilators, announced today, being built on the supplies that we have already provided. We were able to coordinate with him to extent all federal coordination on testing in New Jersey through May the 30th, if the need is there, and also opening up VA beds.

I spoke with Governor John Bel Edwards in Louisiana and was

encouraged to hear from him that, as you heard Dr. Birx say, that new cases were down slightly. In fact, we're seeing a trend of some leveling among all the governors I spoke to today. And I know what the Secretary of the VA just announced -- about opening up VA facilities -- has been a priority for Governor Edwards, but I assured him we're going to continue to send resources and supplies and personnel to support their healthcare.

In Michigan today, I spoke to both the governor, Gretchen Whitmer; and Mayor Mike Duggan of the city of Detroit. Governor Whitmer and I spoke about a new program in Detroit that will make hydrochloroquine available for 3,000 patients through the Henry Ford Hospital. They'll be tracking, in a formal study, the results of that.

But at the President's urging, I assured her that we're more than prepared to make hydrochloroquine broadly available to pharmacies and doctors' offices across the Detroit area as they deem appropriate.

I also heard from Mayor Mike Duggan, as I told you, Mr. President. And he was so grateful to the FDA, not only for approving the Henry Ford Hospital tests that will be exploring hydrochloroquine, but also for the rapid approval of the 15-minute test. In fact, Mayor Duggan told me that he was able to use the 15-minute test this weekend to test 150 first responders who had been sidelined because they'd been exposed to the coronavirus. They all got the 15-minute tests. They're all back in the line of duty. And the mayor couldn't have been more grateful.

In Illinois, I spoke with Governor J.B. Pritzker, as well as Mayor Lori Lightfoot of Chicago. As you just heard, not only have we sent 600 ventilators to the State of Illinois, but I assured -- I assured the governor, I assured the mayor that while the principal focus that we have in the next several days is on

the rising cases in the Greater New York City area and Louisiana, that Michigan and Illinois are in the forefront of our thinking. And at the President's direction, we're going to make sure the people of Illinois and the people of Michigan have the resources, equipment, and support that they need.

The governor did express great appreciation for the fact that our Army Corps of Engineers had constructed 500 beds at McCormick Place, and before the end of this week would construct another 2,500 beds for an overflow healthcare facility in Chicago.

In fact, Mr. President, Mayor Lightfoot told me that the Army Corps was just outstanding in the job that they have been doing in constructing that extra bed space.

As I close, let me just -- let me just express, as the President did, our profound appreciation for Governor Kate Brown and Governor Jay Inslee. The State of Oregon and the State of Washington are leading by example. Oregon sent 140 ventilators to New York City. They looked at their circumstances and concluded that they could spare those at the point of the need. And because of the low and steady numbers in Washington State and in California, Governor Inslee today announced that they were sending 400 ventilators back to the Strategic National Stockpile. And those will be deployed at the point of the need.

You know, not only are California and Washington State low and steady but, frankly, as I talked to governors and mayors today, I want to say to the American people that we -- we are beginning to see the glimmers of progress. The experts will tell me not to jump to any conclusions, and I'm not. But like your President, I'm an optimistic person and I'm hopeful.

And the truth is, we're starting to see cases and, most importantly, losses and hospitalizations begin to stabilize. But make no mistake about it: I want to say to the American people,

if that holds, if that's happening, it's because of what all of you are doing. It's because the American people are putting into practice the coronavirus guidelines for America. You're listening to your state and local officials. You're practicing social distancing. You're using drive-throughs instead of going into restaurants.

And so on behalf of your President and all of us who are working, really, at every level, I just want to say: Thank you, America. Thank you for responding. Thank you for putting other people's lives in the forefront of your thinking, and putting it, again, over and above your own inconvenience and difficulty.

Because of your efforts, there is, as the President just said, light at the end of the tunnel. And I'm absolutely convinced: With the continued cooperation, patience, persistence, and prayers of the American people, we'll get through this, and we'll get through this a lot sooner than we first thought it would take.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mike, very much. Thank you.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Yeah.

Q Mr. President, if I could start with the Admiral, if that's all right with you, sir. I wanted to ask you about the air gap flights, sir. There were the two flights that came through -- or the three flights. Where did they come from, sir?

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: They came from Asia.

Q Asia. Okay. And then, you were mentioning all these

supplies being dropped off -- the masks, the gowns, the hydrochloroquine. How are you guys making sure that there's not a run on these products? You know, you drop them off at hospital A and that people just don't rush and go grab every mask, gown?

And then a question for you, sir, after that.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: So, it's going to the loading dock, and there's an invoice. And so those people that are responsible for that loading dock and that invoice, they're going to make sure that there's not going to be a run on the bank.

Q You're not worried about a run on any of these supplies?

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: No.

Q Okay. Thank you, sir. I appreciate it.

Mr. President, first, did you have a chance --

THE PRESIDENT: They do get orders for a lot more than sometimes we think an area needs. Generally speaking, we like to either negotiate that down or give it to them as they want.

So we've had a lot of orders that we think are high, but we generally like, if we have it -- if we have, for instance, with the medicines and with other things, we like to give it to them.

Every day, we're building up and building it up very rapidly, and deploying it. But we do get orders from some of the states where we don't think they need it. We try and get it for them what they want anyway.

Okay? Go ahead.

Q And you mentioned the Prime Minister off the top.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any chance to speak to him today, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't speak to him, no. I did get a call from the ambassador. And, hey, it's a big -- it's a big move, going to the hospital. That's a big thing.

He's a great gentleman, so I -- you know, I just hope he's okay.

Q And then also, you mentioned the nurses, the doctors, the people that you see celebrating.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Sorry, the people that are gearing up and getting ready -- the people that are applauding and celebrating them.

Has there been any talk on any level whatsoever of some sort of either compensation fund or protection for nurses, doctors? Because there's been a lot of fear. There's been some people that said, "I can't risk my family's livelihood. I can't go back to the ER." Has there been any discussion --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're talking about it, and we're talking about doing something for them. But we're really looking at the conclusion. We want to just -- we don't want to focus on that now. They're incredible. There's -- they're not saying, "We're not doing it." They go in with good equipment, with great equipment, and with stuff that's not so good. And sometimes they catch it wearing the best stuff you can buy -- brand new, the best stuff.

This is a very tough enemy. But these are amazing people. No, we are talking about something, but we're really thinking about,

let's get it finished first before we do that.

Please.

Q Mr. President, the Surgeon General, this morning, was talking about the coming week being among the hardest and saddest weeks of our lives.

THE PRESIDENT: A tough -- tough week.

Q He was talking about this being our Pearl Harbor, our 9/11 moment. You all are talking about glimmers of hope and stabilization. How are the American people supposed to bridge those different descriptions that they're getting from this administration?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think they're so different. I think we all know that we have to reach a certain point, and that point is going to be a horrific point in terms of death. But it's also a point at which things are going to start changing.

We're getting very close to that level right now. And the next week and a half, two weeks are going to be -- I think they're going to be very difficult.

At the same time, we understand what they represent and what that time represents, and hopefully we can get this over with because this is a very horrible thing for the world. Hey, look, we're one country out of 182 now that have -- 182 countries.

I have a friend of mine -- said he didn't know we had so many countries in the world. A hundred and eighty-two countries are now affected by this. So we want to get it over with. Okay?

Please.

Q And with those numbers, sir -- could I just ask one follow-up --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q -- on those numbers that you were talking about earlier? How does that change the projections that you were making earlier this week of 100,000 to 240,000 deaths?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we hope we can stay under those numbers. Those are numbers of death. And we hope we can stay under those numbers. That would be terrific. And as far under those numbers as possible.

Now, if we did nothing, you know that number too. But the American people really stepped up; so did the professionals. They just really stepped up. So we're hoping to stay under those numbers.

And that means the minimum and the maximum, but we're hoping to stay under the minimum number. You know what that number was.

Q Right. But do the numbers that you were talking about today, have they changed those projections?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say the answer is "yes," but I would also say that we're not going to know really in terms of a final toll until we get out to the end. And we're probably, possibly, not so far away. We're getting closer. But it's our goal to stay as far under that minimum number -- the minimum number as possible. Okay? That's what we want to do.

Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, as President of the United States, your words carry enormous weight in this country and around the world. And

while you acknowledge you're not a physician, you do promote these medicines extensively here. How do you not go so far as to be giving medical advice? And you said, yesterday, you might take some of these medicines, even though you don't have symptoms. Are you still planning to do that? And how do you calibrate being enthusiastic --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- and not playing doctor?

THE PRESIDENT: Because I want people to live and I'm seeing people dying. And I see people that are going to die without it. And you know the expression. When that's happening, they should do it. What really do we have to lose?

We also have -- this medicine has been tested for many years for malaria and for lupus, so it's been out there. So it's a very strong, powerful medicine, but it doesn't kill people. We have some very good results and some very good tests. You've seen the same test that I have.

Q But for those without symptoms, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: In France, they had a very good test; they're continuing. But we don't have time to go and say, "Gee, let's take a couple of years and test it out. And let's go and test with the test tubes and the laboratories." We don't have time. I'd love to do that. But we have people dying today. As we speak, there are people dying. If it works, that would be great. If it doesn't work -- we know, for many years, malaria, it -- it's incredible what it's done for malaria; it's incredible what it's done for lupus. But it doesn't kill people.

That's one of the things with a vaccine. When we have a vaccine, we have to do tests because when you inject that vaccine, when

they take whatever ever it is they have to take, we have to make sure it doesn't have a horrible impact, destroy somebody. Good? So we have to test it for a long period of time. This one, not so much because it's been out there.

Now, I'm not acting as a doctor. I'm saying, "Do what you want, but there are some good signs." You've read the signs, I've read the signs. With the other one, there's some very good signs also. Different -- going together works very well. But there may be an indication that if you have a problem with your heart, you shouldn't take what we call the Z-Pak. You shouldn't take it, and that's okay.

But I would love to go to a laboratory and spend a couple of years testing something. We don't have time. We don't have two hours, because there are people dying right now. If it does help, great. If it doesn't help, we gave it a shot. We gave it a shot. That's the way I feel.

Q Were you serious about taking it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, we passed something -- yeah, I would -- I would be very serious about taking it.

We passed something that I'm very proud of. It's called Right to Try. For 45, 50 years, they've been trying. It makes so much sense. We have the greatest doctors and labs and lab technicians, the greatest medicines, the greatest minds in the world. Everybody admits it. And when we're close to having something, or when we have something that tests incredibly well, you couldn't use it for years because they would take years and years to test.

So with the help of also Democrats -- I got it bipartisan, but they've been trying to get this passed for -- for decades. You know that. It's called Right to Try. So a person would be

diagnosed terminally ill from something. And in the old days, meaning before a year ago, they would say, "Do you think I could try this -- this pill, this whatever, this medicine that's testing so well?" "No, you can't do that. You can't do that under no circumstances." They'd leave for Asia, they'd leave for Europe, they'd leave for -- if they had money. If they had no money, they'd go home and die with no hope.

We got a thing called Right to Try. If somebody is very ill, terminally ill, they're going to die. They -- and it was very complex. It wasn't as easy as it sounds because there were huge liability problems. The drug companies didn't want to do it because they didn't want it on test results -- because these are very sick people, so they didn't want to bring down their test results. The insurance companies had tremendous problems.

I got everybody in the room, I said, "Look, we'll sign a waiver." The person taking it will say, "We're not going to sue." The family is not going to sue the drug company, not going to sue the insurance company, not going to sue the state, the city, or the federal government. Okay? It's called "exculpation." And we got it done. It's a very simple agreement. I don't know why nobody ever thought of it, but they never thought of it. I did. And we got it done.

Now we have Right to Try, which is actually, in my opinion, much more difficult than what we're talking about here. But if there's a medicine or something, a possible cure, or something that's looking good and somebody has something that's going -- they're going to die or they're very sick, they take it. And, you know, we've had some unbelievable results. Unbelievable results. And it also gives the people hope.

Yes, please.

Q Mr. President, but the doctors who are treating coronavirus

patients, they have the medical expertise to determine whether or not they should prescribe hydroxychloroquine.

THE PRESIDENT: That's true. And many of them do.

Q And there are already clinical trials in place --

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q -- looking at hydroxychloroquine.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q So, why not --

THE PRESIDENT: They should be finished in about a year.

Q Why not just let the science speak for itself? Why are you promoting this drug?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not. I'm not. I'm just saying --

Q You're coming out --

THE PRESIDENT: -- very simply. I'm not at all. I'm not.

Look, you know what I'm trying to do? I'm trying to save lives.

Q Well, you come out here every day -- right, sir? -- talking about the benefits of hydroxychloroquine.

THE PRESIDENT: I want them to try it. And it may work, and it may not work. But if it doesn't work, it's nothing lost by doing it. Nothing.

Q What do you --

THE PRESIDENT: Because we know -- long term, what I want, I want to save lives. And I don't want it to be in a lab for the next year and a half as people are dying all over the place.

Q But it's already out there. Doctors are already able to prescribe it off label.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q Right? So what do you accomplish?

THE PRESIDENT: All I'm doing is saying -- well, I'll tell you what I accomplish. We bought massive amounts of it -- 29 million doses of it. We have it coming from all of the labs. We're actually now doing it here, because in case it does work, we want to have it. And we've given it to drugstores, we're -- we're sending it all over. FEMA is doing it. FEMA is doing it. We're doing it through different channels, many different channels, including the companies that make it.

Q So you --

THE PRESIDENT: It's a very special thing. Now, it may not work, in which case, hey, it didn't work. And it may work, in which case, it's going to save a lot of lives. Now, a lot of people say, if the people walking in prior to getting it, if they take it, it has a profound effect. Well, maybe it does and maybe it doesn't.

Q Where is the conclusive medical evidence of that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to wait a year and a half to find out.

And only CNN would ask that question. Fake news.

Go ahead.

Q Sir, I have one for you on oil --

THE PRESIDENT: A bunch of fakers.

Q -- but, first, I was hoping to ask Dr. Birx a question. The President just said that -- based on the most recent data, that you've seen some change in the projection. I'm wondering if you could -- you obviously have a week's more worth of data since the, sort of, 100,000 to 240,000 potential death figures that you gave us last week.

So I'm wondering, with all the caveats that this is, sort of, based on -- continuing social distancing -- that we might see -- you know, if one city pops, things could change dramatically. What -- what are the, sort of, range that you're now looking at in terms of total death impact?

DR. BIRX: I think the most important thing right now is when we were talking about why we are hopeful. We're hopeful because last time I was here, I wasn't able to really tell you that Italy and Spain were coming across their apex and coming down the other side. And I think, to me, that's extraordinarily hopeful. They just completed four weeks of really strong mitigation. And I think that's our word to the American people, is we can look like that. Two other countries look like that now -- two other countries with a very similar experience to our experience, with higher case numbers and higher mortality.

So that's what the promise is. The promise is: If we do this, we could potentially be better. Now, Dr. Fauci and I today got another update from another independent modeler, and the numbers came in close to that hundred thousand number.

Again, but we believe -- Dr. Fauci and I -- that if every American follows the guidelines -- six feet, washing hands, not social gathering -- that will have an even greater impact. And the other side of the equation certainly is our remarkable healthcare providers, our respiratory therapists, our laboratory technicians, our nurses and doctors. They're saving lives every day. And so that changes the number too.

THE PRESIDENT: I also think that Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx are very impressed with the American people. And I'm not going to put words in anybody's mouth -- I would never do that -- but I am, and I will say that they are doing maybe a better job than we all thought even possible.

When you look at streets in New York where there's nobody in the street, no cars, no nothing -- I see it. You know, I've seen those streets for a long time and they're packed all the time. And now you see there's nobody. You look at other places; you look at what's going on in California where they're doing a fantastic job. They really are. The governor is doing great. I'm proud of them. I'm proud of a lot of people -- proud of a lot of people on the other side. You know, of a lot of people.

Really -- I'm really delighted to work with people that, frankly, on other issues, I didn't get along so well with. We disagree on this or that; we don't have to go into that now. But we're getting along with a lot of people. And they're happy with us. We're happy with them.

But I really believe that the American people are doing a better job than anybody would have thought even possible, and that's one of the reasons we can even be talking about the kind of number that we hopefully will be talking about, which is at the minimum level instead of the maximum or beyond. It's not even the

maximum -- it's much beyond a maximum level, which would be horrific.

Yes, please.

Q Oh, go ahead.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Please.

Q Secretary Esper mentioned the Department of Defense might be moving in the direction of using face coverings. Former Vice President Biden had mentioned that he was going to be using a mask whenever he goes out now. Are we getting to a point where we might see members of the Coronavirus Task Force also wear face coverings?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it was voluntary, as I saw it yesterday. And certainly, if they'd want to, I would -- I would encourage it. I would have absolutely no problem with that if they wanted.

We had a long meeting today. There's good separation. But the task force meets and I would certainly have absolutely no problem if they wanted to. I think, frankly, it's something, at least for a period of time, where it might be advisable. And you know, it's advisory. And we'll see what happens.

Yes, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. On Project Air Bridge, we've seen reports that Chinese shipments, testing kits, and PPE have turned out to be faulty to some capacity. We obviously don't have overstock.

THE PRESIDENT: Not here. No, not here. No, no, no --

Q No, but to Spain, in particular.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, no, you've seen in Spain and you've seen in different -- they're not sending faulty things to us.

Q So we're not concerned that any of the PPE we're importing is defective?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we test it. We look at it. We check it out.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: Please.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: One of the things we're doing to prevent that is using those six companies that are the ones in the major supply chain. We're actually going to facilities, looking at product, inspecting it, and clearing it before it comes here. So you've -- we've heard those things. That's why -- that's why we're doing that.

Q Okay. Thank you. A follow-up for the doctors if possible --

THE PRESIDENT: And we're also sending it to other -- from other locations.

Q Right.

THE PRESIDENT: And when it comes to the ventilators, which are very complex, we are now building -- we have now, under construction, literally thousands of ventilators. So -- but so far, I think our projections on ventilators have been

right. They've been correct.

Did you have something? For who?

Q Well, for yourself and for Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci if they want to take a crack at it. Some of the models that you guys were using -- the IHME model, in particular, has been very accurate when it comes to projecting deaths over the last couple of days. But there's a couple of other metrics that they seem to be pretty far off on -- specifically hospital beds. Are you guys, you know, happy with the models you're currently using? Is there any need to adjust those?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's turning out that we need less hospital beds.

Q Right, but --

THE PRESIDENT: That's what you're talking about. And that's what we -- well, we may have models, but we've been sort of saying that. In New York, we were saying we think you're going to need less. Now, let's hope that continues. But right now -- I heard Governor Cuomo this morning, and he was saying less hospital beds, also less death. That was a very big thing. First time -- less death today than yesterday, right? That's a big thing. But also less hospital beds. That means less patients because basically it's less patients. And we were saying that. And it also means less ventilators. So there's a lot of -- a lot of very positive things happening.

Okay. Please.

Q Thank you, sir. With Prime Minister Johnson hospitalized -
-

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q -- I noticed a few minutes ago you were standing right next to Vice President Pence. Are you considering staying away from each other just to make sure we have continuity of government in the executive branch?

THE PRESIDENT: We have -- we have this tiny platform and I'd love it to be wider. You're staying away from each other.

Mike, you were tested?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Like recently. So was I, a couple of days ago.

Q But what I mean: You keep interacting with groups of people --

THE PRESIDENT: We are. We are. We are. You know, here we are on this platform. And -- but I get next to him, I don't breathe. I'm only kidding. We are -- we are sometimes forced into positions that I'd rather -- I'd rather be away, but it's -- you know, you're all looking for questions. Mike is a very big part of this; I am. It's very difficult maintaining like, this distance on this little area.

Q Mr. President, I just wanted to ask really quickly, under what circumstances you would consider leveling imports -- tariffs on imports of oil to the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if the oil price stays the way it is because of people that really want to see it go up -- when I say get -- we want to save a great industry. We built a great industry in this country. If they don't get along, I would do that. Yeah, I would do tariffs, very substantial

tariffs. Because we're independent now; we have our own oil.

And if I did the tariffs, we essentially would be saying, "We don't want foreign oil. We don't want any foreign oil. We're just going to use our oil." And that would help to save an industry. And, you know, it's become a tremendous job producer. And it's great to be independent. We're independent. Our energy is now independent. We produce more oil than -- oil and gas than anybody else, than any other country. And that all took place over the very recent time.

Now, in the meantime, I'm seeing 91 dollars -- 91 cents a gallon out on the road. Okay? A lot of people are happy. I see very inexpensive jet fuel. We're trying to save the airline industry. But I want to save our great energy industry and that's what we're doing.

Yeah. So I would -- I would absolutely do that. And what we'll do -- the price will still be very low -- but what we'll do is we'll save -- and, very importantly, we'll save tens of thousands of jobs.

One of the other things we're doing is having oil shipped to our strategic oil reserves. Okay? And, you know, we're buying it for the right price and we're shipping it. In some cases, we're storing it for nothing. They're there. We're filling up our reserves with this very inexpensive oil. Nobody thought they'd ever see a price -- this is like from the 1950s, where they had big dollars, okay?

So, no, I would use tariffs if I had to. I don't think I'm going to have to because Russia doesn't benefit by having this and Saudi Arabia doesn't benefit by having it. They -- you know, oil and gas are their major sources of income. So it's obviously very bad for them.

But we have to -- we have an industry that's a very important industry and it's really formed beautifully. It was the virus that killed it because what happened is it's down 40 percent from the day this happened -- 40 percent. Otherwise, it would be doing phenomenally well. So that's it.

Yeah.

Q Mr. President, can we get an idea of a timeline for those people that are waiting for the stimulus checks -- how many more days they may have to wait?

And then, Speaker Pelosi, today -- or I think last night said, in the next bill, that they would like to see additional stimulus checks made. Have you guys thrown around an amount of how much money --

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I like the concept of it. I think it's good. We're talking about a different way of doing it, but I like the concept.

I like the concept of infrastructure. Our country has to be rebuilt. They spent all this money in the Middle East -- \$8 trillion. We're up to now \$8 trillion in the Middle East. We got to rebuild our country. Okay? We have to rebuild our roads, and our schools, our bridges. We have to rebuild our country. So, I like an infrastructure bill.

I also like money going directly to people. It's not their fault that this happened.

And I do think this -- especially the faster we can get it open, our country -- can you believe we're talking about our country, getting our country open? The faster we get it open, the bigger the boom, the bigger the rocket ship going up. I think it has a chance to go really quickly, relatively quickly. I'd like to see

very quickly, but we'll see.

But part of the stimulus and part of what we're doing, that will help it. And the nice part is we're paying practically zero interest rates. You know we're paying very little. It's one of the reasons I like the infrastructure bill, because we're borrowing -- we have a strong dollar. And the advantage to a strong dollar is everybody wants to invest in this country. They all want to buy our dollar.

Q On the direct payments, sir: Just in terms of timeline, are we talking still two weeks? Are we talking ten days?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. Yeah, from what I'm hearing that's -
-

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Two weeks.

Q Two weeks? Okay, two weeks. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, a couple of weeks. That's what I'm hearing. Yeah.

Please.

Q Thank you, sir. I wanted to follow up on the hydroxy question. Thanks for the numbers. Has there been any tension with the medical staff on that? Are they in agreement with all these numbers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we -- we discussed it with the staff. We discussed it with FDA. Well, the FDA approved it. So, you know -- which is another point. I mean it's been approved by FDA, which is very important. If it wasn't approved by FDA, then I couldn't do this. But FDA has approved it, the hydroxy.

Q And also, if this turns out not to work, are hospitals and doctors going to be exculpatory from the federal government under the Right to Try?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we'll see if it works. No, it's not going to -- it's not going to hurt people. It can help them, but it's not going to hurt them. That's the beauty of it, you see. It can help them, but it's not going to hurt them. What do you have to lose?

Okay, a question? Yeah, in the back, please.

Q Yeah, you know, obviously we know anyone can spread the disease, right? Unwittingly.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q So why even have a few businesses open? Why not just shut everything down? There are grocery stores that are open, fast food places. Why even take a little chance? Just shutter them all down for -- temporarily.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to have to -- we'll answer that question later. All I can say is that right now things are looking now things are looking really good and opening up with a bang will be a great thing. And there's nobody going to be happier than me.

Please, go ahead.

Q Just to follow up on your comments about the ventilators --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- the IHME model suggests that 32,000 ventilators will be required by the peak in mid-April. GM is not expected to have

ventilators ready before --

THE PRESIDENT: Thirty-two thousand will be what?

Q Required across the country. GM --

THE PRESIDENT: In addition to the ones that we've already sent?

Q Just in -- in general.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't forget, we have almost 10,000 -- a little more 9,000 right now. And those are ready to rock should we need them.

And we had to keep it. You understand that: flexibility. So that if we need them in New York -- which we might not -- if we need them. But they're ready to move. We have -- we're all ready. Military -- it's a military operation. We are ready to move. They'll be moved immediately into whatever section of the country we need.

Would you like to answer that by the way?

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: Yes, sir. So, correct. FEMA is working on plan to be able to move ventilators. So, for example, if DOD gave another 500 ventilators, they're on the move to being staged at Fort Dix, to be able to rapidly deploy them to locations. And to include -- you know, you heard the President mentioned states giving to states, things like that. So there's -- there's the ventilators that aren't in use that conceivably we could rapidly move as well.

Q Right, but you mentioned that there were thousands that are currently being made.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q So I just wondered if there was any update with GM and Ford just because they --

THE PRESIDENT: No, but they're not going to be long. They've started. GM, Ford, we have many -- we have 11 companies -- approximately 11 companies -- building them. And we're going to have a stockpile for future -- hopefully, we never have to use them. They should have -- the hospitals, the states should have bought a stockpile. They didn't do that. So we've made up for it.

But if we have extras -- other countries need them. I mean, you see UK needs them badly, France needs a badly, Italy needs them badly. They need them. So, it's complicated. It's a big piece of equipment. It's expensive. And we'll be able to help other countries after we take care of our needs.

Yes, please. Go ahead.

Q Yeah, thank you, sir. On infrastructure spending, as you have remarked --

THE PRESIDENT: I actually choose you, but that's okay.

Q Oh, I'm sorry. I'll let --

THE PRESIDENT: I'll let him go. That's all right. Go ahead.

Q Thank you. On infrastructure, you have remarked about how empty the roads are. Is there any thought, is there any way to speed up infrastructure? I mean, the beltway in Washington, it takes forever to do any road repairs, because of all the traffic --

THE PRESIDENT: No, I know. And because they don't do

construction techniques that work and that are better. I mean, I see a highway and that's -- which is what I do. I do construction -- what I did.

I see highway that's good but it's got a bad top, and it's got a big base -- concrete base underneath. And I'll see them come in -- I don't want to say where, but I could tell you; I could give you plenty of examples -- and they rip the hell out of it. They take out the base. They take out everything. Now they pour a new base that isn't as good, isn't as deep, isn't as thick. The concrete base was fantastic -- the footing. It takes forever.

Q What I mean is --

THE PRESIDENT: Wait a minute. It takes forever. And instead of scraping out the asphalt, or whatever may be the top -- scraping it off and putting the new asphalt down, putting the new median in. They could have done it.

And then they open the highway and it starts to crack. The reason is because it hasn't been set. And they spend 10, 15, 20 times more money than they have to. I never believe, when I watch these people doing highways and doing roadways and doing work, how they take the most expensive solution. And the bottom line: The job itself is far worse.

Q So that's -- that's what I'm getting at, is taking advantage of the fact that so many people are staying at home --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- not on the roads. Is there a way to do it more cheaply and efficiently?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, yeah, but hopefully they're not going to be staying at home for long. Hopefully, this will be out and we're

not going to have that kind of time. If we have that kind of time, we made a big mistake.

Please, go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. How many rapid tests has the federal government already deployed across the country? And which regions received those tests?

THE PRESIDENT: Who has that information?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I can speak about that.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, Mike.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Deb can follow up.

The 15-minute test has really been a breakthrough. I've reflected on the progress that they've made in Detroit to put first responders back on duty with the Abbott Laboratories test. Abbott Laboratories started last Tuesday producing about 50,000 tests a day.

And there's -- I'm informed of that there are about 18,000 of these machines already all across the country. I mean, they are -- they're actually the same machines that you use to get a strep test quickly when you go to the doctor. But now Abbott is surging these new 15-minute coronavirus tests out to healthcare professionals and healthcare facilities around the country.

In addition, as the President said, FEMA has purchased 1,200 of these devices. We're distributing them to all 50 states and the Indian healthcare system, and then we'll be distributing the tests.

Dr. Birx, is there anything to add further on that?

DR. BIRX: That's perfect, sir.

Q So (inaudible) these tests?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Let me ask Admiral Polowczyk about the 1,200 devices.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: I didn't hear the question.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Have they received the 1,200 or what's the timetable?

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: I believe they're on the shelf at Abbott -- a good majority of them.

THE PRESIDENT: Tuesday they go out.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: Right. Yes, sir. So, I don't have the exact numbers. I think there is some manufacturing in there, but the large balance of them are on the shelf.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Some have gone out, by the way, but the big bulk of them go out on Tuesday.

Yeah, please.

Q Sir, in some of these previous briefings, you referred to the federal government as the backup. Today, there's definitely a different approach here, I think --

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q -- with the distribution. The sense of it, in listening to

your presentation today, is that you are embracing taking a leader role for distribution. Is there a change?

THE PRESIDENT: No, there's not a change, but we're supposed to be the backup. But like in Illinois, the governor couldn't do his job so we had to help him. We're sending 600 ventilators. We're building a hospital in McCormick Place. We're doing it.

So we have some people that were not able to do. We have other people that needed a little help. We had -- in New York, we had to give a lot of help, but we've worked very well with Governor Cuomo and with Mayor de Blasio.

But, no, we are meant to be the backup, but we've taken on a much bigger role than that, and that's okay. I have no objection to it.

Now, in some cases, it's worked so well, where they're actually now seeing -- they think they're over -- over the big problem. And they're actually calling us and they're saying, "You can take your equipment back now." But we're really deployed as a backup, but I feel we're much more than that. They've done a much better job.

I will say this: I don't think that the people that have represented this country, the federal government -- whether it's the Admiral and the generals and all of the people that we call to the fore -- I just -- they're heroes for what they've done. What they've been able to do in a short period of time -- they took a system that was broken, just like we did the military. Our military was broken. Our military was depleted and it was broken, and we've rebuilt our military. We've rebuilt this whole system too.

And I -- in a way, Kelly, I appreciate your question because, you

know, you're hearing all of the things that we're -- the millions of masks, the hundreds of thousands of gowns. And they're surgical -- you know, they're protective gowns at the highest level. We're getting it to the various states. And most of the governors are very happy.

Now, a lot of times, you know, it's politics. Maybe I do the same thing, I don't know. But they'll try and act not so happy.

I will tell you, when I speak to them or when the Vice President speaks to them, they're singing the praises of all of these people. So I always take umbrage when -- when somebody says something about what we've done.

Now, to do this -- to do this should have taken --

Q And does the buck stop with you next, sir? Is that what has happened?

THE PRESIDENT: To do what we've been able to do and to build it to a level, it should have taken a year. It should've taken two years. They did it in a matter of weeks. And we're helping states.

No, it's them. As an example, New York had the right to buy 16,000 ventilators. They could have bought them. They didn't. I understand why they didn't. It was a very expensive purchase. You know, a very expensive -- and that's a lot: 16,000. And they chose to do something else with their money. I understand that. The problem is when something like this comes along, which you don't expect.

Look, 1917 -- that's a long time ago -- perhaps 100 million people died. That's a long time ago. So people don't think it's going to happen. I would have, frankly -- I mean, did anybody in this room think a thing like this could happen? But it

happened. And we built up a force. This is a military operation, as it turned out -- it really is -- with FEMA, with the Army Corps of Engineers.

I mean, Army Corps of -- and you were very gracious on that point. The Army Corps of Engineers is building 2,500 units of beds and everything else now. And then Governor Cuomo called and he wanted it to go COVID, meaning, for the problem. And we said, "Well, it wasn't supposed to be that way, but we want to get it done." And we've moved military personnel, so now military personnel are operating it.

And I'll tell you what's -- what's good. It hasn't been very full. That's a good thing, not a bad thing. It hasn't been. Now, maybe over the next week, something will happen, but it hasn't been.

But we have -- because it's better than the other alternative where we run out. But they built actually 2,900 beds. And we have -- also, we built four medical centers in New York. We've built four hospitals, four medical centers, and a lot more than that.

It's such an honor to have done it. But the people that did it are amazing and they have to be appreciated by the states, not me. They don't have appreciate me at all. I don't care about me. They have to appreciate the generals, the admirals, the doctors, the nurses.

I mean, we're bringing now 3,000 people in that are medical professionals that are coming from all over the country to help New York City, help New York State, and help many other places.

I just think it's incredible what they've done, and I don't think that they've been appreciated. Me, you can forget about. Me, you can forget --

Q Really, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Yeah, I rea- -- I actually mean it. They have to be appreciated.

Go in the back, please.

Q Mr. President, when you said that you're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and yesterday you said --

THE PRESIDENT: I do. I do.

Q Yeah. Sure.

THE PRESIDENT: I see light at the end of the tunnel.

Q But yesterday --

THE PRESIDENT: If I didn't, I would not be -- I would not be very thrilled with what we've done. No, I see light at the end of the tunnel. I think indications are some of the numbers coming out today. I think, you know, we had a very good meeting today. We're seeing things that we don't even report because we think it's too early to report.

No, I think, you know, we're seeing things happen that are very good. And we also know -- all of us, including the medical professionals -- that we have to open our country up. We have to get go- -- we have to open our country up. No country was designed for this, where you close it. We're in the midst of the greatest economic boom in history for any country. Our country had the greatest economic boom in history. We had the most people working that we've ever had, almost 160 million people. And then from 160 million, they want nobody to leave the house.

You know, you could use the term "cold turkey." Right? That's called "cold turkey." Countries are not designed -- this country is not designed for that. We have to get our country back. And I think it's going to come back, and I hope it's going to come back very quickly.

Q So my question, sir --

Q A question, sir --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, please. Go ahead.

Q Sir, the First Lady has been tweeting and encouraging people to wear face masks. Has she --

THE PRESIDENT: That's good.

Q Has she been talking to you about this --

THE PRESIDENT: No, she feels that way.

Q -- encouraging you to wear one?

THE PRESIDENT: She feels that -- I -- I would wear one. I mean, I just -- generally, I'm not in a -- like, I should -- would you like me to wear one right now and answer your question? That would be a little awkward, I guess.

But, no, I mean -- again, I would wear one if it was -- if I thought it was important.

She -- she thinks -- she likes the idea of wearing it, yeah. She does. A lot of people do. Again, it's a recommendation, and I understand that recommendation and I'm okay with it.

Q What about your family in New York? Are they going to be wearing them? Are you encouraging them to wear them?

THE PRESIDENT: Wouldn't be surprised.

Q Can we hear from Dr. Fauci, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. What would you like to know?

Q If we're going into this most difficult of times, how can the American people, sort of, emotionally prepare for that? And while the President is talking and is eager to see the country reopen, how do we balance the mitigating factors that still need to take place before we get to that point?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. Doctor?

And, by the way, he -- he'd like to see the company [sic] open too. I mean, you know --

Q Everyone would, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: He's called "an American who loves our country."

DR. FAUCI: Okay, so part of the answer to your question, I think, relates to two other questions I heard. And I think it came from the back about how can you, on the one hand, have said yesterday that this is really going to be a bad week at the same time that we're talking about the light at the end of the tunnel.

It seems to be inherently contradictory, but it really isn't. And it has to do with what we explained before about the lag in when you look at the indications that Dr. Birx and the President was talking about, where you see a flattening out of cases, and you don't see the realization of what that means until

two weeks later. So right now, we're seeing, as we all said correctly, that this is probably going to be a really bad week. That is a reflection of what happened two and a half weeks ago.

So if we start seeing now a flattening or stabilization of cases, what you're hearing about potential light at the end of the tunnel doesn't take away from the fact that tomorrow or the next day is going to look really bad. So we've got to make sure we realize we're always talking about a two-and-a-half-week lag. So I want to make sure -- because I think a couple of people asked that question. It's really not incompatible with what we're saying.

Now, with regard to what do we tell the American people, what -- Kelly, what we've been telling them all along, that the -- the only tool, but the best tool we have is mitigation. We know it worked in other countries, and we're seeing how it's working here. So if we really want to make sure that we don't have these kinds of rebounds that we're worried about, it's mitigation, mitigation, mitigation. That's the answer.

Q When new cities or new states come on the chart --

DR. FAUCI: Yeah.

Q -- what's the message for people in those places that have not been the focus?

DR. FAUCI: It's the same thing. It's mitigation mitigation, mitigation. In fact -- (laughs) -- (looks for chart) -- here's the famous Vice President chart -- is that this is the minimal of what we should be doing. You know, everyone should be doing that.

And everything on here, one way or the other, points to physical

separation, whether it's no crowds, whether it's six feet, whether it's staying away from theaters and restaurants or what have you.

Q And churches and places of worship?

DR. FAUCI: Exactly. Exactly.

Q Doctor, are you worried at all about people becoming complacent? Are you worried -- I mean, because a couple of days of this, I think people are about ready to go nuts staying in their house. And I'm just curious, are you worried at all that after, you know, seven days from now, people are going to say, "Look, I gave it my best shot. I got to get out"? I mean --

DR. FAUCI: You know, I wouldn't say I'm worried about it because I don't think it's going to happen. I mean, from what I've seen -- and I mentioned it the other day -- my own experience is that people really understand the responsibility that they have for themselves, for their family, and for the country. So this is about all of us. This isn't just about us. Because if everybody does their part, you are going to not have those kind of rebounds that we're worried about.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Dr. Fauci, how many additional asymptomatic cases do you think there are currently in the United States? There's 330,000 more confirmed cases. How many asymptomatic, given what we've learned in recent days?

DR. FAUCI: You know, we don't know. And even among us, good friends that we are -- (laughs) -- we -- we differ about that. I mean, it's somewhere between 25 and 50 percent.

Q More than --

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. Yeah, in other words, about the people --

Q -- the current level?

DR. FAUCI: Yeah, about the people that are out there. Yeah.

And trust me, that is a estimate. I don't have any scientific data yet to say that. You know when we'll get the scientific data, when we get those antibody tests out there and we really know what the penetrance is. Then we can answer the questions in a scientifically sound way. Right now, we're just guessing.

THE PRESIDENT: And we've made great progress with the antibody testing. Fantastic progress.

DR. FAUCI: Right.

Q And would you also weigh in on this issue of hydroxychloroquine? What do you think about this? And what is the -- what is the medical evidence?

THE PRESIDENT: Do you know how many times you've answered that question?

DR. FAUCI: Yeah --

Q But I'd love to hear from the doctor.

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe 15. Fifteen times. You don't have to ask the question.

Q He's -- he's your medical expert, correct?

THE PRESIDENT: He's answered that question 15 times.

Q Dr. Fauci, why are you not wearing a facemask?

DR. FAUCI: What do you mean? Why am I not wearing a face mask now? Okay, there are a couple of reasons. One of them is that part of the -- in fact, the major reason to wear a facemask is to protect you from infecting you. I had my test yesterday, and it's negative.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

DR. FAUCI: Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a very -- a very good answer. All right, I think that really could be it. That was a very -- I love that answer, especially on the facemask. I thought it was very good.

Go ahead.

Q Sir, on the equipment issue, records show that federal agencies did not begin --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, stop it.

Q -- did not begin --

THE PRESIDENT: Who are you with? By the way, who are you with?

Q With the Associated Press, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Who you with?

Q The Associated Press. Agencies didn't begin bulk --

THE PRESIDENT: That's another beautiful -- that's another beautiful (inaudible) --

Q -- bulk purchases of respirators and N95 masks until mid-March.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you ready? Are you ready? Let me just answer your question because I know exactly -- you know, the same question you ask all the time. Ready?

Q It's the first time I've asked this, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: They have done an unbelievable job in delivering --

For the Associated Press, which is, you know, not so great, not like it used to be.

The people that you're looking at -- FEMA, the military -- what they've done is a miracle. What they've done is a miracle in getting all of this stuff. What they've done for states is incredible. And you should be thanking them for what they've done, not always asking wise-guy questions.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you. Thank you.

END

8:21 P.M. EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: Amin, Stacy [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CB3764B7438648838C22881A06FC6AFB-STACY.AMIN]
Sent: 4/7/2020 4:35:51 PM
To: Thallam, Satya P. EOP/OMB (b)(6); McCormack, Brian V. EOP/OMB (b)(6); D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB (b)(6); Bruno, Grace A. EOP/OMB (b)(6); Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]; Jungman, Elizabeth [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5238a0caec064ba8b5d598115bc4f99f-Elizabeth.J]; Williams, Michael B. EOP/WHO [Michael.B.Williams@who.eop.gov]; Williams, James H. EOP/WHO [James.H.Williams@who.eop.gov]; Pinkos, Stephen M. EOP/OVP (b)(6)
Subject: RE: HOLD: follow-up/update on hand sanitizer

Sorry I think my EA must have responded on my behalf. Buried in work today and just seeing this thread. I can't talk at 7 but happy to talk tomorrow.

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Thallam, Satya P. EOP/OMB <Satya.P.Thallam@omb.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:27 PM
To: McCormack, Brian V. EOP/OMB; D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB; Bruno, Grace A. EOP/OMB; Lenihan, Keagan; Jungman, Elizabeth; Williams, Michael B. EOP/WHO; Williams, James H. EOP/WHO; Amin, Stacy; Pinkos, Stephen M. EOP/OVP
Subject: HOLD: follow-up/update on hand sanitizer
When: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 7:00 PM-7:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: 202.395.6392,,, (b)(6)

[Can move as needed]

In order to access the conference as a participant, dial the number below and enter the Participant Code:

Participant Dial-In: (202) 395-6392

Participant Code: (b)(6)

FDA team –

Thank you for your continued attention to this issue.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 3:25:51 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing (April 6, 2020)



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP,
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE
IN PRESS BRIEFING

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

April 6, 2020

5:41 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you very much. This week, America continues our aggressive effort to defeat the virus as we enter a crucial and difficult phase of the battle.

We continue to send our prayers to the people of New York and New Jersey, and to our whole country. But right now, New York and New Jersey are very hot zones, and we're with them. We're with everybody. Your struggle is our struggle, and we will beat this

virus. We will beat it together.

I also want to send best wishes to a very good friend of mine and a friend to our nation, Prime Minister Boris Johnson. We're very saddened to hear that he was taken into intensive care this afternoon, a little while ago, and Americans are all praying for his recovery. He's been a really good friend. He's been really something very special. Strong. Resolute. Doesn't quit. Doesn't give up.

We have made tremendous progress on therapeutics. I had a fantastic call today, which I'll be talking about a little bit later. And I've asked two of the leading companies -- these are brilliant companies. Ebola, AIDS, others. They've come with the solutions and just have done incredible jobs. And I've asked them to contact London immediately. They have offices in London. They're major companies. But more than major, more than size, they're genius.

And I had a talk with four of them today. And they speak a language that most people don't even understand, but I understand something: that they've really advanced therapeutics and therapeutically, and they have arrived in London already. Their London office has whatever they need, and we'll see if we can be of help.

We've contacted all of Boris's doctors, and we'll see what is going to take place. But they are ready to go. But when you get brought into intensive care, that gets very, very serious with this particular disease.

So, the two companies are there. And with what they are talking about -- and it's rather complex and has had really incredible results -- we're working with the FDA and everybody else, but we are working with London, with respect to Boris Johnson.

Across the country, we're attacking the enemy on all fronts, including medical, scientific, social, logistical, and economic. We're pressing into action the full power of American government and American enterprise. And our military has been incredible. We've just sent 3,000 public health personnel. They're now deployed in the New York area, and they'll be over at the Javits Center, over at the great ship.

And as you probably have heard -- and I was informed that Governor Cuomo has already told you and announced -- he called me up a little while ago, and he asked whether or not it would be possible to use the ship, with respect to fighting the virus. And we hadn't had that in mind at all, but we're going to let him do it, and we're also going to let New Jersey. Governor Murphy -- we spoke with him a little while ago, and New Jersey is going to use it also because New Jersey is a hot -- a hotspot.

So Governor Murphy and Governor Cuomo are going to be using the ship for New York, New Jersey. And it's a big ship, and it's now COVID; it's set for COVID. And we are going to -- hopefully that will be very helpful to both states. The Javits Center, which is 2,900 beds, just built by our military, also is going to be manned now by the military. And they should be in place tomorrow, and they'll start sending quite a few people over to the Javits Center. It's convenient. It's right in the middle of everything. So that'll be something great.

And we appreciated Governor Cuomo's nice -- really nice statements and, likewise, Governor Murphy. We have worked very well with both of them and with, frankly, all of the governors. Vice President Pence had a call this morning with them that lasted for close to two hours. And I understand there wasn't a negative person on the call. Fifty governors -- or just about fifty governors -- I think they were all on, from what I understood. And they were very positive about everything their federal government has been doing for them. And you'll hear what

that is, and it's -- it's rather amazing, actually.

Nationwide, the Army Corps of Engineers is building 22 field hospitals -- these are big hospitals -- and alternate care sites in 18 states. So you have a combination of 22 field hospitals. In addition to that, we're building alternate care sites, which is a little bit of a smaller version of the hospital. And we have a lot of them, and they're going up in 18 different states.

In total, we have deployed 8,450 hospital beds from federal stockpiles. And, you know, if you think, this is done over a period of -- really, a period of weeks. It's incredible, actually. More than 8,000 ventilators have been sent from the National Stockpile to our cities and states, backed by the Defense Production Act, which we've used very strongly, very powerfully. So powerfully that we don't have to use it too much, frankly. And it's nice when you don't have to. We're getting more than we ever bargained for.

American industry is stepping up. Manufacturers are really going to town. And we have thousands of ventilators being built as we speak, and we have hundreds that are being sent to different locations, and we're ready to roll with almost 10,000 that we have in the federal stockpile.

When I say "ready to roll," too, I mean exactly what that states: We are -- wherever that monster goes, we're able to move with it. Great flexibility. We have tremendous flexibility. And we have people waiting, and they're ready, willing, and able, but waiting to bring them wherever it may be, if they need it. If they need it. It's possible that they won't be needed, that we're fully stocked, because numbers are coming in where, because of what the American people are doing, we're having fewer hospital visits. I think that could be the case in New York. It could be the case in a few other states. And fewer beds, fewer

hospital visits mean fewer ventilators. So we'll see whether or not our original projections were right.

But anyway, I had a very good talk with both governors, and I think they're very happy -- extremely happy about the -- what we're doing for them, and especially going all COVID. So that'll take place almost immediately.

FEMA and HHS have directly distributed 11.7 million N95 respirators. Think of that. Get the number. 11.7 million N95 respirators. 11.7 million. 26.5 million surgical masks, 5.3 million face shields, 4.4 million surgical gowns, and 22.6 million gloves. 22.6 million gloves.

We have also arranged for vast quantities of additional materials to be allocated through donations and existing supply chains. We've also given tremendous medical material and supplies throughout the 50 states and territories.

And through Project Airbridge, we have succeeded in bringing planeloads of vital supplies into the United States from overseas. We had an additional three. These are massive planes, by the way. The big planes -- they're very big, very powerful, and they're loaded to the gills with supplies. And rather than bringing them into our stockpile, as we've discussed, we bring them to all the different locations where they're needed so we can save a big step and a timely step.

Because of my actions, under the DPA, I can also announce today that we have reached an agreement -- a very amicable agreement -- with 3M for the delivery of an additional 55.5 million high-quality facemask -- facemasks each month. So that we're going to be getting, over the next couple of months, 166.5 million masks for our frontline healthcare workers.

So the 3M saga ends very happily. We're very proud to be dealing

now with 3M and its CEO, Mike Roman. I just spoke with him and I thanked him for getting it done. And Mike was very happy to get it done. It's a great company. So we're getting 166.5 million masks, and mostly that's going to be for our frontline healthcare workers. Okay? That's 3M. Thank you, 3M.

I also want to thank Apple, one of the many great American companies that's taken into -- that's really leapt into action. Today, Apple announced that it is now producing plastic face shields for healthcare workers at the rate of 1 million per week. One million. And these are the shields that you see on television quite a bit. And they're at the highest level of quality and safety.

We're grateful, as well, to Salesforce, which has donated 48 million pieces of personal protective equipment, including masks, gowns, suits, and face shields. So thank you very much to Salesforce.

I urge all of our nation's governors to ensure that the massive deliveries that we've made to your states over the past few weeks are distributed as quickly as possible.

So again, we're working very well with the governors. Now, they may see you and say, "Oh, we're not happy." But they're very happy on the phone. And Mike Pence is a straight shooter, and he had a great phone conversation to them, with all of the governors. Teleconference. And they're very happy, every one of them.

Were there any negatives?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: See? I told you. Mike is the greatest. Mike -- and you have done a great job, Mike, and I

appreciate it. The whole country appreciates it.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President.

Anthony appreciates it, right? Aren't you -- see? Everybody appreciates Mike. A special man.

So a lot of the things that we've done, again, are going directly to the states. The states seem to be very happy. If they're not, they can call me directly, they can call Mike directly, and we'll make them happy. But tremendous progress has been made in a very short period.

And I think, very importantly, the progress has been made before the surge comes, because the next week, week and a half, is going to be a big surge, the professionals tell us. And I think we're in good shape for it, Anthony. So it's good timing. Really good timing. We can have the stuff there. It's already there, for the most part, but we're bringing a lot of different resources to the various locations, especially where the surge is looking like it's going to take place.

Resources from the National Stockpile need to reach our warriors. And they are warriors. I tell it all the time. I saw it again this morning, these young, in many cases -- in many cases, older -- but they're walking into the hospital, and they're putting on -- I mean, as that door is opened, they're going into this place, and, you know, it's not exactly too safe. And they're going in there and they're putting the outfits on and they're putting their masks on, and they're -- it's incredible. It's no -- it's truly -- it's like no different than you watch the war movies or you watch the old clips of war, running up hills. It's -- to me, it's the same thing.

Men and women, young and old, but a lot of young people, just going in there. They're not thinking about, "Oh, gee, this is

dangerous." They're not saying, "Oh, I don't want to go in." They're -- they're warriors. They're running through those doors. It's the most incredible thing. It's a beautiful -- it's an incredible, beautiful thing.

Resources from the National Stockpile need to reach these warriors in the hospitals immediately, and we're making sure they do. And again, the states have that responsibility, but we're working with the states and we're getting the states a lot of things that they can distribute. Or when they tell us, we bring it directly to the hospital from the federal stockpile, or from the planes that land without even going to the stockpile.

If any state is having difficulty distributing supplies, we urge you to use the National Guard to assist in the delivery. And I have to say, you have done a fantastic job.

Deborah, you know that you've done great. Tony, you know that you've done great.

But what a job you've done. And I appreciate it. I really do. Your whole group has been incredible. That's a lot of stars you have. I'll tell you that. He's supposed to do a great job when you have four stars, right?

But the military has been incredible, and I thank them for all of us.

Conversely, if a state believes that it has surplus equipment or supplies -- very important, because we actually have gotten so much to some of the states that they're able to now -- they've done a fantastic job and they've kept -- they've kept that line low. And we have some states that have surplus equipment and supplies, and they're working with us to rapidly redeploy those supplies to areas of greatest need. We thought that might happen. If it worked out well, that's what was going to happen,

and it's happening.

And I want to thank Governor Gavin Newsom, who's doing a tremendous job, who's announced California will send 500 ventilators to be distributed to other locations. I think some are going to Arizona. Some are going to Washington, D.C. We think they're going to Delaware. We're working it out. But 500 excess ventilators from the State of California. And we're going to get them taken care of wherever they have to go. Those decisions are being made right now.

The members of the White House Task Force and I are in close touch with mayors and governors and hospital administrators across our country. And we're told that the present time -- at the present time, most of the critical needs are -- are being more than met. States have to continue sharing detailed information in the amount and utilization rates of medical supplies so we know what to resupply them. Or they can get it directly; that includes ventilators. They can get it directly. Ideally, if they can get it directly, but if they can't, if they're unable to do it, we have tremendous amounts of supplies. And we're building it up very fast too. And this is before the big surge.

This information is fundamental to our ability to deliver the material when -- when and where it's most needed.

Now, Mike, in his conversation today, I think got some information as to a couple of locations where we're going to be delivering large numbers of ventilators and large numbers of medical supplies. And we'll take care of that.

But some of the states are very happy. Even Governor Pritzker, from Illinois, is happy. Of course, he may not be happy when he talks to the press, but he's happy. He's a very happy man.

We're increasingly hopeful that the aggressive mitigation strategy we put into place will ultimately allow our hospital system to successfully manage the major influx of cases that -- that we have right now. Again, I say that we're finding, because of the incredible job done by the American people in conjunction with everybody -- governors, the military, federal government, state government, local government -- had a lot of conversations with New York City and Mayor de Blasio. I've gotten to know him. I didn't know him. Gotten to know him. And a lot of people are working hard. Everybody is working hard. A lot of people are doing a great job -- I'll tell you that. A lot of people are doing a great job.

But the goals that all Americans have been sacrificing to achieve these last few weeks are things that a lot of people thought were not possible to achieve. And I think we've more than achieved, but we have to go through.

Again, we're going to have a rough week. We're going to have maybe a rough a little more than a week. And -- but there's tremendous light at the end of that tunnel. I said it last time. I said it last night: There's tremendous light at the end of the tunnel. There's so many things happening with therapeutics, with vaccines, with things that we really want.

Deborah, Tony, they're all working so hard on this. But those therapeutics -- I mean, look, the vaccines are going to be always a little bit later because of that testing period, but the therapeutics -- getting the kind of things that I heard about today, talking to these brilliant companies and brilliant people on the phone was fantastic. It was such an incredible conversation.

And I also spoke, just a few minutes ago, with Vice President -- former Vice President Biden, who called. And we had a really wonderful, warm conversation. It was a very nice

conversation. We talked about pretty much this. This is what we talked about. This is what everyone is talking about. This is what they want to talk about. And he gave me his point of view, and I fully understood that. And we just had a very friendly conversation. It lasted probably 15 minutes, and it was really good. It was really good. Really nice. I think it was very much so. I appreciate his calling.

As we continue our efforts to develop treatments and cures, this afternoon I spoke with leaders of the American pharmaceutical companies. And just to give you their names: Amgen, Genentech, Gilead, Regeneron. These are four the greatest in the world for doing exactly what they're doing.

And currently, 10 different therapeutic agents are in active trials and some are looking incredibly successful, but we have to go through a process. And it's going to be a fairly quick process, I will tell you, based on what the FDA told me. And another 15 are in plans for clinical trials. So they're advancing rapidly.

And today, a second company announced that the FDA has authorized its vaccine candidate to begin clinical trials. So you have -- Johnson & Johnson is already there. I believe they're the one that's first. And now we have a second company that just -- just announced. And we were just -- it was just approved. So we have two companies at that level for the vaccine itself.

We've now performed 100 -- well, if you think of this: 1.79 million tests. That's 1,790,000 tests nationwide. And I think we're going to put up a screen here someplace. Good. They're on cue. They're just on cue. And here it is. This is the process starting on 5 March and ending right there. Right about now. Right? That's about it.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: So -- and it's going up at a rapid rate. Nobody has done more testing.

And one of the reasons why they say -- and I think I can say this, Deborah, very strongly -- but one of the reasons that we have more cases is we've done more testing. If I went to some of these countries that have, in my opinion, far more people than we do, that had the problem, and if we did the kind of testing proportionately that we're doing, they'd have many more cases than us. But we have more cases because we do much more testing.

So when you do the testing, you have cases. Otherwise, you wouldn't know about the cases. People sit home; you don't know about it.

But we have now done 1,790,000 tests nationwide. That's more than any other country in the world, hence we have more cases. And that number is growing by nearly 125,000 people per day. Think of that one. So it's growing by 125,000 people per day.

I told you about South Korea. This is a, you know, vastly faster -- and we also have, they say, the most accurate of tests.

CVS is launching -- and they've been great -- two new drive-through testing sites in Atlanta, Georgia, and Providence, Rhode Island. And each location will be able to test up to 1,000 patients per day using the ultra-fast five-minute test developed by Abbott Labs. Now they're down to five minutes. They call it the "ultra-fast" and it's very accurate. Abbott Labs, I want to thank them. They've been fantastic.

We're also speeding urgent economic relief to the American worker and families and the employers. As of today, tens of thousands

of small businesses have applied for more than \$40 billion in relief under the Paycheck Protection Program. You've all been reading about it. And it's really -- I mean, it's only been going for a couple of days. It's really been performing well. A couple of little glitches -- minor glitches that have already been taken care of, what they say.

These funds will result in nearly 2 million jobs being preserved. So we're taking care of our workers -- small businesses and our workers.

Nearly 3,000 lenders have already made loans under the program, and we're signing up additional lenders very quickly -- rapidly.

Community banks have been very responsive, and larger banks are also stepping up. If this -- if we run out of funds -- by the way, we're already preparing because it's going so fast for the small businesses and their employees -- we'll ask Congress to refill it immediately. But the banks have been great. The big banks -- the Bank of America was right up there at the beginning. JPMorgan Chase was -- has been great. After the first day, they really -- they really came through, and a lot of the big banks. But the community banks have been fantastic.

As we announced last week, we are providing \$100 billion in direct support for our hospitals. And the first tranche, \$30 billion, will be distributed this week.

So I want to -- I want to say one other thing. Our farmers -- we love our farmers -- and, as you know, as of April 1st, the China trade deal -- 250-billion-dollar -- they purchased \$250 billion from us, if not more. And of that, approximately \$50 billion is expected to be with our farmers.

So it kicked in as of April 1st, and we'll see how it goes. It seems like they're buying. So we'll let you know how that's

going. But they're buying anywhere from \$40- to \$50 billion worth of our agricultural product. That should have a huge impact on our farmers -- a tremendous impact on our farmers. But we're watching it very closely.

To fight the medical war, we've mobilized the unbeatable -- and it just -- it is unbeatable -- strength of American determination, ingenuity, and compassion. I got to see that when I spoke to the great science -- because I call them "science companies" more than drug companies. They're scientists.

We've seen businesses, charities, and private citizens making generous donations. So many people are making donations. We've seen states and cities supporting and helping each other and caring for our citizens. And we've seen Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs uniting together to answer the challenge and rise to the moment. And that's what they're doing.

Above all, we have been awe-inspired by the exceptional courage of the doctors, nurses, EMTs, and healthcare workers who are the soldiers of this war. No words can ever express the complete measure of our gratitude for these intrepid heroes.

One Cleveland patient credited his medical team for not only saving his life through their skill, but forever changing his life through their example of selfless devotion. Couldn't believe it -- so generous he was with his statements. And he talked about their bravery in an area that was in such trouble -- an area of that hospital where people were dying. And he talked about their bravery.

Another survivor in Houston said simply, "I will consider them my angels forever." "I will consider them" -- think of that -- "my angels forever."

As our nation endures the depths of loss and grief, we are also

witness to the summit of American virtue, character, and courage. With the love and dedication of every American patriot, we will win this battle, we will defeat this enemy, and we will rise from this present crisis with new strength, unity, and resolve. And that's what's happening.

Tremendous stories are coming out of this horrible moment. A very dark moment for the world. One hundred and eighty two. I was saying 151 for a while, and then it got up to 160. And it's 182, as I announced yesterday. A hundred and eighty-two countries are being attacked by this virus.

So I just want to thank everybody, and I want to thank the American citizens for doing a great job. Stay inside. And let's win this, and let's get our country open as soon as we can. I think it's going to be sooner than people think. Things are going really well. Again, light at the end of the tunnel.

And with that, I'll take a few questions. And then Mike is going to take over and talk with the Admiral and with the professionals. And we appreciate you being here.

Yes, please.

Q Mr. President, you mentioned that you were asking U.S. drug companies to provide treatment to the British Prime Minister.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q What sort of treatment is that? Is that something that's available to the American public?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's a very -- yeah, it's a very complex treatment of things that they've just recently developed and that they have a lot of experience with, having to do with something else, but recent for this. And they'll be -- they've already

concurrred. They've already had meetings with the doctors. And we'll see whether or not they want to go that route.

But when you're in intensive care, it's a big deal. So they're there and they're ready. I think we have -- we have three of them. We have -- I spoke with four. You know who the four would be. And you know the people within those -- you probably -- you'd know the companies if I told you the companies. But the people are the greatest -- the greatest in the world.

So they're at the hospital, and we'll see. And they have -- they have everything with them, should it be needed. Hopefully -- hopefully it won't have to be needed, but should it be needed.

I just -- I've found him -- I've found Boris to be a fantastic person. Just, like, a fantastic warm, strong, smart guy. He loves his country. You see that. I mean, he fought like -- like hell for his country. And intensive care is big stuff. Really big stuff.

Q Yesterday, you were asked about this as well, but now that he has been moved to intensive care, does that give you and the Vice President any pause or additional concerns, steps that you're taking to preserve the continuity of government here?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so. Mike had his test a couple of days ago. I had my test a couple of days ago. So -- and we're here, and here you are. So, no, I don't think so. But I think we'll probably -- just because of questions like that, I think we'll probably have maybe quite a few tests. It's not the worst idea.

You know, the system of testing now is so quick and so easy. So, I could see --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I was tested again today.

THE PRESIDENT: And you were tested again today?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: You sure you're okay?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I'm okay.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Then I'm staying here.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Despite the nearly 1.8 million tests that you say the United States has done, the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services released a report today -- a survey -- of more than 300 hospitals across the country. And the number one complaint from those hospitals were severe shortages of testing supplies and a really long wait time.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's just wrong.

Q I mean, a week or longer.

THE PRESIDENT: It's just wrong. Did I hear the word "inspector general"? Really? It's wrong. And they'll talk to you about it. It's wrong.

Q But this is your own government.

THE PRESIDENT: Uh, it's -- well, where did he come from -- the inspector general? What's his name?

Q It came from the inspector general report --

THE PRESIDENT: No, what's his name? What's his name?

Q I don't know his name off of the top of my head.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, find me his name. Let me know. Okay? If you find me his name, I'd appreciate it.

Q But, sir, these are hospitals that do not --

THE PRESIDENT: All I can tell you is this: We put up on the board --

Q Sir, these are hospitals --

THE PRESIDENT: You're going to ask -- you're going to ask the Admiral. But we are doing --

Q Sir, these are hospitals who say that they're waiting a week or longer to get their test --

THE PRESIDENT: Fine.

Q -- results.

THE PRESIDENT: Then speak to the Admiral.

Q Why is it still taking so long?

THE PRESIDENT: But we've done more testing and had more results than any country, anywhere in the world. They're doing an incredible job. Now they're all calling us. They want our testing. "What are we doing?" "How do you do the five-minute test?" "How do you do the 15-minute test?"

So, give me the name of the inspector general. Could politics be

entered into that?

Go ahead, please.

Q This is our --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q Thank you, sir. Are you worried about retaliation to your decision to ban export of medical goods, like Indian Prime Minister Modi's decision to not export hydroxychloroquine to the United States and other countries?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't like that decision, if that's -- I don't -- I didn't hear that that was his decision. I know that he stopped it for other countries. I spoke to him yesterday. We had a very good talk. And we'll see whether or not that is. I would be surprised if he would, you know, because India does very well with the United States. For many years, they've been taking advantage of the United States on trade. So I would be surprised if that were his decision. He'd have to tell me that.

I spoke to him Sunday morning. I called him. And I said, "We'd appreciate your allowing our supply to come out." If he doesn't allow it to come out, that would be okay, but, of course, there may be retaliation. Why wouldn't there be?

Yeah, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. The Paycheck Protection Program has gotten off to a confusing start for small businesses because --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think it's done very well.

Q Well, Wells Fargo has stopped taking applications. Bank of

America initially prior- --

THE PRESIDENT: Not anymore, they haven't.

Q -- prioritized taking applications from clients that were already borrowers.

THE PRESIDENT: Bank of America has been the leader, taking tremendous numbers of applications, and, of course, there may have been -- they wanted to have a slightly different application, they wanted to have a little different information. But Bank of America has been a leader. They had number one in terms of applications.

I wish you'd ask the question differently. Why don't you say, "It's gotten off to a tremendous start, but there are some little glitches" -- which, by the way, have been worked out? It would be so much nicer if you'd do that. But you're just incapable of asking a question in a positive way.

Q Sir, what oversight measures is the federal government putting in place to --

THE PRESIDENT: It's already done. It's already done.

Q -- ensure that there is fairness?

THE PRESIDENT: It's taken the measures. It's taken the measures. And we may even do a different system. Not with this. We're going to have to probably add more money to this, to save -- and to keep our small businesses going and to keep the employees of those small businesses working.

But it's such a positive event and you ask it in such a negative way. It's just -- I wish -- I wish we had a fair media in this country, and we really don't.

Speaking of unfair, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, the Acting Secretary of the Navy told the crew of the USS Roosevelt that Captain Crozier was either, quote, "too naive or too stupid" to be in command. Is it appropriate for the Chief Officer of the Navy to be speaking this way about this captain? Is this the right way to --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I haven't heard it exactly. I haven't heard. I heard they had a statement that was made. If that were the statement -- it's a strong statement.

Look, the letters shouldn't have been sent, and certainly they shouldn't have been leaked. This is a military operation.

I must tell you, I've heard very good things about the gentleman -- both gentlemen, by the way -- I will say this. But about both gentlemen. And I may look into it only from the standpoint that something should be resolved, because I'm hearing good things about both people.

Q What might you look into, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I may just get involved, if it's okay with you.

Q (Inaudible), you mean?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, because, you know what? You have two good people and they're arguing. And I'm good, believe it or not, at settling arguments. I'm good at settling these arguments. So I may look into it in great detail -- in detail. And I'll be able to figure it out very fast.

But that was a statement -- and it's a rough statement. But look --

Q Might you reinstate him if you decide it was --

THE PRESIDENT: Look -- look, letters should not have been sent to many people, unclassified. That was a mistake. It's a mistake that shouldn't have been made, because it's unfair to the families of the people on the ship because they get nervous. And it shows weakness. And there's nothing weak about us now. Not anymore. We have the strongest military we've ever had. And we're not going to be showing weakness to anybody because we have -- that ship is incredible -- nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. And we don't want to be doing -- writing letters. We don't want to have letter-writing campaigns where the fake news finds a letter or gets a leak. We don't want that.

So, the letter --

Q Would you consider reinstating him --

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me. So the letter shouldn't have been sent. With all of that said, his career prior to that was very good. So I'm going to get involved and see exactly what's going on there. Because I don't want to destroy somebody for having a bad day. Okay? Does that make sense?

Okay.

Q Mr. President, Vice President Biden's spokesperson said that he had made some suggestions to you about actions that you can be taking --

THE PRESIDENT: He did.

Q -- to deal with the pandemic.

THE PRESIDENT: He did. We had a very good talk. We agreed that

we weren't going to talk about what we said, but we had a very, very good talk. It was a warm talk. I enjoyed it. I hope he enjoyed it, too. And it was short. It was 15 minutes.

Q Did he have good suggestions? Anything that you're going to do?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he had suggestions. It doesn't mean that I agree with those suggestions, but certainly he had suggestions. And I also told him some of the things we're doing. But the conversation was a friendly -- very friendly conversation.

Yeah, please.

Q Thanks a lot, Mr. President. You've mentioned, other members of your task force have mentioned, over the course of the next two weeks it's going to be a very difficult time for our country in terms of fatalities. And there --

THE PRESIDENT: It will be a difficult week and a half..

Q Yeah. And there are a number of governors who are close allies of yours, Mr. President, who have refrained thus far to have these stay-at-home orders. And Dr. Fauci, who of course is on your task force, has said that --

THE PRESIDENT: True.

Q -- it would -- the states that don't have stay-at-home orders are putting themselves at risk and the country at risk. Do you agree with that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if Dr. Fauci said that, I would be inclined to call them up. You know, we do have a constitutional problem in doing that. You understand that. I mean, there's a double --

there's a double-edged sword. You understand. I can do it, but it is a constitutional -- you can say federalist, you can say there's lots of different reasons, where I would rather have the governors do it, make their own determination.

They're smaller -- and not in all cases but, sort of, they're smaller cases. But I'm not sure 100 percent that Dr. Fauci said that, but you can ask him.

Tony, you want to say something? Please.

DR. FAUCI: So I had -- I had good conversations with the governor of Nebraska and the governor of Iowa here. And it's interesting that, functionally, even though they have not given a strict stay-at-home, what they are doing is really functionally equivalent to that. And we had a really good conversation with both of the governors.

And -- and I -- you know, when I had mentioned that, I think there was a public response that they weren't really doing anything at all. And they really are doing a very good job, both of them. Those are the only two that I spoke to, but -- but it was a really good conversation.

And I want to make sure people understand that just because they don't have a very strict stay-at-home order, they have in place a lot of things that are totally compatible with what everyone else is doing.

Q If I can ask a question of Dr. Fauci before he --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q About getting back to normal: You said you wanted to get back to normal as soon as possible. Will we truly get back to normal in this country before there's an actual vaccine that's

available to everybody? And how do you -- how do you start lifting the restrictions safely?

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. Well, Jon, if back to normal means acting like there never was a coronavirus problem, I don't think that's going to happen until we do have a situation where you can completely protect the population. But when we say "getting back to normal," we mean something very different from what we're going through right now, because right now we are in a very intense mitigation.

When we get back to normal, we will go back gradually to the point where we can function as a society. But you're absolutely right. I mean, if you want to get to pre-coronavirus, you know, that might not ever happen in the sense of the fact that the threat is there. But I believe, with the therapies that will be coming online, and with the fact that I feel confident that over a period of time we will get a good vaccine, that we will never have to get back to where we are right back now.

So if that means getting back to normal, then we'll get back to normal.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that with the therapies and I think that with the vaccines, which I have total confidence are coming -- and I'm dealing with the companies. I'm talking to Johnson & Johnson, I'm talking to all of them.

I think that when you add the tremendous stimulus that we're giving -- like, for instance, deductibility for restaurant expenses, for restaurants and entertainment; the money that we're talking about for small businesses and employees to keep everybody working; and other things that we're, frankly, working on right now, which are going to be great for our people -- I think when you add that to it, I think we can get more than back to normal, from an economic standpoint. It would actually be

better. But more than back to normal.

But I -- I would agree that we'd love to see a vaccine, but immediately, we'd love to see a therapeutic. And I think we're getting very close.

Q Do you think you'd be able to lift restrictions on April 30th right now -- (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to comment on that, but I can tell you that we certainly want to try. We certainly want to see what -- what's going on. We're doing very well. Look, if you look at those, you look at most places where that -- you can call it the "bump." You could call it the "hill". You can call it the "mountain." You can call it -- whatever you want to do it. It's very flat. You take a look. And that was done through mitigation. That was done through a lot of good work.

And that far exceeded our expectations before. I mean, you -- people can't even believe how -- how low some of those bumps are, some of those hills are. They're very surprised. They have a couple of tough ones. New Jersey has been very tough and New York has been very tough. They're crowded in. You know, it's tight, it's tougher. But far exceeding. California far exceeds; Washington State far exceeds.

You look at so many of these states, how well they're doing. The eight states, by the way -- and I haven't spoken to the governors, but Tony is so right: They may not have it from the standpoint that they're saying it, but those people are practicing it and they're doing a fantastic job. Take a look at where they are, in terms of the levels. But take a look where they are.

So -- but if I thought it was something that -- and I've looked at them, and I've looked at them very carefully. I looked at

them today, looked at them yesterday. From a constitutional standpoint, I'd love not to get involved with that. And not from a legal standpoint, just from a moral, constitutional standpoint. Because legally, I can, but morally, I -- you know, I believe in our Constitution, much more so than most people.

And I'd love to be able to let the governors do what they have to do. Those states are doing a fantastic job, all eight of them. They're doing a fantastic job. So we'll see what happens.

As for your question, you fully understand what I'm saying, so thank you.

Yes, please.

Q Hi. I have two questions, if I may. One from somebody outside the room. But first, could I ask: Do you think Boris Johnson, when he talked about shaking hands with hospital patients, did he downplay the threat of this virus too much? And do you know exactly what his current condition is?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think Boris was looking at it differently. He was looking at it earlier. He was looking at it like "ride it out." There were many people thinking about riding it out, meaning, you know, whatever it is, it is.

But then you see what starts to happen and the numbers become monumental, and they decide not to do that. We actually moved early. We moved early because of what we did with respect to the ban on China coming in and then Europe coming in. That was an early ban too. And then UK.

So, no, he -- he waited a little while, and he -- he felt that, but he got -- you know, he made a decision very quickly thereafter to do what they did. And they they -- they've gone to

a very strict lockdown. But they're suffering greatly as a nation right now. They're going through a lot. You know, they're -- they're a nation that's having a difficult time.

But I've gotten to know him. He's just such an incredible guy. It was just so shocking to see that because you know what that means. Intensive care is a big deal with regard to what we're talking about. That's a very big deal, a very scary deal.

Yeah, please.

Q Just, somebody who can't be in the room because of social distancing has asked me to ask a question. It's Thomas Howell of the Washington Times: How many health workers in the U.S. have become infected with COVID-19? And if the answer is not known, will the CDC be publishing that data?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I could get you that information. I think they'd -- I think they'd probably be willing to give that. Right?

DR. FAUCI: We'll have that.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we could get you that information.

Jeff, please?

Q Mr. President, OPEC is meeting on Thursday --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- and they have said that they are willing to make a cut in production if the U.S. chips in as well, which suggests that they want you to ask U.S. producers to do an orchestrated cut.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you're the first one that's told me

that. I don't know. We'll have to make that decision. And maybe we will, maybe we won't. But we'll have to make that decision.

Q But do you --

THE PRESIDENT: I think the cuts are automatic. If you're a believer in markets, I can guarantee you there's a cut from pre this condition.

You know, look, this happened because of the virus. The virus knocked out 40 percent. It was -- it went down in one hour. I mean, literally, when places close up, you're talking about a 40 percent cut.

No, I think it's happening automatically, but nobody has asked me that question yet, so we'll see what happens. I'll --

Q But you would --

THE PRESIDENT: I'll let you know Thursday evening.

Q All right, that's the deal.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay.

Q But you would consider asking U.S. companies to refuse --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it's automatic because they're already cutting. I mean, if you look, they're cutting back.

Q But OPEC is asking for a signal --

THE PRESIDENT: Because it's -- its market, it's demand. It's supply and demand. They're already cutting back, and they're cutting back very seriously.

Q But if OPEC is asking for a signal from the U.S. --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, nobody has asked me that. So, if they ask me, I'll make a decision. Okay? But I'll -- but again, it's happening anyway.

Yes, please.

Q In light of all the discussion about Prime Minister Johnson and his health, can you update us on the status of the second half of your physical that you were going to have this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, so I had a physical. The first half was very successful. I did it on a day when I was in the White House and we were able to do that, as the doctor reported. And I have some -- the second half of the physical different. Probably is done at Walter Reed, and I'll do that at the appropriate time, but I feel very good. And according to the doctor, very good shape.

Q And can I just ask you again on the idea of a national stay-at-home recommendation? What is giving you so much pause about making this recommendation?

THE PRESIDENT: I told you. I told you. He understood very well. I appreciate your understanding.

Q I understand the Constit- -- but it's not an order, just a recommendation.

THE PRESIDENT: It's called the Constitution of the United States. And I'd rather have, if possible, for the governors to make the decision. If a decision was very necessary -- and they have done a good job. And Tony said it better than anybody. They are -- they are doing -- they are doing what we're

asking them to do without having to put the seal on it.

But I will say, if I thought it was necessary, I'll do it in a heartbeat.

Q Do you agree with the Georgia governor opening the beaches?

THE PRESIDENT: Opening what?

Q The beaches.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't seen -- I'm going to have to see to what extent. I'm going to have to see how many people you're talking about, are they crowded, are they packed, are they not packed. We'll have to take a look at it. Right now, it's very early for beaches in Georgia. So, right now, very early. So I'll take a look at it.

He's done a very good job as the governor. He knows what he's doing, but we'll have to take a look. It really does depend on, you know, how crowded it may be. But I will talk to him and I will ask him that question. I would ask him.

Yeah, please.

Q Mr. President, you said last week that you were considering travel restrictions around hotspots. Is that something that's still on the table? And at what point --

THE PRESIDENT: We're looking at it. And the airlines have been cutting their routes. You saw that yesterday. They announced big cuts in routes. We need some -- some flights for emergency use for military people. We need some flights for medical people. And they are very few flights, as you know. And the flights that are going out are -- I think they said they're 3 to 4 percent full. You have 3 percent of the plane is occupied. So

it's -- they're very, very -- generally, very, very empty planes.

But it's good to have -- it's a -- it's a tiny amount of flights, relative to the overall.

And we need them also for medical workers, for -- otherwise, we're going to have to do a whole big thing with our own planes. So they're done for a reason. There's also testing done when people get onto those planes and also when people get off the planes.

Q Mr. President, if I can follow up on this question of the HHS inspector general. And, by the way, her name is Christi Grimm. And it wasn't so much her opinion, but they interviewed 323 different hospitals.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it still could be her opinion. But when was she appointed? When was she appointed?

Q I'm not sure when she was appointed.

THE PRESIDENT: Would you do me a favor? Let me know.

Q I'll -- I'll check on it.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, let me know now. I have to know now, Jon. Let me know now.

Q But the point is --

THE PRESIDENT: Because we are doing an incredible job of testing. We are doing a better job than anybody in the world right now on testing. There's nobody close. And other nations admit this. Other nations have admitted it very strongly. Other nations are calling us, wanting to know about our testing. Let

me know when she was appointed, would you?

Q But specifically, what she was saying --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

Q Sir, is it --

Q -- was that there had been a delay in the lab results.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you very much. Go ahead, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Only last week, there were multiple flights coming from China full of medical supplies.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Companies like Huawei and Alibaba has been donating to the United States --

THE PRESIDENT: Right. People I know very well.

Q -- like 1.5 million N95 masks, and also a lot of medical gloves and much more medical supplies. So --

THE PRESIDENT: Sounds like a statement more than a question.

Q And Ambassador -- Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai last night wrote an op-ed on New York Times, calling to cooperation with the United States. So are you personally working directly with China on medical supplies --

THE PRESIDENT: We just signed a trade deal.

Q -- also fighting with the virus?

THE PRESIDENT: It's the biggest deal probably ever made. And I hope they're going to honor that trade deal. If they don't honor the trade deal, then I'll tell you a different answer, but I think they will. They're going to spend billions of dollars for agriculture. They're going to spend billions of dollars for many different things.

Whereas China never spent money in our country --

Q Specifically on medical supplies.

THE PRESIDENT: -- we spent money. We had a deficit -- a trade deficit -- with China for years of \$500 billion, \$400 billion. We had the biggest trade deficits in the history of the world with China. Now China is going to spend a lot -- has agreed to spend \$250 billion -- many billions of dollars in our country, much of it going to farmers and manufacturers.

So, I'll let you know. I mean, I hope they're going to honor the deal. We'll find out.

Q (Inaudible) with China? Are you cooperating with China?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Who are you working for? China? You work for China or are you with a newspaper?

Q I'm -- no, I'm working for Hong Kong --

THE PRESIDENT: Who are you with?

Q Hong Kong Phoenix TV.

THE PRESIDENT: Who owns that? China? Is it owned by China?

Q It's based in Hong Kong.

THE PRESIDENT: No, is it owned by the state?

Q No, it's not. It's a private-owned company.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, good. Okay.

Look, I'll let you know. I'll give you a good answer to that in a few months. I want to just see what they do because it's time for them to help us. Okay? It's time right now for China to help us, and hopefully they do. And if they don't, that's okay too.

But we signed a deal. It was signed in -- with great goodwill and spirit. And it's time that our farmers benefitted, our manufacturers benefitted, and we'll see whether or not that deal is honored. And I think it will be because I know President Xi, who I like and respect. And I think he will honor the deal he made with us.

It just went into effect four days ago. I will see whether or not. In fact, I called up just a little while ago. I said, "How are the farmers doing with respect to China? Are they buying the product as anticipated?" And the answer was, "Yeah, I think so." But it wasn't the most positive, but it was -- it was starting. It was starting. The deal just started.

So I'll let you know. But, you know, for many, many years, China ate our lunch because we had people in this position that I'm in right now that allowed China to get away with absolute murder, and it should have never happened.

Q What about fighting the coronavirus?

THE PRESIDENT: But we are -- we are now dealing with China. We'll see what happens.

Yeah. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Wait. Wait.

Q I'll tell you when she was appointed.

THE PRESIDENT: How many do you want to ask? How many do you want to ask?

Q So I just wanted -- I was going to answer your question you asked me. She was appointed in January of this year to her current position --

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q -- as the principal deputy inspector general.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. We're going to take a look at it.

Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, I know you don't want to talk about --

Q On the issue of --

THE PRESIDENT: Don't -- don't interrupt. He's -- he's talking.

Q On the issue of small-business loans, sir, you said that businesses have applied for \$40 billion in loans. But can you tell us how much of that money has actually gone out to the small businesses?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you, but I know it goes out very quickly once the loan application is approved. And the process

is very fast. And you have to understand: These are banks, and that's what they do. But they were swamped. They were actually swamped.

Okay, go ahead. Please.

Q I know you don't want to talk about the inspector general report, but testing is still a big issue in this country. When can hospitals expect --

THE PRESIDENT: Put the -- put the slide up again, please. Just put it up.

Q When can hospitals expect to receive a quick turnaround of these test results?

THE PRESIDENT: Are you ready? Are you ready? Hospitals can do their own testing also. States can do their own testing. States are supposed to be doing testing. Hospitals are supposed to be doing testing. Do you understand that?

Q But it takes a while for the --

THE PRESIDENT: We're the federal government. Listen --

Q -- results to come back.

THE PRESIDENT: We're the federal government. We're not supposed to stand on street corners doing testing. They go to doctors. They go to hospitals. They go to the state. The state is a more localized government; you have 50 of them. And they can go -- 50 within here; you also have territories, as you know. And they do the testing.

And if you look at the chart, if you take a look -- did they put it up? Yeah. Just take a look. And these are testing and the

results are now coming in very quickly.

Initially speaking, the tests were old, obsolete, and not really prepared. We have a brand-new testing system that we developed very quickly, and that's your result. And you should say, "Congratulations. Great job" -- instead of being so horrid in the way you ask a question.

Please. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, today --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I'd love to have the Admiral speak to that question. Yes. That's a great idea.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: So, I can talk a little bit more about testing later on, but as the President said, 1.79 million tests have been done. And this does not count the hundreds of thousands of tests that are done within hospitals that are now currently not reporting. So I'm sure we're well over 2 million.

That inspector general report was done here -- 23rd and 24th -- during our ramp-up period, quite a long time ago. There was clearly -- and it's hard to interpret the report because it mixes up all kinds of things -- but clearly, there was complaints by some hospitals of a backlog. Probably had sent out tests.

And that is true. There were several days of backlog at some of the major labs that have been taken care of. We know now that the ACLA labs now have a 24- to 48-hour turnaround.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: They do.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: They're doing well over 100,000 tests a day. We now have the Abbott machine; that's point of care. That's 18,000 of those instruments throughout the country. The Cepheid machine

is now all across the country with a 45-minute turnaround on.

So we have worked directly with many of the hospitals that have their own laboratory-derived tests. Some of those really, quite frankly, didn't understand the regulatory freedom they have to use other different kinds of instruments or different kinds of reagents.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: They do now.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: So -- like they do now. Like they do now. And I'm on the phone with them all the time to make sure that everything is clear. We have a 24-hour call number. But that's what it was there for.

And I don't know the inspector general. I don't know that person. I tell you one thing I have a problem with: If there was such a problem that she knew about or he knew about on March 23rd and 24th, why did I find out about the test from them on the --

THE PRESIDENT: He's the one in charge.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: -- on the news media at 8 o'clock this morning?

If there was a problem, I think you're ethically obliged to tell me where that is so we can interact with it like I do every single day.

But that's a discussion for the future. I think testing is really in a good position right now, and I'd be happy to expand on some of the really good tests that are coming up.

THE PRESIDENT: How long has that person been in government? Could I ask you that?

Q Did serve in the previous administration.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you didn't tell me that. Oh, I see. You didn't tell me that, Jon.

Q She was appointed for her current position in January of this year, by your government.

THE PRESIDENT: You didn't tell me that. Did serve in the previous admin- -- you mean the Obama administration. Thank you for telling me that.

See, there's a typical fake-news deal.

Q Well, you asked me when she was -- you asked me when she was appointed.

THE PRESIDENT: No, look. Look --

Q I told you when she was appointed by your administration.

THE PRESIDENT: You're a third-rate reporter. And what you just said is a disgrace. Okay?

You asked me -- you said, "Sir, just got appointed." Take a look at what you said.

Now, I said, "When did they -- when did this person -- how long in government?"

Q But, but --

THE PRESIDENT: "Well, it was appointed in the Obama administration."

Q But her current job was in your administration, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Jon. Thank you very much. You will never make it.

Go ahead, please.

Q On the ventilators --

THE PRESIDENT: Boy, that's a terrible thing.

Q -- and maybe this is best for Admiral Giroir -- but can you tell us today how many ventilators are in the federal stockpile?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: I'm not going to tell you how many are in the stockpile, but I can tell you that we look at ventilator use granularly every single day, in every single state, and down to the hospital level.

So we have been able to meet and easily meet all the ventilator requirements that have been brought us -- to us by the state. No one has not gotten a ventilator that needs a ventilator. And as far as we can project, looking at all models, every person who needs a ventilator will get a ventilator.

I'm a ventilator doc, right? I'm an ICU physician for children. Spent every day of my life managing people on ventilators. This is my community. It's also the Surgeon General's community as an anesthesiologist.

So what we have in the stockpile, I think, is not a number that we -- we give out. But we have thousands remaining in the stockpile. And now you're seeing out of the -- out of the appropriate American spirit that, when a state like Washington or California doesn't need that ventilator, they're doing the right thing by moving them around the country.

THE PRESIDENT: It's about 9,000, just so you understand. It's

about 9,000.

And, by the way, you didn't tell me also that this inspector general came out of the Obama administration. You didn't tell me that either.

Q Sir, everybody up here --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, please go ahead.

Q -- worked in the Obama administration except for you and Vice President (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

Q I'm looking, sir, at -- just quickly here, I'm looking at this inspector general's bio. She appears to have served in government since 1999.

But I was hoping to ask you about your call with former Vice President Joe Biden. Is there something that you learned on that phone call? And has that changed your thinking --

THE PRESIDENT: No, I understood his views before the call.

Q But has that changed your opinion about speaking to people like --

THE PRESIDENT: I just think he's a very nice -- I think he's a nice man. I've always thought he was a nice man. I've -- I don't know him. I don't know if I ever spoke to him before, other than to say hello. But I think he's a nice man. We had a very nice call.

Q And do you want to seek now the counsel of some of your predecessors -- George Bush, Barack Obama?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but we may -- no. Not really. We may -- we're doing a great job.

Hey, I inherited -- we, this administration -- we inherited a broken system, both militarily, but we've rebuilt our military where we now have so much ammunition, whereas you remember a very important general said, "Sir, we have no ammunition." They wanted to save money on ammunition.

They didn't want to save money because they spent money like nobody ever spent money. But you know what? We now have a great military rebuilt. And we have so much ammunition, we don't know what to do with it. Okay? And that's a nice feeling to have.

But they also gave us empty cupboards. The cupboard was bare. You've heard the expression: "The cupboard was bare." So we took over a stockpile where the cupboard was bare and where the testing system was broken and old. And we redid it.

And, frankly, it would be okay for a small event but not for a big event. And they had a chance to do it. Somebody said that a certain person -- I won't tell you, but a certain person said this will happen. And that's true. The problem is that person never did anything about it -- previous administrations. In previous admin- -- they never did anything about it.

You know, we all know all about pandemics and all of the things that we're seeing now, but nobody thought it was going to happen. And if we did think it was going to happen, the problem is nobody did anything about it.

We did. We have rebuilt the system. And now we're a fine-tuned machine. We built thousands of hotel beds for New York. We moved a ship in that now we're going to make for COVID -- COVID-19. We are going to make it so that people having this horrible

thing happen to them will be able to use the ship. The ship, as I said, is going to be shared with New Jersey -- New York and New Jersey.

We've done things that are incredible. When you build -- what was it? Eighteen hospitals. We built 18 hospitals. We built medical centers all over the country. And when you have Gavin Newsom and other governors who really have been very nice and generous in their statements -- because they make the statements to the press, not just to my face. Others tell us how great we're doing -- like the call that Mike had today. I heard from other people that were on the call; they said it was incredible. It was two hours, and it was -- everything was positive. They were so happy with what we've done.

And we're ready to do more if they need it, because we're ready to march. The Admiral can tell you: We are sitting there with 9,000 ventilators and we're ready to march when we see that. We can move quickly. As soon as we see that need, we can move very quickly. We're ready to march. We built a great system.

The problem is, the Democrats -- like a guy like Chuck Schumer, who's a total lightweight, by the way; I've known him for a long time. He'll say, "Why don't you put a military man in charge?" A military man? I have all military men. This man is doing an incredible job. We have two admirals, numerous generals. We have the Army Corps of Engineers. We have FEMA. We have this whole force that like nobody has ever seen before. We have a great military operation and they've done an incredible job.

And honestly, people should respect -- because nobody has ever seen anything like what we've done. And what they end up -- what -- forget about me; don't worry about me. I get -- I will only get bad -- if I say, "How many ventilators do you need, Governor?" "A thousand would be great." I said "Nope, I'm going

to send you 10,000." And then you'll call up from the media. You'll say, "How did Trump do?" "We're not happy. He didn't send us enough ventilators." Because that's called politics.

But if you look at what's happening, that -- and I'm even surprised. The governors are saying all good things. But the Democrat governors, and a couple of RINOs -- frankly, they're RINOs. It's all they are -- one RINO, in particular. But the governors are saying great things.

He had a call that lasted two hours today. I heard about the call, not just from Mike. It was a perfect call. Now I'm sure you were on the call, even though you're not supposed to be. I'm sure you were on the call -- meaning some of the media was on the call, because they're constantly reporting the call. If they're honest, they will say it was a great call.

Okay. Okay. Next question, please.

Q Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Here we go. Here we go.

Q You didn't mention the hospitals that were built in New Orleans and Dallas today, but you have mentioned them a number of times previously. There seems to be some concern in Texas that they might lose the hospital in Dallas if it's not used --

THE PRESIDENT: We're never going to do anything that hurts Texas.

Q -- if it's not used yet.

THE PRESIDENT: We're only -- we're only helping Texas.

Q How patients is there --

THE PRESIDENT: By the way, the governor is doing a great job over there with the situation.

And Texas is so big, you have some parts of the state that are affected, other parts that aren't affected at all. You know, it's an incredible place.

Q But do they keep this hospital, even if it's unused? Or is the federal government going to shift those resources elsewhere?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we're going to use whatever we need, and we're doing it totally in conjunction with the governor. Okay? We're doing it in conjunction with your Texas governor, who's done a fantastic job. Great.

Q Can I ask what -- Governor Abbott also has set up checkpoints at the border to check people --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- coming in from Louisiana. We've seen checkpoints in Florida, other state borders. Americans are not really --

THE PRESIDENT: Very few people are coming through our border. And you'll be happy to know we're up to mile 161 of the wall.

Q No, no, I'm talking about internal borders between states.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I see. Okay.

Q Americans are not used to seeing --

THE PRESIDENT: But on the border between Mexico, we have 161

miles of wall.

Q We're not -- but I'm talking about internal borders.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, good.

Q Americans don't -- they're not used to seeing border checkpoints between states. How much longer -- and is that something that states have to (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I mean, look, you -- first, you want us to call eight governors and tell them to do something. And then you're complaining that another governor is so strict that he actually checks the borders. I understand why he's doing that: because he knows who he has and he doesn't want people coming in if they should maybe, you know, not be to -- to the liking of the doctors.

Q Is the role -- is the role of the federal government to decide when borders are closed --

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think it's -- look, he's done a great job. He's done a great job with this case, as have many other governors. But he's done a great job.

One of the things I thought you were going to say is we've been very tough on our southern border, as you know. Very very tough.

Q And another one for Dr. Fauci.

THE PRESIDENT: And part of that is because of the fact that we have so much -- you know, when you talk about 160 miles of new wall, nobody is coming through that. Nobody. Not even close. And we're building it rapidly. We will have -- early next year, we'll have close to 500 miles of wall, which is what

our goal was.

Please go ahead.

Q You mentioned Senator Schumer just a moment ago. He had a conference call today and he said that he believes that a COVID four relief bill will be necessary. Do you share that belief? And what would be contained in such a bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know necessarily, but I certainly want to listen. And what I want to do is two things: a real infrastructure, not a Green New Deal. You know, the carbon footprint. I'm not looking for the carbon footprint. We want to put people to work.

But a real -- and, frankly, for so many years, we've let our infrastructure go to hell because we were wasting all our money in the Middle East and other places. Okay? I want to rebuild our country. I don't want to rebuild -- we're tired. We've built -- we've rebuilt, if you call it that -- or destroyed, frankly. What we've done is so crazy. What we have done -- the direction that this country has taken is so sad.

But we're in the Middle East for \$8 trillion. And if you want to fix a pothole in a highway, you can't do it because they don't want to give you the funds. So we want to have an infrastructure bill -- a real one, like in the vicinity of \$2 trillion -- to completely rebuild our roads, our bridges, our highways, our tunnels, everything. And I'm totally open to listening to that.

I'm also open to listening to and even putting forward -- because we're going to be putting something forward -- more money for our citizens because they've gone through trauma. This has been trauma. This came out of nowhere.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: When -- and I say it and I'll say it again: We had the greatest economy in the history of the world. We had the most people working in the history of our country, almost 160 million people -- far more than ever before.

And then one day, our professionals correctly came to us and they said, "Sorry, sir, we have to close down our country." And I said, "Say it again. Say it again." "We have to close down our country." And the entire world closed down because of this hidden enemy.

No, we -- we are going to take good care of our people. It was not their fault.

Q May I ask Dr. Birx to clarify something that she said on Saturday, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Yes, please.

Q May I ask Dr. Birx to clarify something that she said on Saturday? If I may, Dr. Birx --

THE PRESIDENT: Deborah?

Q -- this is a question that comes from a radio colleague of mine, Tamara Keith. And on Saturday, it sounded like you said that for the next week people in high-risk areas should not even go to the market or the drugstore. Is that what you meant to say or is that accurate?

DR. BIRX: You know, out of respect for every single healthcare worker that's on the frontline, whether they're a nurse, a doctor, a respiratory therapist, the phlebotomist, the persons who come in the rooms to clean -- you know, out of respect for them, we as Americans should be doing everything possible.

And what I meant was, if you can consolidate, if you can send one person, the entire family doesn't need to go out on these occasions. We really need -- this is a highly transmittable virus. We've been saying that we want every American to know that what they're doing is making a difference, but we need to have solidarity of commitment from everyone to really -- so, you know, maybe once every two weeks, we can do a grocery store and pharmacy shop for the entire family.

So it was really about: We have to do everything we can. I know -- I see on the TV stations the level of human suffering in the hospitals.

Dr. Fauci and I and Admiral Giroir have spent our lives taking care of others. We need to take care of each other now as Americans and do everything that's in those guidelines.

And I know they're tough. I know incredibly how tough they are. My grandchild of 10 months got a fever of 105 this weekend. I'm the doctor and I couldn't get there. I mean, so I'm trying to explain to my daughter how to listen to her lungs. How to listen to her lungs and then the baby's lungs. (Laughs.)

THE PRESIDENT: So you did not get there? You did not get there?

DR. BIRX: I did not go there.

THE PRESIDENT: Good, I'm very happy about that.

DR. BIRX: (Laughs.) Because of you two. (Laughs.) I mean, when you -- you can't --

THE PRESIDENT: (Inaudible.)

DR. BIRX: -- you can't take that kind of risk with the leaders of the country.

THE PRESIDENT: Your grandson is okay?

DR. BIRX: Daughter. But she's coming out of it.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a lot of temperature, 105.

DR. BIRX: Yes. But, you know, we're all --

THE PRESIDENT: That's a lot of temperature.

DR. BIRX: -- and that's just an illustration. And I know you all are making sacrifices. And I guess I want everyone to take this seriously. So that was really a call of seriousness of how important this is and how we're starting to see the impact.

But you can see what can happen when you come at this a little bit too late. And that's why the message -- before you see it, before you have to see your hospitals and your emergency rooms overwhelmed -- it is on us, as a member of this community, of this country, to do everything possible to save one another.

And so that was really what I was saying, and I will continue to say that because I do believe it's making a difference. You can start to see it making a difference. But we have to do even more right now because that will predict where we are two or three weeks from now.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Deborah.

And it is making a big difference. I saw where Governor Cuomo was a little bit upset today. Over the weekend, a lot of people outside and they were -- they were pretty big groups of people. I saw that. I noticed that. And he wasn't happy with

that. And I could understand that.

Look, we have a period -- a short period of time -- hopefully, it's a short period of time to go. And let's get it done. Let's get it done.

Kristen, did you have a question?

Q Yes, I did. Thank you. Quick follow to --

THE PRESIDENT: You're so quiet today.

Q Just got here. Apologies.

THE PRESIDENT: It's because you have your own show now, right?

Q (Laughs.) No. Quick follow to the question about legislation. I know there's discussion about a phase four --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- but are you also looking seriously at a second round of direct payments? And are you putting discussions on a potential phase four on hold for now while you pursue that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I was opposed to the way of distribution -- money distribution -- through, as you know, unemployment and through the state offices because they have very old com- -- not all of them, but many of them -- have 40- year-old equipment, as I've said. And it makes it very difficult.

But that's what they're looking -- that's what they to do. That's the way it's mandated to do. I thought it would be better if we did a direct payment system, but the Democrats really wanted it. And I think they had some -- some help from a couple of people that I would have -- had I spoken to them, I

would have convinced them otherwise, I really believe.

But, so -- but it's getting out. And the federal government has done its job. All we can do is give this massive amount of money to the states. The states then are responsible to distribute it -- a little bit like we're talking about here. But the money will be right on time from the federal government, then the states have to do their job in getting it out.

Q Does there need to be a second round of those payments, do you think?

THE PRESIDENT: We could very well do a second round of direct. I would do it direct.

Q Is that -- is that under serious discussion right now?

THE PRESIDENT: It's under -- it is absolutely under serious consideration.

Q And in terms of Chuck Schumer, he also said he spoke to your chief of staff about potentially appointing a czar to oversee the supply chain. Is that something that you would consider doing?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have people that are so talented.

Q Who is the point person for that?

THE PRESIDENT: I know the people he suggested. They're wonderful people. They worked here. They're wonderful people.

He's just doing that because it's politics. Because you know what?

Q But who's the point person right now, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: We have many. Depending on what? In terms of testing, this gentlemen right here.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I can speak to that.

THE PRESIDENT: In terms -- you know who the point person is? This gentleman right here. He's the one in charge of the task force. But, Mike, you may want to tell him about the -- because this is really a military operation.

Q Mr. Vice President, in terms of supply chain, in terms of getting out PPE --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Let -- let me answer your question if I may --

Q Please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: -- because it's -- it's a very good question. And I spoke to Senator Schumer the night before last about just that. When the President signed a declaration of national emergency, he stood up FEMA as the lead agency implementing his policy to marshal a whole-of-government response. And, under FEMA, we provide federal support, the state manages the healthcare response and healthcare providers and first responders implement that response on a local level.

Our lead on this issue in implementing it is Administrator Pete Gaynor. But the man managing all of the supplies -- and you heard a presentation this weekend about our Air Bridge; what we also called a control tower -- we literally, with Admiral John Polowczyk at the helm of our logistics effort, we have visibility now on all the supplies that are moving across this country and into this country from around the world. It really is extraordinary.

I mean, when the President tapped FEMA to lead this effort, he -- we essentially wanted to say we want to organize this in a military fashion. And we tapped, really, someone who is widely regarded as the number-one supplies and logistics military officer to do just that. He really is an extraordinary individual. Admiral Giroir has known him for a long time. And to be working with Admiral Polowczyk -- we speak every morning. Our team reviews the data. We go over that with Administrator Gaynor and Admiral Polowczyk.

We talk about an extensive team that's identifying supplies around the country and around the world. And then, as we were explaining to governors today, we work with the requests that are coming in from states, with a priority on the areas that are dealing with widespread outbreak -- like the Greater New York City area, New Jersey, Louisiana -- focus on Detroit, focus on Chicago and Illinois.

And then what -- what Pete Gaynor and Admiral Polowczyk are doing is directing those commercial distributors to send the resources directly to the frontlines of the battle against the coronavirus. It is an extraordinary system.

And as I explained to the governors today, as I've explained to congressional leaders who've made a -- what I think is a good-faith recommendation that we have -- that we organize this in a manner of military logistics -- it's exactly what President Trump has done. And it's what we're doing every single day to make sure that healthcare workers, to make sure that the states that are dealing with a widespread outbreak of coronavirus can be confident that we're going to spare no expense, leave no stone unturned, and use this extraordinary apparatus, centered in FEMA, to get the people of our country what they need, when they need it, to battle the coronavirus.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mike.

And, Kristen, when Schumer makes a statement like that, he's only doing it for politics. He knows. We have the best generals, the best admirals. We have the best people. These are incredible leaders. These are vibrant people. They've done such a good job.

And again, you'll get a tape of the conversation because I'm sure some of the governors probably had their favorite reporter listening to the conversation, even though they weren't supposed to. But that's happened before.

Just so you understand, we had a call today that was a beautiful call -- everybody friendly, everybody happy. They also know, in some cases, we'll get them a little bit more. And if they need it, we'll get them a lot more, depending on where this monster is going.

But when Schumer does that, take a look -- take a look at the past --

Q Well, he's not the only one, to be fair, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, you're going to have to tell me who.

Q There are other people who have raised that -- that point.

THE PRESIDENT: They certainly don't -- well, yeah, some Democrats, because they view this as a campaign issue, they want to make Trump look as bad as they can because they want to try and win an election that they shouldn't be allowed to win, based on the fact that we have done a great job.

We built the greatest economy in the world. I'll do it a second time. We got artificially stopped by a virus that nobody ever

thought possible. And we've handled it, and we've built a team, and we've built an apparatus that's been unbelievable.

Take a look at the swine flu. Right? That's H1N1. Take a look at that. And it's not the other way around, by the way. It's H1N1. Take a look -- you know what I mean by that. Take a look at the swine flu. It was a disaster; 17,000 people died. The other administra- -- they didn't even know -- it was like they didn't even know it was here. And that was peanuts compared to what we have, in terms of the power, the magnitude of what we're going through. This is attacking 182 countries, simultaneously.

So Schumer is just all about politics. I've known him almost all of my adult life. And he's -- he's a disgrace. In many ways, he's a disgrace. And he knows it's (inaudible). He just wants to do that. But he knows the job we're doing.

Everybody is amazed at the job we're doing. And the public is starting to find out. They're starting -- you know, one of the reasons I do these news conferences -- because if I didn't, they would believe fake news. And we can't let them believe fake news. They see us up here. They see us with admirals. They see us with this talent. They see the job that Mike Pence has done, which has been an unbelievable job. An unbelievable job.

I put him there. I thought he'd do well. He did great as the governor of Indiana, and I thought Mike would do well. He's done much better than well. And he gets along with people, I think, much better than I do. Because I like people being 100 -- Mike can put up with things that -- sometimes I say, "It's amazing that he can put up with it." But he's done an incredible job and so has the entire team.

This is a military operation. And again, we built 2,900 beds in Javits Center. We -- we built medical centers in New York. In Chicago, we built 1,000 beds -- much more now -- in McCormick

Place. That's their big convention hall, the equivalent of Javits convention hall. Big McCormick Place. Fantastic place.

By the way, the mayor of Chicago -- at least on the phone -- is extremely happy with what we're doing. She's thanking us. Has a great relationship with Mike. Thanking us.

And I just wish the politicians would say to you what they say to us. Really. And it's a good question.

Do you have one? Yeah, please. And we'll get to you.

Q Yes, Mr. President. A national security question and then a question about Governor Cuomo. On the national security front, to the extent that you can comment on this: Your administration is making heavy preparations to move against the cartels in Latin America right now. And I -- could you expand --

THE PRESIDENT: You said Latin America?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Could you expand on the reasoning of why now? Are their supply and logistics especially weak? Is it political? What's the reasoning?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. It's a good question. We've moved a tremendous number of boats and ships to the area of -- you know, different areas of exactly where you're talking about -- because we are tired of drugs pouring into our country from other places. And we're tired of seeing drugs pouring into different parts of Latin America, South America, and just coming into our country.

Now we've got them stopped at the border and they're trying to do it by sea. So we stop them at the border with -- and, frankly, with the help of Mexico. Mexico, right now, has 27,000 soldiers on our southern border. They never had any soldiers. They're doing that because I've asked them to do it. That's the only reason they're doing it. They have 27,000 soldiers.

So now they're trying to bring it in by boat and by ship -- the drug lords and the people doing drugs -- and trying to destroy our country from inside with drugs. And we're hitting them very, very hard. And that's why we're doing that.

Q Are there other illicit activities that U.S. assets are targeting or --

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

Q Is it beyond narcotics? Are there other illicit activities that U.S. assets are targeting?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there are -- there are the activities of human trafficking, and especially with respect to women. And, as you know, proportionally, it's mostly women.

Q (Inaudible) --

THE PRESIDENT: And it's a horrible thing. It's a horrible thing.

Q -- just particularly opportunistic?

THE PRESIDENT: And there's never been a time like it. And it's because of the Internet. And this is all over the world. But, for the most part, they're coming through -- in this country, they're coming through the southern border. But we're hitting them very hard. They have tremendous illegal trafficking in

women -- and children also, but mostly in women. And it's illegal. And it's horrible. And it's disgraceful. And I've seen things that are an absolute disgrace. And we're trying to knock them out, and we're knocking them hard.

And again, I want to thank the President of Mexico because he has really stepped up to the plate. Twenty-seven thousand soldiers. They've never had any soldiers on our border. And I did that because the Democrats will not approve anything to stop -- because they want to have open borders. They want to have all these people flowing through our border. And, in many cases, they're sick. They have problems that we -- you don't want to know about. Or they're criminals, in many cases. Not in all cases, but in many cases. And they don't want to have bor- -- they want to have open borders. They want to have sanctuary cities. So they protect criminals. And I don't want to have it.

And Joe Biden does want to have that also, as you know, because he said that during numerous debates.

I want to have strong borders, and I don't like protecting criminals with sanctuary cities. But we're doing it for drugs. We're doing it for human trafficking. We're doing it because you have to do it. We either have borders or we don't have a country.

All right. Go ahead, please.

Q On Governor Cuomo, why did he move --

Q Mr. President, on the question of antibody testing -- which is FDA approved now, but not widely available yet -- I know the Admiral said, by May, expect to have millions available. How are you going to prioritize who's going to get the antibody tests? And what does -- what is that going to show you? Do you

think that's going to be immunity?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. I mean, I have an answer, but I'd rather have the Admiral answer that.

ADMIRAL GIRIOR: So, let me clarify -- and I know you probably understand this -- is the antibody test does not tell you if you have the active virus in your nose. If you're positive for the antibody, it strongly implies -- it means that you have had the virus before. And to the degree that we know of medical knowledge, you will probably -- highly probably -- be protected against getting the virus again in the future.

So I want to make something clear: There's no antibody test approved. Okay? "Approved" is not a word we talk about. There is a test or two that has received emergency use authorization, and many, many -- many others out there that have not gone that way yet.

And I want to take this opportunity to caution: There is a very consolidated effort between the FDA, CDC, NIH to validate some of the tests that are on the market right now, because it is very important that they actually do what they say they do. And we have reason to believe that not all of them are going to perform well. I don't know the primary source, but the Financial Times just reported that the UK had 17.5 million antibody tests that they bought, and none of them work.

So we're not going to get in that situation. We're going to be very careful to make sure that when we tell you you're likely immune from the disease, you're really -- that test really said that.

Now, I will also make a statement, and I'm -- there's a lot of work on here, and I'm very excited about it. As opposed to the test for a novel virus, the antibody-type tests are very

sophisticated technology, but they're old technology. This, we expect to have many tens of millions of tests the first month that we are really sure that the test makes sense.

So this -- this allows for surveillance screening -- and Dr. Birx is one of the world experts -- to understand is 1 percent, 5 percent, 30 percent of Americans have been infected. But it also allows us to have very widespread -- tens and tens of millions of people screened with a finger prick on the spot.

Q And by when? Just to be -- by May you're saying this will happen or when --

ADMIRAL GIROIR: So -- so we're -- science doesn't run on rails. Right? So we need to make sure that the FDA, the NIH -- which they're actively doing right now -- assure that the tests that they're testing really do perform the way they should.

And if things work out the way we believe they will, we will have millions on the market by May -- in a sophisticated way, in a prospective way -- that we get the surveillance we need. We can test people to see if they've been exposed, immune, and go back to work. And a combination of that kind of test with the current kind of tests we have now is how America opens back up again.

Q And how do you prioritize who gets those tests? I mean, tens of millions -- we're a country of 300 million. How do you determine who you're going to have have that test?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Well, we are having active discussions under the leadership of Dr. Birx and the task force. But you can imagine how that is, right? But with tens and tens and tens of millions of tests per month that are available, you could really do wide-- very widespread testing.

But let me just give you an example.

THE PRESIDENT: Which nobody else can do, by the way. No other country can do it.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: I'll just give you one example. It would be very important to know if the virus is still circulating here -- whether, for example, a healthcare worker or a long-term-care nursing home worker is immune from the virus and can't carry it. Very, very important to protect our elderly in that situation. But also, if you haven't been exposed, to make sure that you really take precautions and maybe take care of the people who don't have the virus -- and you don't have the virus.

So there are very -- it's complex, but it's not complicated on how you go about looking at this in different segments of society. And I don't want to take too much more time to the podium, but antibody tests are a different thing. They're coming -- we're highly confident that this can be scaled very rapidly and provide us a bit of information we just don't have now.

THE PRESIDENT: Jeff, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, may I follow up on what you said?

THE PRESIDENT: A few more. We'll do a few more.

Q May --

THE PRESIDENT: And then Mike is taking over, and you're going to see some incredible work that's been done.

Go ahead, please.

Q May I please follow up on what you said with regard to Captain Crozier before?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You said you didn't want to punish him for having a bad day.

THE PRESIDENT: He had a bad day or a bad -- bad week.

Q Would -- does that mean --

THE PRESIDENT: But I -- I don't -- yeah, I want to -- I'm going to look into it.

Q What does that mean --

THE PRESIDENT: And I also -- I also think our Navy Secretary -- he's a highly respected man. So sometimes that happens with people, and I'll -- I'll take a look at it.

Q But what does -- what do you mean by that? Would you consider reinstating him?

THE PRESIDENT: He had a bad day. When he sends a letter out and he sends copies all over the place and it's not a classified letter. And it was very disconcerting to the families of the people on the ship -- were very disconcerting. So, number one, they get worried and scared. It was weak. We don't want weak.

But I'm going to take a look because he's -- I think he -- you know, looks to me like he's an outstanding guy. I looked -- I looked at his whole -- just a little while ago, I looked at his file. And people have bad days and we'll take a look at it.

Q I guess my question is: What would you consider doing for him?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we'll take a look. I want to look, I want to speak also to the Secretary. I also want to speak to the

Secretary of Defense, who is Mark Esper, who is doing a fantastic job. And we'll -- you know, maybe I can help the situation out.

I mean, you guys are saying, "Why is the President getting involved and going..." Well, I like to solve problems. It's a problem. You know? I -- I don't want to see men hurt, women hurt. I don't want to see people hurt unnecessarily. Maybe we can solve it easily where, you know, it's not life changing.

But he did -- he did a bad thing, sending a letter out and many, many copies, as you know. I don't know, I heard 28 copies. I heard a lot. That's a lot of copies. Plus, the letter was five pages long. I haven't read the letter, but I think it was five pages long, single spaced. That's a lot of writing.

You know, he's the captain of a ship. He's the -- he's a very important person of a very expensive ship, a nuclear-powered ship. He shouldn't be writing letters like that. But it happens. Sometimes, I'll write a letter that I say, "I wish I didn't send it." Not too often, but it happens.

Q Can I follow up on that? Mr. President, can I follow up on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Yeah, go ahead.

Q A quick follow-up on that, because the Acting Navy Secretary -- and I know you were asked about this, but I just want to try one more time. He did say, in remarks to soldiers on the USS Roosevelt, that Crozier was, quote, "too naïve or too stupid" to be in command if he didn't think that writing that letter was a bad idea.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know want to comment on what he said. I -- I understand.

Q Do you wish he had used different language, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: It's -- it's tough language, but I don't want to -- let's not get into that. It's tough language. Now, there are some people that think, "Oh, wow, he says it like it is."

Look, he made a mistake. He should not have sent that letter or he should have gone through his chain of command, which is the typical way of doing it. You know, he's in the military. He's a very important person in the military. He knows it better than anybody in this room what he should have done and I'm sure he feels he made a mistake.

But I'm going to look into it, and I'm going to see -- maybe we can do something, because I'm not looking to destroy a person's life who's had an otherwise stellar career, as I understand it. I looked at his file just now because I've been seeing what's going on.

Q Potentially reinstate him?

THE PRESIDENT: If we can save -- if we can save a person's career -- I don't mind going after a person if they did something wrong. And, you know -- but this was a mistake. He made a mistake. I'm not justifying what he did. He made a mistake. He shouldn't be sending letters. He's the captain. He's a very important person in the military. You don't send letters and then it leaks into a newspaper. Of all newspapers, that was a beauty. Right? So you just don't do that. So, it was a mistake.

But I may get involved. I'll call Secretary of Defense and find out a little bit about it. And if I can help two people -- two good people -- I'm going to help them.

Q Mr. President, your tone seems to have changed a little bit

since Saturday.

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

Q Your tone seems to have changed a little bit on the captain since Saturday.

THE PRESIDENT: On the captain?

Q Yeah. Has --

THE PRESIDENT: No, it hasn't. I mean, look --

Q But is it the news coverage or did somebody speak to you on his behalf?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, ready? I -- I said -- when you asked me and when the question was asked the last time, I said, "Shouldn't have sent the letter." I haven't changed. He shouldn't have sent the letter. And it should've -- if there's a letter, it should go classified and it should go to his superior. And he shouldn't be jumping over his superior.

Q Why did you look at his file, sir? Did somebody ask you to?

THE PRESIDENT: So, I'm -- it hasn't changed, in that regard. The only thing that has played right up here with me is that I looked at his record. And he's been an outstanding person. If he wasn't, I wouldn't even be talking about this. He's been an outstanding person. He's had a very exemplary military career.

I mean, you know, he started off as a helicopter pilot. They called him "Chopper." His name was "Chopper." He was a great helicopter pilot. It's a tremendous skill. I know a lot about helicopters. And then he went to F-16s or F-18s, and he was a

tremendous pilot. And then -- he's very smart. He studied nuclear energy and he was fantastic -- and very few people have the aptitude, they have the mentality to do that. Nuclear energy is very complex. Very -- it's very hard. Very few people can do it. And he did it well.

And then he became the captain of a nuclear ship. Right? He became -- of a -- a replacement costs -- if you look at replacement costs: \$18 billion of replacement cost. Right? So he's got -- on a replacement-cost basis, an \$18 billion ship. You know, the President Gerald Ford -- very expensive. That's, you know, the nearest thing I can think of. But they're spending money on that one like nobody's ever seen.

So, he made a mistake. He made a mistake. And maybe we're going to make that mistake not destroy his life.

Q Does that mean you would reinstate him, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, a couple of more. A couple of more. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, you mentioned medical professionals and compared them to soldiers going onto the battlefield.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Many doctors and medical workers today -- some of them seeing pay cuts. They're going into a sort of environment where they're concerned about their own health, their family's livelihood --

THE PRESIDENT: I know.

Q -- if something were to happen to them.

THE PRESIDENT: Very much on my mind.

Q As part of this phase four, are you going to prioritize --

THE PRESIDENT: It doesn't have to be phase four. I think it could be a separate phase when it's all over. Right now, I don't think they want to think about it. These people don't want to think about it. These people are incredible. They're not thinking about, "How much am I getting paid?" These people are incredible. I've seen it. I see the spirit. I hear about it all the time from Mike, from the Admiral. I hear about it all the time. These people are incredible.

When it's all over, I do want to seriously think -- maybe in the form of bonuses. These people are -- what they've done is incredible.

I just -- I just admire the attitude and I've said it. I just -- they walk into those hospitals and they are seriously -- you know, one of the things that came up with the Comfort, the ship, is that when we -- we fulfilled the request of Governor Cuomo and Governor Murphy -- and they're going to be splitting it. But, you know, a lot of the things happen to ships when you do the -- you know, it's a lot of -- they didn't want to do this. In fact, they specifically didn't want to do this: have patients that were affected with this horrible disease or whatever -- the plague -- because, frankly, it's a plague. That's exactly what it is. You'd read about it in the old days. The plague. And that's exactly what it is.

But we're doing it. But when I see the bravery of these people walking through doors without their stuff -- I mean, they're half -- they're just getting -- they're not standing outside, "Hey let's get ready. Let's..." They're running through doors, putting on the stuff. It's not even on. I think it's incredible.

I'm telling you, the nearest thing I can think of is soldiers in battle and soldiers going right into battle, because that's what they're doing. It's really -- in many ways, it's the same thing.

All right. How about one more?

Q Mr. President, one more question. Mr. President, you may have seen this: The Masters Tournament has been rescheduled to November. Two questions: A, is that an outgrowth of your conversation that you had with sports commissioners on Saturday?

THE PRESIDENT: Could be. I hope it's rescheduled. I hope -- I hope football is able to start. I hope baseball can get to play a little bit. I hope basketball can maybe do their playoffs.

Q What about the -- Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I mean, hey, I have no -- I have no interests or anything other than I want what's good for the country.

Q What about the U.S. Open, which you've attended many times?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, a lot of people are tired -- yeah, a lot of people are tired of looking at games that are five years old. I looked the other day, I saw somebody, I said, "Wow, he looks great." I forgot. I said, "Oh, that was nine years ago." You know, I said, "He's really in great shape." Well, not in a great shape now, but he was in great shape then. It was nine years ago.

You know, you get tired of looking at 9-year-old baseball games and -- and playoff games that took place 12 years ago. I don't have much time to do that, frankly, but that's what people are doing, and they want to see sports. Sports are a great thing for this country.

And I hope football can start. And I told them, "I think you might be able to." They may very well be able to. I hope they can start and I hope they can start with people in the stands. You know, we're not going to be separated. But you have seats. Those seats are meant for people to sit next to each other. And when this virus is gone, people are going to be sitting next to each other.

And just for the restaurant industry, so they understand, when the virus is gone, people are going to be sitting next to each other. One man said, "I have a 200-seat restaurant. It's been great. But if I go by these rules, those 200 seats goes down to 60." I said, "No, no. You have a 200-seat restaurant. That's what you have." But we have to wait till the virus goes away. It wouldn't even do well at 60. Frankly, there's a warmth to it also. There's a warmth. But not when we have the virus in the air.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much. So I'm going to let our Vice President take over. He's got some really interesting numbers, statistics. And I want to thank the Admiral. I want to thank Tony and Deborah and everybody else. I want to thank everybody that's working. And I really do -- I see a lot of tremendous things happening. And the therapeutics -- the call I had today was one of the most exciting calls I've had in a long time.

And again, I want to wish my best to the UK and the family of Boris Johnson. And we just hope he's going to be okay because he's -- he's a fine guy.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you. Thank you, Mike. Thanks.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President.

A few updates on the activity of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, then I'm going to ask Dr. Birx to speak about what we're seeing in the numbers.

We know we are at the beginning of what's going to be a very tough week in America. But as Dr. Birx will reflect, because the American people have been embracing social distancing, putting into practice the advice of state and local leaders and the President's coronavirus guidelines for our country, as Dr. Birx will describe, we are not only seeing remarkable progress in Washington State and in California, where the numbers remain low and steady. That's a great tribute to the people of both of those states and to all of their dedicated healthcare workers. But we're also beginning -- we're beginning to see a leveling just at the very beginning. And she'll reflect on those in just a few moments.

A couple of quick updates: At the present moment, the President has approved 50 major disaster declarations and will likely be issuing a disaster declaration for the state of Minnesota before the end of the day. We've distributed more than \$4.1 billion to states. And right after our incredible healthcare workers, we couldn't be more proud of more than 21,000 National Guard that have been activated and are working in states all across the country.

During my conference call today, I learned that Governor Brian Kemp is actually using the Georgia National Guard to sanitize and clean up nursing homes. But National Guard are being deployed in a variety of ways all across the country. And to them and to the families of all these citizen soldiers, you have our admiration and our respect.

As the President mentioned, our focus remains on the New York metro area, New Jersey, Louisiana, and then, Michigan and

Illinois. We're watching every area of the country, but those are the priorities today.

And in that spirit, I spoke today, as the President did, with Governor Cuomo of New York. The President made the decision to open up the USNS Comfort to COVID patients. And he also informed the governor of New Jersey that we would be taking New Jersey COVID patients. So now there will be two facilities: one at the Javits Center that's all COVID, and in the USNS Comfort that will be managing COVID patients.

At the present moment, there -- by this evening, there will be 2,179 medical military personnel in New York City. And over the next two days, that number will rise to 3,000.

Speaking with the governor, speaking with Mayor de Blasio, the President and I were informed that while we have surged ventilators, we have surged personal protective equipment, that sending in some relief for healthcare workers was vitally important. And so, again, I want to emphasize that those are medical personnel -- doctors and nurses and medical assistants -- who are on the scene now and will continue to arrive to a total number of 3,000.

I spoke to Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey. New Jersey is very much in the forefront of the coronavirus in America, today. We want to -- want to commend the governor for his extraordinary leadership in the state.

During our briefing today, we learned about the progress that they were making and also about the governor's decision to temporarily reactivate retired healthcare personnel in the state. And just as a reminder of all that we're dealing with, this weekend, Governor Murphy told me that New Jersey surpassed the number of lives that were lost on September 11th -- to the state of New Jersey. And it breaks our heart to think of

that. And our hearts go out to all of the families of the more than 10,000 Americans who have succumbed to the coronavirus.

We also -- as the President said, we express our gratitude to governors in Oregon and Washington State yesterday for donating ventilators to help the states at the epicenter of the coronavirus. Governor Gavin Newsom of California donated 500 ventilators. And I just learned that those will be going -- 200 to the state of Maryland, 50 to the District of Columbia, 100 to the state of Delaware, 100 to Nevada, and we'll also be deploying the remaining 50 to the Northern Marianas Islands and to Guam.

And we want to thank Governor Gavin Newsom. The State of California has provided extraordinary and compassionate leadership for their citizens. They're making progress there.

As the governor said the other day, they're not out of the woods yet, but the numbers speak for themselves. And the generosity of the people of California and the governor is gratefully received.

Beyond that -- before I recognize Dr. Birx, let me -- let me just say that at the beginning of this challenging time, we want to -- we want to challenge every American to continue to do what every American can do. And clearly, what we see in Washington and California, and what we are just beginning to see elsewhere, is put into practice the social distancing recommendations of the coronavirus guidelines for America. Listen to your state and local authorities. We really do believe that while this will be a week of heartache, it also is a week of hope.

And as we see some of the cases beginning to level, just for a day or two, it is our hope that what we have seen begin in the greater New York area and even in Louisiana and elsewhere will become a trend. But it only becomes a trend if every one of us continues to take ownership and continues to do our part for this "30 Days to Slow the Spread."

With that, I'll recognize Dr. Birx for the latest data. And then we'll take questions.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. I think you heard very clearly our concern in the New York-New Jersey metro areas; this also includes Connecticut and Long Island. As we talked about, we did see a significant increase in Sussex County over the weekend.

The weekend numbers are always difficult -- I want to be clear on that -- because sometimes case reporting is not as accurate over the weekend. So we'll be watching very closely today's numbers and Tuesday's numbers. We're also very, of course, focused on the New Orleans metro area, and that includes the three parishes of Jefferson, St. John the Baptist, and New Orleans proper, and, of course, the Detroit area, which is Oakland and Wayne.

As we mentioned before, we're continuing to track very closely out of concerns of it potentially reaching logarithmic phase in the Chicago metro area, the Boston metro area, the D.C. and Baltimore metro area, Indianapolis, the Denver area, and two regions of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and the Pittsburgh area, as well as Dallas and Houston in the Texas area.

I had a very encouraging call because we also don't want to miss anything. Remember, I showed you a lot of states were very much under 25 and 50 cases for 100,000. There were some -- a few standouts that we were concerned about, which was Vermont, New Hampshire, Idaho, and Montana.

We had excellent calls today with their health commissioners and their -- really were able. They're on top of the situation. These were micro outbreaks that occurred due to ski events and weddings and nursing homes, and they were able to describe in critical detail the incidents and how they're

tracking and tracing. So they are still doing full contact tracing through those areas. And I just want to applaud these. This is both a rural and metro problem, and I really want to applaud how many of the states, that may have smaller populations, are approaching this.

That gives us encouragement of how we can talk about beginning surveillance activities. At the same time, we're following these very clear outbreaks and ensuring that there's full supplies based on the very granular data that we're utilizing. And I just want to thank the mayors and governors who get us that granular data and allow us to make these deeper interpretation across all of the United States.

We know each governor is concerned about their areas, but these metro areas cover different areas. So the Philadelphia area also includes southern New Jersey and Delaware, and so we have to really look at things very much as both the metro and the communities that surround those metros. And so all of those people, we ask you again, throughout the United States, to follow these very clear guidance.

I want to just recognize both HHS -- and you heard about the work that Admiral Giroir is doing, the work that Dr. Hahn, and Administrator Seema Varma -- Verma are doing, and also Administrator Engels in the work of HRSA to really ensure that our federally funded clinics are actively engaged in all of these aspects.

But I also want to recognize the military: the Medical Corps, the Nursing Corps, and the Medical Subspecialty Corps. These were my brothers and sisters for 29 years. It is highly unusual for the active force to be called into a domestic situation. I think that shows you how seriously we're taking this at the federal government level. In my 29 years in the military, I was never deployed domestically. So this is showing you how serious of an

event we take this. If the military is deploying domestically, it is another reason for every American to be following these guidelines.

Finally, CDC quietly launched a new website. It's -- if you go to CDC.gov and you go to "COVID-19," you can find their surveillance data. This surveillance data is bringing together our influenza-like illnesses with their syndromic management databases so that you can track the respiratory disease across the United States. The states are used to using this system. It's in emergency rooms. It's in hospitals. It's in doctors' offices. And it gives you insight, and you can see very clearly influenza A peak, you can see the influenza B peak, and now you can start to see the respiratory disease from this current outbreak.

These are the systems that exist within the United States that will be strengthened in order for us to do comprehensive surveillance. So I just want to assure the American people: While we're working on these outbreaks, we're also working on bringing new systems together that have a comprehensive look across the country, building on the strong work of CDC as a public health institution so that we can work county by county, community by community, state by state to really understand where this virus is and where it will be, but also as an early alert for us in the future.

So I just want to assure the American people that as we're working on the crisis of today, we're looking to the future to ensure we have the systems in place to bring those early alert systems together while we work on the antibody testing and while we work on continuing, spreading, and increasing the diagnostic capabilities that you see presented here.

Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Deb. And Admiral Giroir spoke several times when the President was with us, so he'll be here for questions as Deborah Birx will.

But Doctor -- Dr. Fauci, your thoughts. And then we'll -- we'll take some questions.

Go ahead.

DR. FAUCI: No -- no, actually. We're --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Please.

DR. FAUCI: I just wanted to -- okay, I will. (Laughs.) It related to something I said yesterday about that somewhat paradox of everything going up at the same time that the feeding into this engine of this virus is starting to show some signs.

So Governor Cuomo today reported an interesting data from New York, namely that the number of hospitalizations, the number of admissions to intensive care, and the number of requirements for intubations over the last three days have actually started to level off.

So, again, everybody who knows me knows I'm very conservative about making projections, but those are the kind of good signs that you look for. You never even begin to think about claiming victory prematurely. But that's the first thing you see when you start to see the turnaround.

That doesn't mean we don't have a lot of work to do. That tells me -- instead of saying, "Hm, that's pretty good," it's, "We got there through mitigation. We cut off the stream of people who ultimately required hospitalization, required intubation, required all of the kinds of extreme methods."

So we just got to realize that this is an indication -- despite all the suffering and the death that has occurred -- that what we have been doing has been working.

So the call that I say every time I get to this podium is, "Just keep it up," because this is going to get us out of it. This is our best and only great public health tool.

Q And aren't we starting to see that across many states? We're seeing the level of hospitalizations and deaths is lower than what we anticipated.

DR. FAUCI: Well, you're going to see it most dramatically, Jon, in a place like New York where you see it goes up at peak, and then it will hopefully -- and I think it will -- come down.

When you have places like Seattle, which did a -- and Washington State -- who did a really good job from the beginning, it never really did that. So they were able to keep it down. And on the charts that Dr. Birx showed, when you saw California and Washington State, they were fortunate they did a good job that it never really got out of hand.

So, again, this is a big country and you have a number of different metropolitan areas. I think, if we do it right, you're going to see those who have not peaked will not peak, and those who have peaked -- the New Orleans, the New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Detroit, and others -- you're going to see the same thing if we keep our foot on the accelerator.

Q Dr. Fauci, a quick follow-up.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Further questions for the team?

Q I'm following up Dr. Fauci's comment earlier about what it's like going to be coming back to normal and until there's a

vaccine that -- there'll be gradual steps towards restoring normalcy.

Under that -- you know, short of a vaccine -- does putting 80,000 people, fans, spectators in a sports stadium or 25,000 politicians in an arena for a political convention this summer make a lot of sense? Do those sorts of things require a vaccine to fully protect the American populace?

DR. FAUCI: No, I don't think that you're going to have to say that the country cannot get back to a real degree of normalcy until you absolutely have a safe and effective vaccine. It will be really evaluating the kinds of things.

And that's the reason why -- it was discussed up here -- why it's so important to have an antibody test so you know what the penetrance is in society. And then we have a situation where we don't ever want to get to have to mitigate. We want to be able to contain. And by the time we have to face what's going to happen with this going back to normality, we will have in place the capability of identifying, isolating, contact tracing so that it never gets out of hand.

Ultimately, the showstopper will be obviously a vaccine where you can vaccinate people and you won't have it. There's going to be another issue that's going to be important and it has to do with somewhat of a comparison, for example, with influenza.

We go through multiple cycles of influenza. There's always a degree of background immunity in the population. I mean, that will ultimately happen if we get a situation where we get back to normal.

Now, I hope we don't have so many people infected that we actually have that herd immunity, but I think it would have to be different than it is right now.

So, again, remember, when you say "normalcy" -- I mean, we could get back normally, economically and otherwise, without necessarily saying we're going to forget about the virus. We have to pay attention to this because we've had a very bad experience with this virus.

Q Dr. Fauci, can I follow up on that, please?

Q I have a quick follow-up.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

Q Thank you. And this is for the Vice President, for Dr. Birx, and Dr. Fauci. But --

THE VICE President: Go ahead.

Q -- can you give us a sense of -- and I know you don't want to make any projections -- but where we are with the numbers? Because we saw that horrible number today. More than 10,000 deaths now in the U.S. Are we on track for those best-case scenario numbers that you had laid out, the hundred thousand? Or are we potentially coming in lower than that at this point, given some of what you're seeing?

DR. BIRX: You know, it just gives me an opportunity to thank and respect the modelers who have really worked on this, because there's -- a large number of them have worked very hard on -- and done a lot of predictions.

And what we did is did -- we did predictions of predictions. We like to integrate data. And so that's where you come up with these numbers. I think Dr. Fauci and I both strongly believe that if we work as hard as we can over the next several weeks, that we will see potential to go under the numbers that were

predicted by the models.

And I think that is really two things: It is the extraordinary compliance of the American people and the diligence that they have mitigated with. Because remember, we are doing this strictly by behavior change. It's very hard to change trajectory of viruses on just behavior change. We have had difficulty in our past doing that. So that's what we're doing and that's what the American people are doing.

But the other side of that is the incredible insights that Washington State and others are providing on how to better care for the patients in the hospital. So those two pieces are coming together that could have a dramatic impact on the predictions of the mortality from this disease.

DR. FAUCI: So, I'm glad you asked that question because I've said it a couple of times here. I want to say it again. Repetition is good. Is that models are good; they -- they help us to make projections. But as you get data in, you modify your model. And I've always said data always trumps models. Always.

So what I feel, and I believe that Dr. Birx also feels, that I don't think anyone has ever mitigated the way I'm seeing people mitigate right now. This has never happened in this country before. So I am optimistic -- always cautiously optimistic that if we do what I've been talking about over the past few minutes, we can make that number go down.

I don't accept every day that we're going to have to have 100- to 200,000 deaths. I think we can really bring that down, no matter what a model says, because when the data comes in, they'll start to say, "You know, maybe you are essentially overshooting the model." And I think that's where we can go. That's the reason why I like to always get up and tell the American people: It's

the virus doing what the virus wants to do, and it's we, as a society, doing what we can do.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: And let me just amplify that from a layperson's perspective: The American people are doing it. I mean, the initial data, what we've seen in California and Washington, support the fact that the American people are doing these things, which is nothing short of loving your neighbor.

I mean, the truth is, the threat of serious illness for most Americans is relatively low. But the threat of serious illness for seniors with underlying health conditions or anyone with an immunodeficiency is very high.

And when we see Americans putting these principles into practice the way you all have been, it really means you're considering others more important than yourself. And I have to tell you, for the President, for me, and for all of us, it's deeply inspiring. We just need to continue to do it for all of these 30 days, and we'll bring that number down.

How about a couple more? Please.

Q So, Mr. Vice President, when will you know -- when do you think that you will know whether or not you will have to extend those 30-day guidelines, or if 30 days will be enough?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, the experts told us that somewhere around the middle of this month would be the peak.

And as we begin to see a couple of days that might be the beginning of leveling, we're going to -- we're going to watch that carefully and we're going to bring that information to the President. But for now, the decision is, and the request of every American, is to continue to put into practice all of the President's coronavirus guidelines, "30 Days to Slow the

Spread."

And for all of you in areas that have been impacted broadly by the coronavirus: Listen to what your state and local authorities are asking you to do. It will protect your health, your family's health, and it will save lives.

Let's do a couple more, and for our panel, if you'd like. Jeff.

Q This is more of a personal question. But, Dr. Birx, can you tell us if your granddaughter is okay? And --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yeah. I'd like to hear it too.

DR. BIRX: Well, thank you. Due to her -- the great care of my 91-year-old nurse mother and my daughter, she's down to like 100 to 99 now. But it was three days of 104 and 105, which is -- you know, babies can do that, but it's very scary, especially when I couldn't assure myself that she was fine.

So it was just some sleepless nights for me, and I think them, as they kept her fever down. So thank you for asking.

Q Did she have this -- the virus? Or --

DR. BIRX: Oh, no. I'm sure it's roseola or something. They have not been out of the house. They are not allowed out of the house. (Laughter.) They've got two granddaughters under -- one, two and a half almost; and one only 10 months. And my 91-year-old and 96-year-old. So no one is allowed in that house or out of that house because there's too much precious cargo inside the house. (Laughter.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: How about -- how about one more -- one more question, and we'll let you all --

Q Thank you, Mr. Vice President. For whoever wants to answer this, it's technical question. So FEMA says that it is in the process of distributing 90 percent of each state's allocated supplies for the National Strategic Stockpile. And that allocation is determined based on population by the last census in each state. And the other 10 percent, it says, is going to frontline healthcare workers serving in the federal response efforts.

So where -- where are those healthcare workers in the federal response? And do you envision a scenario in which you could start giving states more supplies from the National Strategic Stockpile?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You know, it's a really good question. And let me say, the Strategic National Stockpile -- and I'm going to have Admiral Giroir speak about his piece of that -- is -- has been largely deployed. We are continuing to replenish it in part with a small portion of what's coming in from around the world. You've heard about our air bridge -- now more than 50 flights that have been scheduled that are bringing millions of supplies into the United States.

What we're doing is taking less than 10 percent of that, put it into the Strategic National Stockpile so we have that to basically provide for states on an as-needed basis. But the other 90 percent that -- that system that I just described earlier when the President was here -- is working with the six major medical distributors in the country to deploy those resources to New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Louisiana, Michigan, Illinois, the exact priority that you just heard Dr. Birx describe and that the data informs. And those decisions are being made every single day.

And so while -- while -- if a hurricane hits Florida, or tornadoes or flooding tear through the state of Indiana, we're very accustomed to FEMA coming in, drawing from the National Stockpile, and providing specific resources.

In this case, with a nationwide effort, what President Trump directed us to do was literally marshal the resources of the full economy to be able to make sure that we can meet the needs for personal protective equipment, ventilators, and all manner of supplies. And we're doing that, in a small way, through the Strategic National Stockpile, but in the largest way, through that control tower system that Admiral John Polowczyk is running for us that is deploying those resources and making sure they're going straight to where they need to go.

And as I said earlier, those decisions are being informed by the data, and they're literally being made by our team at FEMA on a daily and sometimes hourly basis. And we'll continue to keep you informed, as we did today, about where some of those are going.

But let me let Admiral Giroir finish that answer.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: I don't really have much more to add to that. The Vice President is certainly well informed about that. And I want to assure you that all the sourcing around the world, if it's there, we're putting it in our supply chains. We're buying more. Manufacturers are stepping up to the plate. And this is going not just by percent allocation, but it's going to the exact places that need it, in the quantities that they need to take care of patients.

And we want to make sure -- this is a two-way street. We get the -- get the data in from individual hospitals to know exactly what their burn rate is, exactly what they need. And we want to make sure that they feel comfortable that they're going to have supplies, because they will. Because part of this is about potential shortages in other place -- some places. Most of it's about a fear of a shortage.

If I'm a physician in an ICU, and I'm not sure that it's going to

be there, that's going to scare me. It's going to scare my nurses. So we want everyone to have that assurance that we will provide you what you need over weeks, periods of time, exactly to your need.

And Admiral Polowczyk and his team -- and, again, it's all military in there. I mean, he is the logistics guy for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, right? This is what he does. He is a wizard. He has a -- there are more stars around me in the DOD part of the military than I've generally seen outside of the Pentagon. This is really being run as a military operation.

I'm in the U.S. Public Health Service. So we're part of HHS. The Surgeon General and I have the honor of running that service. We are shoulder-to-shoulder in the field, in the military hospitals with everyone else. There are only 6,100 of us; 3,000 are doing direct patient care on a daily basis. We take care of the Indian Health Service, the Bureau of Prisons, those in detention at the border, et cetera. That's what we do.

The other 3,000 -- over 2,000 of those are in the field already, taking care of patients directly, and we have more going out the door every day.

Q And if I could just to follow up on that very quickly then. Is it even worth then governors writing into FEMA if they've already received their 90 percent allocation and you're getting data directly from the hospitals to ask for more at this point?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: This has been a very cooperative interaction. I bet I talk to five governors a day, and we talk out -- we talk out the issues and understand what they -- what they perceive in their state. They often help us -- help point us to particular areas that may -- that they feel need more attention or that needs more communication. So it's been very productive. I --

you know, I have to look up what governor goes to what state because I'm not -- that's not my world. But it's been a very productive interaction. So I think all of this is necessary.

I'm on almost every governors call with the Vice President. They're very meaningful. They're impactful. They're informative. They're communicative. We talk to each other. But then we do get down to the individual hospital level, because when the rubber meets the road, you got to know what the docs, nurses, respiratory therapists -- the people who clean the rooms, who are an important part of the team; I want them to come to every work saying, "You know, it's not that I clean the room, I'm saving lives today." And they are saving lives by keeping the viruses off the surfaces and reducing transmission.

So you've really got to get that granular. And we're to a point with Admiral P's -- you have two admirals with the worst pronounced names in the world -- so, Admiral P, Admiral G. But Admiral P's team really has this covered down to the individual hospital.

Q Thank you, sir.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: And let me say, just by way of closing, because I thought -- I thought that last question was helpful.

We're interacting with governors every day, seven days a week, and we welcome that. And while there are some resources in the Strategic National Reserve -- we spoke about ventilators; we have some 9,000 ventilators on standby -- we also have this vast array through the commercial system that when we hear from governors, we're identifying the needs. They're working every day to identify their hospital capacity.

We went over governors today saying, "We need to know -- we need to know what your capacity is, what your normal capacity is, what

your surge capacity is. We need to understand what your equipment complement is across the state." And governors have been doing this. They've been assembling that information.

But I want to tell you the governors across this country in both political parties have been doing a remarkable job. And the President is grateful and I'm grateful.

And I just want to know that those healthcare workers that they're serving, and the families that those healthcare workers are serving, can be confident that we are going to do whatever it takes to get them what they need, when they need it.

And every governor is working in that regard, every hospital administrator is working in that regard, and the opportunity that we have -- because the American people are stepping up so strongly and putting others ahead of themselves -- in most cases, they're acting in a way that that puts the health of others first. We're -- we're more confident today than ever before that we're going to be able to provide our healthcare providers and the states that are impacted by the coronavirus with the resources and the support they need to meet this moment. And we're just going to continue to work our hearts out and make that a reality.

You know, I -- but I have to end with just a reference to the healthcare workers. You've heard these doctors talk about them. They're all healthcare people. You've heard about the President talk about them. You all have seen them. And to think what these healthcare workers, doctors, and nurses, and medical assistants are doing every day -- it inspires us to get up early, to stay up late, to keep working to make sure they have what they need to be able to continue to do their job courageously.

And I know I speak on behalf of every American when I say how grateful we are for each and every one of you. And in this very

special Holy Week, I know millions of Americans are praying for our healthcare workers.

I saw a picture that I sent out last night on Twitter. It was an article about a series of cities where doctors and nurses had paused to pray for the patients and the families that they were ministering to. And I just want to say to all those healthcare workers: I know there is a chorus of prayer going up every day for all of you. And with your continued courageous service, and with God's help, we'll get through this and we'll get through it together.

Thank you all.

END

7:51 P.M.

EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 10:11:52 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH in-town pool report #1/ Checking in

From: David Smith <david.smith@theguardian.com>

Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 10:05 AM

Subject: WH in-town pool report #1/ Checking in

Greetings from the White House on a sunny day.

The daily guidance shows POTUS has lunch with VPOTUS at 12.30pm (closed press).

There is a Coronavirus Task Force press briefing at 5pm. Do send in any questions and I'll try to ask them.

--

David Smith

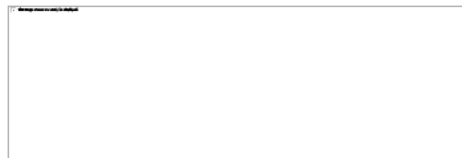
Washington bureau chief

Guardian News & Media

(b)(6)

david.smith@theguardian.com

twitter: @SmithInAmerica



900 17th St NW, Suite 250,

Washington, DC 20006

theguardian.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 5:09:35 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH in-town pool report #5/ Briefing delayed to 5.30pm

From: David Smith <david.smith@theguardian.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:05 PM
Subject: WH in-town pool report #5/ Briefing delayed to 5.30pm

The White House announced that today's Coronavirus Task Force briefing has been put back to 5.30pm.

--

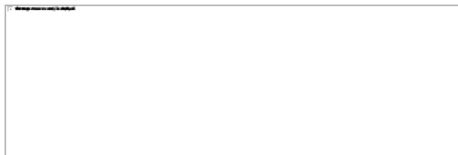
David Smith

Washington bureau chief
Guardian News & Media

(b)(6)

david.smith@theguardian.com

twitter: @SmithInAmerica



900 17th St NW, Suite 250,
Washington, DC 20006
theguardian.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 4:24:27 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH In-Town Pool Report #10 -- feed of bank promises from White House

From: Munson, Emilie <Emilie.Munson@hearstdc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:22 PM

Subject: WH In-Town Pool Report #10 -- feed of bank promises from White House

Your pooler just received this from the White House press office. These banks participated in the small business relief event.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CALLS ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND DELIVERS FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

After calling on the private sector to step-up for small businesses, the Trump administration delivers major commitments from these public-private partnerships.

Goldman Sachs Deliverable:

- Commits to \$500 million in capital and critical infrastructure to Treasury-certified Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), to help small business.
- Goldman Sachs will provide grant dollars to CDFI partners. This will enable CDFIs to hire necessary staff, onboard technologies and quickly set up other operational needs to successfully provide loans to small businesses.

Bank of America Deliverable:

- Commits \$250 million in capital and \$10 million in philanthropic grants to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). These investments will expand access to capital to more small businesses and not-for-profits Announces additional support for consumer and small business clients experiencing hardship from the impact of COVID-19.
- Commits \$100 million in support of communities around the world impacted by coronavirus pandemic.

JP Morgan Chase Deliverable:

- Announcing \$150 million program to help community partners receive capital for underserved

small businesses and nonprofits, focusing on underserved entrepreneurs including women and minority owners and the hardest hit communities.

- JP Morgan Chase continues to lend money in the communities where they do business, lending \$39.4 billion since the crisis began in February.
- JP Morgan Chase announced \$50 million in philanthropic support to address the immediate public health and long-term economic challenges for small business and communities from COVID-19.
- In addition to helping hundreds of thousands of small business customers receive access to the Paycheck Protection Program loans, JP Morgan Chase has also provided other relief such as payment deferrals and fee waivers on credit lines, loans, business credit cards and checking accounts.

Wells Fargo Deliverable:

- Will not charge any late fees on accounts requesting assistance or report past-due status for up to 90 days, and has also temporarily stopped all foreclosure-related activity and eviction for small business customers with loans in our lending portfolio.
- The Wells Fargo Foundation has committed \$175 million to support non-profits at the federal, state, and local levels helping people impacted by COVID-19. Including \$10 million to support small businesses.
- \$2 million of which will focus on the deployment of flexible capital in collaboration with Opportunity Fund and will also provide immediate cash boosts and financial coaching support of entrepreneurs and their low-wage workers in coordination with SaverLife.

Citibank Deliverable:

- Citi commits to issue waivers on monthly service fees and remote deposit capture, and waive penalties for early CD withdrawals.
- Citi commits to suspended foreclosures and evictions for 60 days through its subservicer Cenlar and is providing forbearance programs for student loans through its subservicer Firstmark.
- Citi has also made Small Business bankers available after hours and on weekends for support and have engaged hundreds of small business clients to help assess their needs and deliver critical financial solutions.
- Participating in the Small Business Administration's newly launched Paycheck Protection Program.

Visa Deliverable:

- The Visa Foundation is committed to two programs totaling \$210 million to support small and micro businesses, aligning with the Foundation's long-term focus on women's economic advancement and inclusive economic development, and to address an urgent need from local communities following

the spread of COVID-19.

- The second program is a five-year, strategic \$200 million commitment to support small and micro businesses around the world, with a focus on fostering women's economic advancement.
- Through the \$200 million small and micro business program, the Visa Foundation will provide \$60 million in grants to NGOs dedicated to supporting small and micro business owners, many of whom are women, in every region where Visa operates. The Visa Foundation will also allocate \$140 million with investment partners that generate positive social and financial returns for small and micro businesses.

Mastercard Deliverable:

- Committing \$250 million over the next 5 years to small businesses in the United States and other markets where Mastercard operates, supporting the financial security and vitality of businesses and their workers.
- Offer free cyber vulnerability assessments and identity theft protection over the next three months to any of the eligible 28 million small businesses, as well as their 57 million employees, who participate in the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program.
- Commit to offering free Local Market Intelligence™ solutions, providing insights into local consumer spend patterns, leveraging MasterCard's anonymized data, to the millions of small businesses that accept MasterCard.

Grand Rapids State Bank Deliverable:

- Modifying loan terms to create a period of interest only payments.
- Modifying loans by deferring payments for up to six months, creating a period of time where there is total temporary relief from payments.
- Created a #CommunityStrong campaign to raise awareness of various local businesses each week and then give away gift cards to area residents to that week's featured local businesses. Provide lunch to in-office staff at all locations from local restaurants on Fridays each week.

Community Spirit Bank Deliverable:

- Committed to 90-day payment deferral programs for anyone affected by the virus, allowing for deferment of both principal and interest for these customers on any affected loan.
- CEO Brad Bolton issued a video to the customer base to assure them they would still have access to all banking services, just on a more limited basis and gave out his personal cell phone number, email and direct dial.
- CSB has continued to assure its local deposit base of the strength of not only its community bank, but community banking in general, all backed by the FDIC, which has never lost a single depositor's

money since it was founded in 1933.

###

Emilie Munson

Regional Correspondent

Hearst Newspapers

Twitter: @emiliemunson

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 4:16:54 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH in-town pool report #4/ Pharmaceutical companies

From: David Smith <david.smith@theguardian.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 4:03 PM
Subject: WH in-town pool report #4/ Pharmaceutical companies

This was sent by Judd Deere, deputy press secretary:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke by telephone with executives of pharmaceutical companies to discuss the all-of-America response to COVID-19. The President acknowledged the industry's progress in developing therapeutics to fight this pandemic and promised the Federal Government will continue to be a helpful partner with science and data leading the way. The executives thanked President Trump for directing his Administration to break down barriers, cut red tape, and encourage cooperation across all industries and Government to best meet the needs of the American people during this unprecedented time. President Trump continues to lead a whole-of-Government response to combat the health and economic effects of this invisible enemy.

The following participated in the call:

Trump Administration

President Donald J. Trump

The Vice President

Dr. Stephen Hahn, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration

Adam Boehler, Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation

Jared Kushner, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor

Marc Short, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the Vice President

Pat Cipollone, Assistant to the President and Counsel to the President

Joe Grogan, Assistant to the President and Director of Domestic Policy Council

Tim Pataki, Deputy Assistant to the President, Director of Office of Public Liaison

External Participants

Robert Bradway, CEO, Amgen
Alexander Hardy, CEO, Genetech
Daniel O'Day, CEO, Gilead
Leonard Schleifer, CEO, Regeneron

--

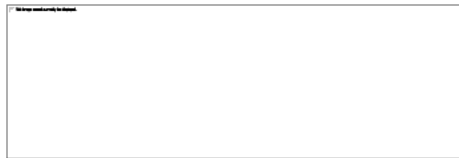
David Smith

Washington bureau chief
Guardian News & Media

(b)(6)

david.smith@theguardian.com

twitter: @SmithInAmerica



900 17th St NW, Suite 250,
Washington, DC 20006
theguardian.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2020 6:58:52 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: pool report #3/briefing at 7 p.m.

From: "Gillman, Todd" <tgillman@dallasnews.com>

Date: April 5, 2020 at 6:47:20 PM EDT

Subject: pool report #3/briefing at 7 p.m.

The pool is on duty for the 7 p.m. briefing. With 15 minutes to go, all but one of the 14 assigned seats are occupied. The straggler is on his way after initially missing the short notice email.

Two temperature checks today, and no questions. Today's sticker indicating a fever-free journalist is magenta, a bit darker than Barney.

To recap the day's events:

11:45 a.m. The White House press office declared a travel/photo lid, shortly before the noon pool call time.

3:30 p.m. The president tweeted that there might be a briefing after today's coronavirus task force meeting.

5:23 p.m. The press office lifted the lid and set a 6:30 p.m. call time for pool

7 p.m. briefing scheduled

Todd J. Gillman

Washington Bureau Chief

The Dallas Morning News

M: (b)(6)

tgillman@dallasnews.com

@ToddGillman

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/4/2020 5:23:42 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves Maine Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves Maine Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Maine and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to State, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of Maine impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named W. Russell Webster as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT: FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2020 11:58:36 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Pool report #1/lid

From: "Gillman, Todd" <tgillman@dallasnews.com>

Date: April 5, 2020 at 11:54:33 AM EDT

Subject: Pool report #1/lid

A travel/photo lid was issued at 11:45 am on this sunny, otherwise golf-worthy Sunday, 15 minutes before the call time for today's pool.

No COVID-19 task force briefing today.

Stay safe.

Todd J. Gillman
Washington Bureau Chief
Dallas Morning News
tgillman@dallasnews.com

(b)(6)

cell

@toddgillman

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/3/2020 8:14:50 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2020

April 3, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT: Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health
and Medical Resources to Domestic Use

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) (the "Act"), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. To deal with the threat that the novel

(new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 poses to our Nation's healthcare systems, on March 18, 2020, I issued Executive Order 13909 (Prioritizing and Allocating Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19), in which I found that health and medical resources needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19, including personal protective equipment (PPE) and ventilators, meet the criteria specified in section 101(b) of the Act (50 U.S.C. 4511(b)). And on March 23, 2020, I issued Executive Order 13910 (Preventing Hoarding of Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19), in which I delegated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services the authority under section 102 of the Act (50 U.S.C. 4512) to combat hoarding with respect to such resources. On March 27, 2020, I issued Executive Order 13911 (Delegating Additional Authority under the Defense Production Act With Respect to Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19), in which I delegated to the Secretary of Homeland Security the prioritization and allocation authority under section 101 of the Act (50 U.S.C. 4511) with respect to such resources.

On March 25, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services designated under section 102 of the Act 15 categories of health and medical resources as scarce materials or materials the supply of which would be threatened by accumulation in excess of the reasonable demands of business, personal, or home consumption, or for the purpose of resale at prices in excess of prevailing market prices ("scarce or threatened materials"). These designated items include certain PPE materials. To ensure that these scarce or threatened PPE materials remain in the United States for use in responding to the spread of COVID-19, it is the policy of the United States to prevent domestic brokers, distributors, and other intermediaries from diverting such material overseas.

Sec. 2. Presidential Direction to the Secretary of Homeland Security. The Secretary of Homeland Security, through the

Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall use any and all authority available under section 101 of the Act to allocate to domestic use, as appropriate, the following scarce or threatened materials designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 102 of the Act:

(a) N-95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators, including devices that are disposable half-face-piece non-powered air-purifying particulate respirators intended for use to cover the nose and mouth of the wearer to help reduce wearer exposure to pathogenic biological airborne particulates;

(b) Other Filtering Facepiece Respirators (e.g., those designated as N99, N100, R95, R99, R100, or P95, P99, P100), including single-use, disposable half-mask respiratory protective devices that cover the user's airway (nose and mouth) and offer protection from particulate materials at an N95 filtration efficiency level per 42 CFR 84.181;

(c) Elastomeric, air-purifying respirators and appropriate particulate filters/cartridges;

(d) PPE surgical masks, including masks that cover the user's nose and mouth and provide a physical barrier to fluids and particulate materials; and

(e) PPE gloves or surgical gloves, including those defined at 21 CFR 880.6250 (exam gloves) and 878.4460 (surgical gloves) and such gloves intended

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive

department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2020 1:36:58 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves South Dakota Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves South Dakota Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of South Dakota and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to State, tribal, and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of South Dakota impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named Lee K. dePalo as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/2/2020 3:29:28 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Memorandum on Order Under the Defense Production Act Regarding the Purchase of Ventilators



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2020

April 2, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBJECT: Order Under the Defense Production Act Regarding
the Purchase of Ventilators

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. 4501 *et seq.*) (the "Act"), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. On March 13, 2020, I declared a national emergency recognizing the threat that the novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 poses to our healthcare systems. In recognizing the public health risk, I noted that on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the

outbreak of COVID-19 (the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2) can be characterized as a pandemic. I also noted that while the Federal Government, along with State and local governments, have taken preventive and proactive measures to slow the spread of the virus and to treat those affected, the spread of COVID-19 within our Nation's communities threatens to strain our Nation's healthcare systems. I further noted that, to ensure that our healthcare systems are able to surge capacity and capability to respond to the spread of COVID-19, it is critical that all health and medical resources needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19 are properly distributed to the Nation's healthcare systems and others that need them most at this time. Accordingly, I found that health and medical resources needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19, including personal protective equipment and ventilators, meet the criteria specified in section 101(b) of the Act (50 U.S.C. 4511(b)).

Sec. 2. Presidential Direction to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary). The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall use any and all authority available under the Act to facilitate the supply of materials to the appropriate subsidiary or affiliate of the following entities for the production of ventilators: General Electric Company; Hill-Rom Holdings, Inc.; Medtronic Public Limited Company; ResMed Inc.; Royal Philips N.V.; and Vyair Medical, Inc.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/2/2020 3:49:26 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves U.S. Virgin Islands Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves U.S. Virgin Islands Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

The President's action makes Federal funding available to the territory and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all islands in the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named William L. Vogel as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the territory and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT: FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/3/2020 10:53:30 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-town pool report #1

From: Christian Datoc <christian@dailycaller.com>

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 9:19 AM

Subject: In-town pool report #1

Good morning from the White House — I'll be your print pooler today.

POTUS currently has 1 public event on his schedule, the coronavirus task force briefing at 5pm ET. He has a closed press meeting with energy executives at 3pm ET — will let everyone know if that opens up ahead of time.

Feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions. Happy Friday.

--

Christian Datoc
Senior White House Correspondent
Daily Caller
1920 L Street NW, Suite 200
Washington DC 20036
christian@dailycaller.com
C: (b)(6)
@TocRadio

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2020 1:36:49 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves Delaware Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves Delaware Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Delaware and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of Delaware impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named MaryAnn Tierney as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/3/2020 5:52:58 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump in Meeting with Energy Sector CEOs



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
IN MEETING WITH ENERGY SECTOR CEOS

Cabinet Room

3:18 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you very much. It's a great honor to be with the world leaders in American oil and gas and, really, I could say, the world leaders, period, when it comes to energy and American energy. The biggest companies anywhere -- anywhere in the world.

I want to thank Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt; Secretary of Energy, Dan Brouillette; and Ambassador Robert Lighthizer for being here.

We're also joined by Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senators John Cornyn, Kevin Cramer, Ted Cruz, and Dan Sullivan. Thank you. These are people that really want to see good energy at the good price.

With us as well are Greg Garland of Phillips 66, Dave Hager of Devon Energy, Harold Hamm of Continental Resources, Jeff Hildebrand of Hilcorp Energy, Vicki Hollub of Occidental Petroleum, Mike Sommers of the American Petroleum Institute, Kelcy Warren of Energy Transfer Partners, Mike Wirth of Chevron, and Darren Woods of an extremely small company known as Exxon Mobil. Well, it's smaller today than it was four weeks ago -- (laughter) -- by about half, right? That's all right. It'll be better than ever.

Today we'll discuss the impact of the coronavirus on American energy industry. As the pandemic brought on by global economy -- I mean, it's an incredible thing that's happened. Nobody thought this was possible. We had the greatest economy in the world. Probably, you were doing -- all of you -- the best ever. Everybody was doing the best ever. And then, all of a sudden, they said, "You have to shut down the country," and they have to shut down the world, because the whole world is shut down, not the country. The whole world is shut down: 151 countries. Probably, it's higher than that now. That was as of a week ago.

So the entire world is shut down, trying to get rid of this scourge. And -- and we'll do it.

I thought what I might do is go around the room and you just introduce yourselves to the media real quickly, and then we'll have a discussion afterwards. You know, our 2.2-trillion-dollar relief package includes provisions to allow businesses to deduct their losses this year against taxes they paid in previous years, which gets you a lot of liquidity. And a lot of companies need the liquidity right now.

And hopefully we're going to be back in business very soon. We're going to be open very soon. This country wasn't built to be closed. And, essentially, we have a closed

country. Nobody has ever heard of a thing like this.

But this was -- I was with some of the leading professionals, and they say not since 1917 has there been anything like this. 1917 was a time when, I guess, you could say, 50, 75, or 100 million -- you hear different estimates -- people died. Think of that: 100 million. Maybe 100 million people died. So they had no communications. They weren't able to shut things down like we are doing.

But that was a -- that was a plague. That was a plague. It started here, actually. It went to Europe. We were badly affected, but Europe was really affected. So that was the worst.

So not since 100 years ago -- more than 100 years ago has this -- a thing like this happened.

I just want to start by saying it's an honor to be with you. I know most of you, one way or the other. Some of you I know, and -- but I know all of you by seeing you on the covers of all the business magazines and the magazines. And you've done a great job, and we'll work this out and we'll get our energy business back. I'm with you 1,000 percent. It's a great business. It's a very vital business. And, honestly, you've been very fair. You've kept energy prices reasonable for a long period of time. We've got a long period of time with very reasonable energy prices.

So I want to thank you all for being here. And maybe we'll start with Mike. Please.

MR. WIRTH: All right. Mike Wirth with Chevron Corporation, Mr. President. I'm proud of the work our people are doing to support healthcare providers, first responders, and all the other vital industries that keep our economy going.

Thank you for having us.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mike, very much. Appreciate it.

MS. HOLLUB: Vicki Hollub of Occidental Petroleum.

THE PRESIDENT: Hi, Vicki.

MS. HOLLUB: Thank you for allowing us to be here today and thank you for all you're doing for us.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you, Vicki.

MR. HAGER: Dave Hager, with Devon Energy. We're an independent oil and gas company out of Oklahoma City. And thank you so much for the leadership that you're providing during this challenging time. And we -- you're the right man at the right time to balance all the priorities. And we're going to be back. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: We'll get it done, Dave. Thank you very much.

MR. GARLAND: Mr. President, I'm Greg Garland, Phillips 66. Again, thank you for your great leadership through this pandemic crisis and all that you've done on the stimulus package, really, for the American economy. I'm proud of our employees. They're working to provide energy and improve lives.

THE PRESIDENT: We think it's going to come back quickly. It's -- it's ready. We're ready. And we've got the right packages out there. So --

MR. GARLAND: We need it, too.

THE PRESIDENT: Very good. We're looking at a -- I think we're

going to be really looking very seriously at a infrastructure package where -- it's so important for our country.

You know, as of this moment, Darren, we have \$7 trillion-plus in the Middle East. For what? For what reason? And we don't put money in our own country. So we're going to do a big -- a big package on infrastructure fairly soon, I think, and that's very important. And it's great for you, great for everybody.

Darren, please.

MR. WOODS: Thank you, Mr. President. Darren Woods, Exxon Mobil Corporation. I'd like to add my thanks for your leadership in this space, as well, and say I think all of our companies here align with your objective, which is to get the economy moving and to make people's lives around the world better.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Great job you've done. Thank you.

MR. HAMM: Harold Hamm, chairman of Continental Resources, also out of Oklahoma City. Thanks for having this meeting. I think this is so timely and necessary. Really appreciate your leadership, also the friendship that you've kept with the Saudis -- the Saudi Crown minister -- or Crown Prince, and also Vladimir Putin. I know those haven't been easy sometimes, but at this time, it was particularly needed.

So I represent our company, as well as DEPA -- Domestic Energy Producers Alliance. And we're about 10,000 companies and individuals -- mostly independent producers.

THE PRESIDENT: That's great. Great job you're doing.

I think President Putin and the Crown Prince want something to happen badly. Certainly terrible for them, what's happening, too. So they want to see something happen. I've spoken to both

of them and we'll tell you about that in a little while. Okay?

Thank you very much.

MR. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. President. Jeff Hildebrand, founder and chairman, Hilcorp Energy. Our distinction is we are the only private company here. This is a company that's based in Houston, domestic-only exploration and production company.

And I'm really here today to represent the independent energy companies, the family-owned businesses that are in this industry, and to give you, really, that perspective and add to the conversation in that regard.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. That's great.

MR. HILDEBRAND: So thank you for your leadership.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. HILDEBRAND: Appreciate it.

THE PRESIDENT: Great job. Thank you.

MR. HILDEBRAND: You bet.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. President. Kelcy Warren, Energy Transfer. We're the only pipeline company. And so we try to do business with everybody in this room, and I think we successfully do, actually. So it's an honor to be here, sir, and it's an honor to be in this room with these folks as well.

THE PRESIDENT: And everyone loves that guy, right? We all do. Thank you very much, Kelcy. Great. Great job you're doing, too.

He's not an oil and gas man. He's a wonderful person and a wonderful politician and he wants to see the industry get strong again. So, Kevin, do you have anything to say, by the way?

LEADER MCCARTHY: Well, first, I want to thank you for doing this. Just by you reaching out to President Putin and the Crown Prince, things have improved. You're looking around at a lot of jobs, but what else you're not seeing at this table: A lot of these are small businesses that work with all these individuals around here. And your action today, with signing the CARES Act, getting the small-business loans out, is going very strongly --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

LEADER MCCARTHY: -- because it's needed.

THE PRESIDENT: It's doing well.

LEADER MCCARTHY: But the American economy -- the greatest strength is our -- what energy provides us. You provide us at a good price. These are great jobs. But more importantly, it also gives us energy independence. It changes the whole dynamics around the world.

And so I thank you for the leadership and what you're doing.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Kevin. And as you just said, the Bank of America, in particular, has really -- of the big banks -- has really stepped into it. They have done a fantastic job. Today, it's over --

LEADER MCCARTHY: Ten thousand in the first two hours.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Bank of America has been unbelievable. And I want to thank them. I want to thank all of the community banks and the smaller banks that have been loaning

a lot of money -- paycheck. It's all about the paycheck. And that -- nobody would have believed it could have gone so well.

So it's -- it's just a number of hours. But the numbers are far greater than we would have anticipated. So it's been really great.

And thank you to all the banks, but again, in particular, Bank of America. They really stepped right up and they did it. There were no big deals. They weren't making a big deal out of anything. So that was terrific.

And I think what we want to do -- John Cornyn, please. I know how you are so involved in this, coming from the great state of Texas. Would you like to say a couple of words, John?

SENATOR CORNYN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for convening the meeting. Many of us have been talking together, but we can't get done what needs to be done. Only you and the administration can. And particularly, getting the attention of the Saudis and flooding the markets, really adding insult to injury in a time when our economy was suffering anyway because of the coronavirus. And so this meeting could not be more timely.

I agree with what's been said about the importance of affordable energy to our standard of living. And, really, we've changed the -- changed the world as a result of the production of domestic energy here, and improved the quality of life for a lot of people.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks very much, John. Really good job. And John agrees -- we were talking about it the other day -- that you've all done well, but you've also kept energy very affordable, really. Very, very affordable and very -- a lot of it. We never had any problems. And we're going to keep it that

way.

Do I see Dan back there? Dan?

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Yes, sir, Mr. President. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I was looking -- I thought that looked like Dan.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I want to thank you for convening this meeting. You know, under the Trump administration, working with the Congress, the U.S. has become the world's energy superpower again. It's unbelievable. And these companies have done it. Obviously it's a very important issue in my state, the great state of Alaska. But these are great jobs, as John Cornyn just said, for all of our states. But it's really important for the national security of our country too.

And we have been -- a number of senators have been reaching out, having frank discussions with the Saudis, saying, "Hey, if you're a longstanding ally of ours, we're not -- right now, you're hurting a lot of our citizens. You're hurting a lot of the people we represent and shouldn't take us for granted."

We have a great military that's protected Saudi Arabia for decades. And Senator Cramer and I have some legislation that could possibly change that if they don't start cooperating.

So again, we appreciate your leadership with the Crown Prince, with the Russians, in calling this meeting.

But this is a great sector of the U.S. economy that, once we get through this, and we will -- of this pandemic, this --this sector is going to take off again. And your -- your administration and you have had a lot to do with the strength of the U.S. energy sector. And we need to keep it strong.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Dan.

And Kevin Cramer, North Dakota. People don't realize how big a producer North Dakota is. Right?

SENATOR CRAMER: Well, Harold knows. (Laughter.)

SENATOR CORNYN: Harold knows.

SENATOR CRAMER: It sort of allows the others (inaudible).

THE PRESIDENT: Harold -- Harold knows, that's for sure.

SENATOR CRAMER: Mr. President, to echo everything and maybe add a little bit: The people around your Cabinet table right now are part of the renaissance of oil and gas in this country. But since you became President, we went from a renaissance to security, to independence, to dominance. And that dominance and that security are -- right now are in some danger.

Just a quick example: In North Dakota, since Saudi Arabia and Russia announced their little price war, we've had \$6 billion of cutbacks taken out of our state, planned for this year.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

SENATOR CRAMER: I was economic development director when the entire gross domestic product of North Dakota was \$13 billion. So that's significant. That represents not just capex; that represents lots of jobs, lots of people in the value chain.

And I would just add one word to what Dan talked about with regard to Saudi Arabia. It is estimated by one report in 2018 that we spent a minimum of \$81 billion defending global oil supplies. We can use that money in national defense and other hotspots in the world, if our friends are going to treat us this

way.

So I appreciate your outreach this week. I think we're halfway there just with the success of your diplomacy this week. Thank you for this meeting.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's gone up. It's gone up. And we have to. Otherwise, we do -- we lose a lot of jobs too. We're talking about one of the big job producers anywhere, Kevin, right?

Would you have anything to say?

MR. SOMMERS: Mr. President, thank you. I'm Mike Sommers. I'm President and CEO of the American Petroleum Institute. The folks around this table represent the American energy revolution, and we want to thank you for everything that you've done to support that revolution. And we want to make sure that revolution continues --

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

MR. SOMMERS: -- after this pandemic crisis is solved.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mike.

MR. SOMMERS: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Very good.

LEADER MCCARTHY: I think Senator Cruz was somewhere --

THE PRESIDENT: I think he's around here.

LEADER MCCARTHY: Right back there. Ted can't be seen.

THE PRESIDENT: Where -- where is Senator Cruz?

PARTICIPANT: He's hiding behind the press. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I can't believe it. He's gone -- he's gone over to the evil side. (Laughter.) That's terrible.

Cruz, what are you doing there?

SENATOR CRUZ: Mr. President, thank you for convening this meeting. This is an important meeting and this is the time, as you know, of crisis all across the country -- a public health crisis and an economic crisis.

As you've heard, and as you know, from everyone around this table, the energy sector has been a huge part of the economic success and boom that we've enjoyed over the last several years. And the combination of the economic harm of the coronavirus crisis, combined with the Saudis and Russians waging economic warfare on jobs in this country, it's been a perfect storm in the energy sector.

And I'll tell you, there are a lot of jobs -- there are millions of jobs in Texas and across the country that are represented by the men and women around this table and by energy producers. And there are small producers throughout Texas and throughout the country who are -- who are on the verge of being driven out of business.

And so this -- this meeting, I think, is important. Every one of the senators in this room has had multiple conversations with the Saudis, leaning in hard on the Saudis. And your leadership and diplomacy with the Crown Prince had a big impact getting them to stop flooding the market and taking advantage of this crisis.

And I would underscore one other issue that a number of the folks

around this table have raised and I'm very concerned about: is ensuring that those in energy in this time of crisis have access to capital. That -- there are jobs that are hanging in the balance. And if the energy producers in this country that have made America the number one producer of oil and gas in the world can't access capital to get out of this crisis, we're going to see bankruptcies at a level this country hasn't seen in decades.

And so this meeting and the continued leadership of your administration is hugely important. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Thank you very much, Ted. And while you're up, the concept, and, for instance -- I think we should say it in front of the media -- but oil reserves, storing oil. We're filling up the national reserves, as you know. We're getting the oil at a great price.

But at these prices -- in fact, Kevin and I have been speaking about it; John and I have been speaking about it -- at these prices, you would think you'd want to fill up every cavity that we have in this country. And there's some areas in Louisiana and other areas that could be filled up; they hold a lot of oil.

But at these prices -- and it would be good and it would keep everybody working -- but you would think you'd want to fill up those areas. What do you think of that, Ted?

SENATOR CRUZ: Look, I think that's exactly right. I think it makes sense in terms of easing the pressure that is threatening these jobs. But it also makes sense for the taxpayer.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

SENATOR CRUZ: That Strategic Petroleum Reserve is there in times of crisis. And usually the way the federal government works is we buy when it's expensive, and we sell when it's cheap.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. No, it's --

SENATOR CRUZ: We actually have an opportunity now to buy when it's cheap. I think it was inexcusable that Democratic leadership in the House and Senate blocked that in this bill we passed last week. And then I think Congress needs to go back and address it.

LEADER MCCARTHY: It was in the bill.

SENATOR CRUZ: Yep.

LEADER MCCARTHY: And then the Speaker came in and that's the one thing -- when she held this bill up for the number of days -- that she removed.

THE PRESIDENT: Twenty-dollar oil. Think of it.

LEADER MCCARTHY: Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: Twenty dollars.

SENATOR CRUZ: Well, and there are too many Democrats --

THE PRESIDENT: It's politics.

SENATOR CRUZ: -- that want to see these --

THE PRESIDENT: It's all right.

SENATOR CRUZ: -- jobs go away.

THE PRESIDENT: I think you should go back though, Kevin. I think you should go back and see, John, if you guys can go back and do a separate bill.

And beyond that, you know, I think it's 75 million barrels right now to fill it up. That's not that much. So it's fairly in pretty good shape. But we have other areas that are bigger, frankly, that we can fill up too.

But at those prices, we should be -- we should be pumping it out. So maybe you guys can check on it and see what you can do about it. I don't think anyone can reject it. Nobody can reject it. Ted, you'll work on that?

SENATOR CRUZ: Absolutely.

THE PRESIDENT: Anybody else? David, you guys okay? David, you want to say something?

SECRETARY BERNHARDT: So just one thing, Mr. President. The Department of the Interior manages a large portion of land and part of the offshore. And one of the things we have done over the last 15 days as you had the "slow the spread," we have really had our inspectors out on the frontlines working to make sure that the production that's taking place is occurring in a safe and a responsible manner, and I thank everybody for their cooperation in that.

These jobs are so important to the American people, and it's important that we make sure that we dot our I's and cross our T's too.

THE PRESIDENT: He's the biggest landlord in the country. (Laughter.) Meaning, it's called Interior. Interior is a lot of land, when you look at it. Thank you. Great job you're doing.

So, Dan, go ahead.

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: Mr. President, thank you. Thank you, sir, for your leadership.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dan.

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: My name is Dan Brouillette. I serve the President as the Secretary of Energy. With regard to the storage, Mr. President, I'm happy to announce we went to market this week for 30 million barrels. Notwithstanding the -- the desire of the Congress not to give us new money to pursue this idea, we have found an alternative financing mechanism --

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: -- so that we can immediately find --

THE PRESIDENT: I figured you would. (Laughter.) I actually wasn't worried about it. (Laughter.)

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: -- so that can we can find --

THE PRESIDENT: What are you paying per barrel?

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: I'm sorry, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What are you paying? (Laughs.) He didn't want to answer.

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: It's going to be a little a low. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: What are you paying per barrel? A flexible price or would it -

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: They may be paying us. This could be a little low.

THE PRESIDENT: So we're going to go negative, like interests rates. Negative.

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: But, Mr. President, I just wanted you to know -- and for the industry players who are here: We are moving very aggressively. We're using every tool that we have at the U.S. Department of Energy, not only to provide immediate relief for this particular industry and the economy itself, but also to look for technologies that over time will reduce the cost structure for the entire industry.

So we're moving as aggressively as we can, sir. Thank you for your leadership.

THE PRESIDENT: Dan, check out other areas where you can store oil.

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: And there are some very big ones, bigger than what we have now. And at these prices, you should do it.

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Refill it up, right?

SECRETARY BROUILLETTE: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Fill up the tank.

Okay, Bob Lighthizer, you've been so great. And this isn't your meeting really, but Bob has done some of the best trade deals ever done in our country. And one of them has kicked -- it actually kicked in on April 1st, and that's with China. And I hope they're buying a lot. I hope.

AMBASSADOR LIGHTHIZER: I don't (inaudible) say anything.

THE PRESIDENT: Want to say something?

AMBASSADOR LIGHTHIZER: I'm here to answer questions, Mr. President, so I'll just -- I'll just keep my mouth shut. But the trade deals are working. China is good. We're on -- we're on track with USMCA. But I'll just answer questions.

THE PRESIDENT: He's very shy. That's good. He just wants to make deals. That's all. And you've done a great job. Thank you very much.

We will have a news conference at about 5 o'clock, 5:15 maybe. And so we'll see you in a little while. We'll answer questions.

But this is a great group of leaders, and we've got to make sure that we preserve and even make greater our energy industry. And I want to thank all of the senators and congressmen, the boss here, for being here and for working so hard. They are -- I'll tell you what: They are calling me constantly. They want your industry to be successful and they really -- and they're going to make it that way. We're all going to make it that way.

So I'll see you at 5 o'clock and -- same place. We look forward to it. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Q One question about testing. Was anybody in here tested for coronavirus? We got the new guidance?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, would anybody like to be tested? How about you? You want to be tested?

Q I would love to be tested, actually.

THE PRESIDENT: Huh?

Q I think all of us would.

THE PRESIDENT: We might -- we might be able to do that. You know, it's a great question. No, you know what? I like it. Let's test these guys. You know, they gave us millions of jobs. Listen, they gave us millions of jobs. If anybody wants to be tested, we'll test you. I want to test the head of Exxon.

Q Will this be for every meeting?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not for every meeting.

END

3:41 P.M.

EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/3/2020 4:56:43 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves West Virginia Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves West Virginia Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of West Virginia and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of West Virginia impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named MaryAnn Tierney as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/3/2020 1:00:03 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing (April 2, 2020)



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP,
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE
IN PRESS BRIEFING

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

April 2, 2020

5:22 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Thank you very much. Good to be with you all. We're in a very critical phase of our war against the coronavirus. It's vital that every American follows our guidelines on the "30 Days to Slow the Spread." The sacrifices we make over the next four weeks will have countless American lives saved. We're going to save a lot of American lives. And we're in control of our own fate very much so. Maintaining social distance, practicing vigorous hygiene, and staying at home are your most effective ways to win the war and to escape danger.

While you're fighting this battle from home, we're working with the best scientists, doctors, and researchers anywhere in the world. We're racing to develop new ways to protect against the virus, as well as therapies, treatments, and ultimately a vaccine. And we're making a lot of progress. I think, medically, a lot of progress.

At the same time, we're also racing to get relief to American workers and small businesses, as you know. I want to remind small-business owners across America that the Paycheck Protection Program is launching tomorrow. Nearly \$350 billion in loans will be available to small businesses, including sole proprietors. These loans are up to 100 percent forgivable as long as employers keep paying their workers. Got to take care of your workers.

Furthermore, we want Social Security beneficiaries to know that if they are typically not required to file a tax return, they don't have to file one in order to receive the direct cash payments that will soon be distributed to American citizens. The Treasury will deposit the money directly into the bank accounts. And don't forget, I will always protect your Social Security, your Medicare, and your Medicaid. We're protecting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and I always will.

I'd like now to invite SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza, who's doing a fantastic job -- she's going to be very busy in the next little while -- and Secretary Steve Mnuchin to say a few words about these vital initiatives. And then we'll get on to the attack of the virus itself.

And please, if I might, Steve and Jovita.

ADMINISTRATOR CARRANZA: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President and Mr. Vice President, Secretary Mnuchin, Ivanka Trump, and all who

I have been working closely with in this effort. Small Business is the backbone of the American economy, and the President has put the nation's 30 million small businesses front and center in the response effort, and we are working hard to get money to them quickly.

This is an unprecedented effort by this administration to support small businesses, and we know that there will be challenges in the process. Secretary Mnuchin and I are working in tandem to ensure that feedback from our partners is being heard and implemented.

The private and public sector must work closely together to ensure that small businesses and their workers across the country are put first. This administration believes wholeheartedly that if you are a small business, you are a critical part of the economic fabric of this country. And your viability is critical to the economic wellbeing of your employees.

At SBA, we are working around the clock to support small businesses, ensuring that we are prioritizing emergency capital for small businesses that are suffering economic harm as a result of this unprecedented situation.

This relief will help stabilize a small business sector by providing businesses with the financial resources they need to keep their workers employed and keep up with their day-to-day operating expenses.

Today I want to ensure that small businesses all over the country know about the Paycheck Protection Program and how they can benefit from this. Simply put, the Paycheck Protection Program is to help keep employees on payroll and small businesses open. SBA will forgive the portion of the loan that is used toward job retention and certain other expenses. We are working closely with lenders so that businesses can go directly to their

local lenders.

The Paycheck Protection Program is in addition to substantial work that the SBA has and will continue to do to help small businesses, including providing advances on SBA disaster loans and forgiving existing SBA loan payments over the next six months.

Additional details on these critically important programs can be found at [SBA.gov](https://www.sba.gov). And we will be updating these resources regularly.

Our hearts go out to those affected by this terrible virus. Our communities around the country are stepping up, and we will get through this together.

At SBA, we know that every phone call, email, or application submitted has a small-business owner, their employees, and the communities they support around the other side. Our most important objective is to allow small businesses to keep their employees onboard and keep their businesses viable through this unprecedented disruption.

I want to reiterate the importance of patience in this process as we work together to ensure that businesses are able to access needed credit. We will continue working around the clock, as we've done, with our federal and private sector partners, expanding capacity and working to make our systems as robust as possible to meet the needs.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Jovita. Very good. Thank you.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Thank you, Mr. President, thank you, Mr. Vice President, and thank you, Jovita. Mr. President, you've made it

clear to us we now need to execute. We need to get money to small business and American workers, and that's what we're doing.

The SBA and Treasury committed to get this program up and running tomorrow. And when Jovita says people are working around the clock, they literally -- we had both teams working until 4 o'clock in the morning and start working again today.

We've heard feedback from lenders, community banks, regional banks, and we spent the last 24 hours making this system even easier.

So this will be up and running tomorrow. I encourage all small businesses that have 500 or fewer people, please contact your lenders. Any FDIC institution will be able to do this; any credit union, existing SBA lenders, and fintech lenders.

You get the money. You'll get it the same day. You use this to pay your workers. Please bring your workers back to work. If you've let them go, you have eight weeks, plus overhead. This is a very important program.

I'm pleased to announce we are going to raise the interest rate on these loans -- and again, the interest rate is paid for as part of the program; the borrower doesn't have to pay this -- to 1 percent. We had announced it was going to be 50 basis points. We've heard from some smaller community banks that their deposit costs -- even though the government is borrowing at three or four basis points -- this is, on average, a 90-day loan. To make this attractive for community banks, we've agreed to raise the interest rate.

Again, I encourage everybody: Take out the Paycheck Protection Program.

I'm also pleased to report the economic impact payments. I had

previously said this would take us three weeks. I'm pleased to report that, within two weeks, the first payments will be direct deposit into taxpayers' account.

And as the President said last night, the President authorized me to say that anybody that has Social Security recipients won't need to file a new tax return, and we'll have that. If we don't have your direct deposit information, we'll be putting up a web portal so that you can put that up. It is a very large priority. The President has made clear we want to get this money quickly into your hands.

I'm also pleased to report that we continue to work closely with the Federal Reserve. We're in the process of designing a new facility that we call the "Main Street" lending facility. We're also looking at facilities for state governments as well.

And I'm also pleased to report the employee retention credit -- it's up and running. The first \$10,000 of wages, you get a 50 percent credit; that's \$5,000 per person. For everyone who's kept someone, you can immediately get that money; you can deduct it from what you owe the IRS immediately. If you don't owe us money, you'll get a refundable tax credit. So that is up and running.

I'm also pleased to report we have the program up and running. We're taking applications from the airlines, from the cargo companies, and from national security companies.

So thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Steve. For Jovita or Steve, any questions, please?

Q Mr. Secretary, Chase Bank sent a letter to its business clients today saying that they don't have the necessary guidance

from the SBA, from the Treasury Department, to be able to accept loan applications starting tomorrow. The need is clearly enormous. But at least one major bank says they're not fully empowered yet to be able to help their customers.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, as I spoke to all the CEOs yesterday -- I had a conference call with them -- we got very good input from them on what they needed. As I said, people were working until 4 o'clock.

I believe we just put up the Federal Register with the new guidelines for lenders. I've been assured that the banks will be in the process starting tomorrow.

Now, again, it's going to take a little bit of time but we committed that this will be available tomorrow, and I encourage all companies go to ~~SBA.com~~ [SBA.gov], go to Treasury.gov. You can see the information you need immediately.

Q Just to follow up with the small-business owners. A number of them are saying that they were on that conference call and that there's a tremendous power struggle going on between the Treasury and SBA, and that it's over process and forms is what they tell me; that lenders are actually opting out because they can't make enough money to even service the loans. So how are you going to make sure these small-business owners get the capital they need to survive right now?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, first of all, I can assure you -- Jovita is here. Jovita used to work for me as the Treasurer. There is no power struggle.

ADMINISTRATOR CARRANZA: No.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Jovita and our team, as I said, worked together until 4 o'clock in the morning and started working at 7

o'clock again. We've made the form simpler.

And I can assure you, at five points -- I've told these bankers they should take all their traders and put them in the branches. There'll never be another opportunity to earn five points on a 90-day government -- fully government-guaranteed loan.

Q And those checks right into direct deposit, the IRS now saying it would take four to five months; you're saying two weeks. Can you give us a solid --

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, let me be -- let me be clear. I don't know where you're hearing these things. I told you this would be three weeks. I'm not committing to two weeks. We're delivering on our commitments. The IRS, which I oversee, within two weeks, the first money will be in people's accounts.

Q Just to follow up on that: I think the question is not about the first checks. For folks who have direct deposit, it sounds like those will go out pretty quickly. The question is then for folks who don't have direct deposit.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Sure.

Q And there was a staff memo that was released by the House Ways and Means Committee today saying that that process could take up to five weeks [sic]. That takes you to mid-August. Is that how long it's going to take?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: That is not going to take five --

Q Or five months, I'm sorry.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Again, let me just say, when Obama sent out these checks, it took months and months and months. I am

assuring the American public. They need the money now. What we're going to do is -- again, if we have your information, you'll get it in two -- in -- within two weeks. Social Security, you'll get it very quickly after that. If we don't have your information, you'll have a simple web portal; you'll upload it. If we don't have that, we'll send you checks in the mail.

Q How many checks can you process in a week, though? How many checks can you --

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Again, we can process a lot of checks, but we don't want to send checks. In this environment, we don't want people to get checks. We want to put money directly into their account.

Q Thank you, Mr. Secretary. This is for, I guess, both you and the Administrator. There have been some anecdotal reports that business people are trying to get access to the online site to submit the applications. The website has been crashing. I've heard of webinars going offline because there's just too many people on them. So how are you guys going to be ready, you know, tomorrow to get these loans out?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: We've brought in a lot of external resources at SBA and us to make sure there's additional capacity. As I said, we heard a lot of good feedback yesterday to simplify this process. It's going to be up and running.

Now, let me just be clear: That doesn't mean everybody is going to get their loan tomorrow. But the system will be up and running. We encourage people over the next week, sign up. You can go on right now. You can go on the web, see what information you need. Very simple process.

Q Mr. Secretary, on a separate subject, have you been in touch with Leader McConnell and Speaker Pelosi about their differences

right now about another stimulus package?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: I spoke to -- I've spoken to the Leader, I've spoken to the Speaker. I've spoken to the President constantly. When the President is ready and thinks we should do the next stage, we're ready. The President has talked about the issue of infrastructure since the campaign. I think you know that's a big priority for him.

And again, if we run out of money on the small-business program, we'll be back right away to Congress to get this increased.

Q Does the unemployment numbers today increase the urgency of doing a phase four?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, let me just say, you know, we're going through something that we've never done before, where the government has shut down big parts of the economy because of health reasons. Our economy was in great shape; our companies were in great shape.

There are three ways that Americans are going to be protected. For small business, they'll get paid by their business through this program. The direct deposit. There's also enhanced unemployment.

So we realized, unfortunately, there are a lot of companies that, because they aren't in business over a short period of time -- again, we're working with the states on enhanced unemployment.

And as soon as the medical professionals and the President give the all clear, we're going to have a ton of liquidity. We have about \$6 trillion -- this has never been done between us and the Fed -- to put into the economy to support American workers and American business.

Q Mr. Secretary, in addition to the jobless numbers we saw today, phase three was signed before the social distancing guidelines were extended for another month. So what additional relief are you going to give to Americans as they stay out of work for all these extra weeks? I mean, what are you waiting for?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, we -- in designing this program, we thought that we had liquidity for about 10 weeks. And that's what we've designed.

And again, I think the President's been very clear, if we need to go back to Congress to support the American economy and American workers, we will be doing that.

Q Secretary Mnuchin, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has formed a Select Committee to oversee the distribution of recovery funds. And she says she wants to make sure that those funds are wisely and efficiently spent. Do you think that Select Committee is something that's necessary?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: I don't. I mean, you know, the -- both parties wanted us to have oversight, wanted us to have transparency. We have full transparency. We have a oversight committee that the Speaker gets to pick someone, the Leader gets to pick someone. I believe there's five people on it. And again, that committee will review the money that we're spending. And again, we support full transparency. Taxpayers should understand how we're going to support this economy and jobs.

Q Mr. Secretary, Senator Murkowski has asked you to consider providing loans to energy companies under the CARES Act, the phase three bill. What are your thoughts on that? Would you consider providing those loans to energy companies?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: So, thank you, and let me clarify. I have very limited ability to do direct loans out of the Treasury. I can do them for passenger airlines, cargo airlines, contractors, and national security companies. Outside of that, we work with the Federal Reserve to create broad-based lending facilities, which we will do so.

So our expectation is, the energy companies, like all our other companies, will be able to participate in broad-based facilities, whether it's the corporate facility or whether it's the "Main Street" facility, but not direct lending out of the Treasury.

Q A question for clarity about the direct payments to Americans. For those folks who don't have bank accounts, who don't have direct deposit information on file with the IRS, how long would they have to wait for their check?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, for people who don't have direct deposit -- again, we'll have an easy way they put it up. We can, on a rolling basis -- I think, you know, within a couple of days when they give it to us, we'll send the money out. We do realize there are people who are underbanked.

And again, we're working with all the digital companies, prepaid debit cards. We're working with all of them to make sure we have a process that every American gets their money quickly. This money does people no good if it shows up in four months. And we will deliver on that promise.

Q So, "quickly" is a matter of weeks then, perhaps, not months?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: "Quickly" is a matter of weeks and not months. That's correct.

Q Mr. Secretary, would you consider a moratorium --

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: In the back. Go ahead.

Q Mr. Secretary, one area where you can make direct loans is to the airlines. How much do you expect that the Treasury Department and the federal government will be involved in overseeing the operations of airlines as it pertains to which routes get cut back, how much they operate, what they do about their employees and the like?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: So there are -- there are very strict requirements that's built into the bill. Again, this was a bipartisan requirement. One, anything we do with the airlines, they have to maintain substantially all of their employees. So again, any money that we provide them will go to pay their employees. We're going to be working with the Secretary of Transportation. There are requirements to maintain certain routes.

So again, we have a very clear process. We've hired three outside advisors who will be financial advisors, and three law firms. We'll be releasing that information shortly. And I want to thank them. They're all working for basically very, very little money. They couldn't work for free, so they've agreed to basically work for what they would sign up to work for charitable organizations.

So again, no big fees to bankers. We've got a great team of three lawyers and three financial advisors that will assist us.

Q Mr. Secretary, just to follow up on that, will you give us a list of the names of those people who are advising you when you release the information?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Of course, we will. We'll give you the names as well as the contracts. So again --

Q Do you have any names right now other than BlackRock?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: So, again, I'm happy to announce we have -- the PJT Partners -- okay? -- is going to do the passenger airlines; Moelis & Company is going to do the cargo and contractors; and Perella Weinberg will handle the national security. And there'll be three law firms, which we'll announce shortly, that will be working in each one of those sectors.

And, again, let me just be clear: We need to get this done quickly. The airlines need money. We're going to work very closely with the Department of Transportation and get this done quickly. We've actually already received contracts from a lot of the people. Again, there's guidance up on the web. Full transparency. We've asked for applications.

Q Mr. Secretary, on the airline issue again, you know, Speaker Pelosi and others have said that the government taking stakes in those airlines should not be a condition for the federal government to provide payroll support specifically. What's your response to that?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: I spoke to the Speaker last night about that. This was something that was highly negotiated between the Republicans and the Democrats. The President was personally involved in this. He was on the phone with us many times. Mitch McConnell, Mark Meadows, senators on both sides.

There is a specific line in the bill that says that the Secretary, meaning me, will determine proper compensation. So this is not a bailout for the airlines. And I will be working -- once we get our advice from our financial advisors, we get the applications from the airlines, I'll be working very closely with the President, and we'll make sure that we strike the right balance, not a bailout. Taxpayers get compensated. But these

airlines -- these are national security issues. We want to keep our airlines intact.

Q Mr. Secretary, just more broadly for -- perhaps for the Administrator, if not for you as well. Some small businesses, restaurant owners, for example, are finding that laying off their employees so that they can start collecting unemployment is better both for them as business owners and for their workers. What incentives do they have right now to keep their employees on the payroll if no one is coming into their restaurant?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, the incentive that you have -- and we want American business to be kept intact. The incentive is: These are loans that turn into grants. So if you're a business owner, and you're a restaurant, you can hire your people back, you get money for their medical. You keep them on the medical plan. You get money for your rent. You get money for your electricity. So you're motivated. We want you to have a business that you can reopen quickly when it's appropriate. So this doesn't cost the business owners anything.

You know, when people talk about -- I can't imagine any American worker who had a job, has offered to keep their job, isn't going to want to have it. And let me just be clear -- we've also talked about this unemployment issue. You can only get unemployment if you don't have a job. So unemployment is intended for those people that are some of the mid-size or larger businesses -- and we're very sympathetic to this -- that these companies can't afford. And for those people, the enhanced unemployment will be a significant benefit.

But we want to make sure -- 50 percent of the American workforce is small businesses under 500 people. The President, the Vice President, the Administrator and I want to make sure this part of the economy is ready and intact when we're ready to reopen.

Q A question for the Administrator, if I may. Is there a certain category of small businesses that you're most concerned about? Restaurants, hair salons, things like that?

ADMINISTRATOR CARRANZA: That's a great question. We're concerned about every small business. There's 30 million small businesses that we're really focused on. And we're working feverishly to make sure that we can provide the available funds to them as quickly as possible.

So it's 30 million small businesses and the other businesses are being dealt with, with the PPP, with the Paycheck Protection. There was also the disaster -- what we call it the injury -- or economic injury disaster loan. And then there was an advance associated with that particular program as well.

So, to answer your question, we're concerned about all businesses. And as the Secretary indicated, we're looking at employees being ready, not lost in this process. We want businesses to stay intact because they represent half the -- half the GDP. So if we spend a trillion to support 10 trillion or 11 trillion, I think that's a significant investment, and that's what we're focused on.

Q Is there a certain segment that's particularly vulnerable?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Let me -- I just want to -- hang on. I just want to make one comment for explanation, because I want to make sure everybody out there understands this. If you're an independent contractor, if you're a sole proprietor, you're eligible for this as well. Now, that program won't be up and running until next week.

But again, this is a very broad definition of small business. So if you're an independent plumber, if you're an independent

contractor, you're covered under this program. It's slightly more complicated; you have to come in to your bank and give them more information. But starting next week, that part of the program will be up and running.

Also, charities. Charities, as well. Very important. The Vice President and President made sure that we covered small charities in this.

Q And does that include churches and religious nonprofits?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: It does, although there are some technical issues. But, yes, it does include faith organizations.

Q Is that under the under the -- that's under the SBA program?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: This is under the PPP. Yes, the new SBA program, they are covered.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay? Thank you all very much.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Okay. Thank you, everybody.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Jovita. Thank you, Steve. Great job. Thank you.

Okay, so that begins right away and they start handing out checks. And a lot of people are going to have their businesses built back up quickly, I hope. And we'll see. It's complicated, big. Small business is actually big business. So I thank them both.

And please -- good. We have some great gentlemen. Let me see. Great gentlemen. That's correct. Thank you very much.

Today, my administration is also issuing new guidelines to

protect elderly Americans who remain the most vulnerable. By now, nursing homes should have suspended the entry of all medically unnecessary personnel.

Today, we're further recommending that all nursing home facilities assign the same staff to care for the same group of residents consistently to minimize any potential spread. And we're also urging facilities to designate separate areas for healthy and sick residents. And this is a practice that we probably will be recommending into the future, long after the enemy is gone -- this particular enemy is gone.

We're also making every effort to provide relief to our great veterans. We take very good care of our veterans. At my direction, Secretary Wilkie will use any authority at his disposal to extend deadlines for benefits and to postpone debt collections.

We're now conducting well over 100,000 coronavirus tests per day. It's over a thou- -- a hundred thousand test a day --and these are accurate tests and they're moving rapidly -- which is more than any other country in the world, both in terms of the raw number and also on a per capita basis. The most.

The FDA has also authorized the first coronavirus antibody test developed by Cellex, a key step that will help identify people who have recovered and to understand their immune response and their immune system.

Moments ago, I directed Secretary Azar and Acting Secretary Wolf to use any and all available authority under the Defense Production Act to ensure that domestic manufacturers have the supplies they need to produce ventilators for patients with severe cases of C-O-V-I-D 19. You know what that is, right? Become a very famous term: C-O-V-I-D -- COVID.

This action will help General Electric, Hill-Rom, Medtronic, ResMed, Royal Philips, and Vyair Medical overcome obstacles in the supply chain that threaten the rapid production of ventilators. We have over 100,000 being built right now, or soon to be started. We anticipate issuing more orders under the Defense Production Act in the very near future.

In addition to the one that I've just signed against 3M for facemasks -- we just signed an element of the Act against 3M. And hopefully they'll be able to do what they are supposed to do. I just spoke to Mary Barra of General Motors and she said they're very soon going to be ready to start production of the ventilators. They have a lot of ventilators that they've committed to build, and they'll be starting very, very quickly.

FEMA continues to deliver resources to areas most affected by the virus, including New York. On top of the 3,000 beds we're already providing to the Javits Center, the Department of Defense is adding another 48 ICU beds.

Governor Cuomo has asked that this facility go -- and it's a big, beautiful facility -- it be converted to a COVID hospital. And we hadn't done that yet. We hadn't thought in terms of doing that. But their use is -- their real demand is for that. And we had meetings on it with the task force. We had meetings with the military. And I've decided to say, "Yes, I'm going to do that," that I will be signing and agreeing to a "yes" answer.

So that -- we will be doing that, and also, we will be staffing it. So the federal government is doing a lot of things that wasn't anticipated that it do.

This is a 2,500 -- and/or 2,900 can easily be set up -- hospital built in Javits Center. And so we're going to be converting that to a COVID-19 hospital. And it's going to be staffed by the military and by the federal government.

And based on the fact that I agreed to that, we had two other facilities that were likewise asking for it, and that would be in Louisiana and also in Dallas. And we'll be doing those. We spoke to the governor of Louisiana, spoke to the governor of Texas. And we've told them that we will be staffing those hospitals, again, above and beyond, but that's okay. We have to do that.

In addition, the USNS Comfort is docked in New York to accept patients. That is a non-COVID.

To date, FEMA has delivered more than 4 million N95 mask respirators. And it's -- think of that: 4 million. Four million.

Don't forget, we're a secondary source. The states are doing it and we're backing them up. But we've gotten 4 million N95 respirators, 1.8 million surgical masks, 460,000 face shields, 1.4 million gloves, and 4,400 ventilators just to the city and to the state of New York. And some of them now are being sent. I spoke with both Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio a little while ago, and some of them are being sent to the city.

All of America stands with the people of New York in this time of need. It's definitely a hotspot, but we have other hotspots also. And we're taking them -- taking care of them very, very strongly, very powerfully. We have the finest people in the world in those locations. And I think the federal government has not only acted early but acted quickly, professionally. There's no people like this.

Doctors, nurses, first responders, and other healthcare providers who want to help New York at this critical time should visit website [NYC.gov/HelpNow](https://www.nyc.gov/helpnow). [NYC.gov/HelpNow](https://www.nyc.gov/helpnow). They need help now. They need people to help them.

We have great facilities, and we've built some brand-new facilities, big ones, but we need help. We need help for professional people. So if you're in an area that isn't so affected and you're a doctor, a nurse, a healthcare worker, please get to that website. And we would really appreciate your help. New York City needs it. Louisiana, by the way, needs it. Michigan needs it. Whatever you can do. Those are very strong hotspots; they need help.

In recent weeks, as the virus has spread and economic hardship has followed, we have seen Americans unite with incredible selflessness and compassion. I want to remind everyone here in our nation's capital, especially in Congress, that this is not the time for politics, endless partisan investigations.

Here we go again. Have already done extraordinary damage to our country in recent years. You see what happens. It's witch hunt after witch hunt after witch hunt. And in the end, the people doing the witch hunt have been losing, and they've been losing by a lot. And it's not any time for witch hunts. It's time to get this enemy defeated.

Conducting these partisan investigations in the middle of a pandemic is a really big waste of vital resources, time, attention. And we want to fight for American lives, not waste time and build up my poll numbers, because that's all they're doing because everyone knows it's ridiculous.

So we want to focus on the people of this country, even the people of the world -- we're going to be able to help them -- because, right now, as an example, we're building so many ventilators -- very, very hard to build -- but we're building thousands. Thousands of them. And a lot of them will be coming at a time when we won't need them as badly, because it takes time. Very complex, very expensive. And we'll be able to help

outside of our country. We think we'll be able to help. That's something that you cannot easily produce.

As citizens, we're linked together by the shared bonds of national love, loyalty, and affection. There's no earthly force more powerful than the patriotic pride that stirs in our hearts. And that is so true. It's incredible the job that everybody has been doing. Everybody. They don't sleep. They don't go to bed. Sometimes they get nothing.

I said to somebody recently on the task force, "How many hours' sleep have you gotten over the last couple of days?" The answer was "none." None.

In one Massachusetts neighborhood, citizens come out of their homes each night at 8 o'clock from their porches and they sing "God Bless America." Others have joined in spreading from house to house, down one street, up to the next, until their little town with a spirit of patriotism, and reminding all Americans that we're all in this together. We'll fight together and we will win together. We're going to win this.

Now, what I'd like to do is -- I'm going to step out. We have a meeting on this subject. And I'm going to step out just for a few moments. I'll be right back. We'll answer some questions.

But you have some very hardworking people who have done an incredible job, led by Vice President Mike Pence, head of the task force. And then Jared Kushner is going to say a few words. And Admiral Polowczyk, Peter Navarro, Dr. Birx, and myself. I'll be right back.

So I'll see you in a little while.

I did take a test; it just came out. This is from the White House physician. You may have it. It just came out. I just

took it this morning. And I took it. It took me literally a minute to take it. And it took me, I guess it was 14 or 15 minutes. I went to work. I didn't wait for it, but he said it took 14 minutes, or something, to come up with a conclusion. And it said, "The President tested negative for COVID-19." So that's the second one.

I think I took it, really, out of curiosity to see how quickly it worked and fast it worked, and it's a lot easier. I've done them both. And the second one is much more pleasant, Jeff, I can tell you that. Much more pleasant.

So I'll be back in a little while. And, Mike, please take over. Thank you. Thank you all very much. I'll be right back.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. The White House Coronavirus Task Force met today, but earlier in the day, the President convened all the key elements of our supply chain team in the Oval Office for an update on the progress that we have been making, working literally around the clock to make sure that our healthcare workers, the people on the frontlines, have the personal protective equipment and also the ventilators to be able to meet this moment.

And today, you're going to hear from the people that are literally working -- working each and every day to make that happen. Dr. Deborah Birx is also with us. She'll reflect in a few moments on the progress that we're making analyzing the data. Each and every day, we're looking county by county, state by state, consulting with governors and local health officials.

At the present moment, more than 1.3 million tests have been performed. And, as you all are aware, some 236,000 Americans have tested positive for the coronavirus, with now the losses over 5,000 Americans. And our hearts are with their families.

Beyond that, we have been focusing not just on ensuring the testing is occurring but that the supplies are flowing. As the President just announced, he made a decision today to deploy thousands of N95 masks directly to New York City's public hospitals. And our team will speak about that in just a moment.

And also, the President took the unprecedented step to direct the Department of Defense to use military healthcare personnel to operate all COVID facilities at the Javits Center in New York, at the Convention Center in New Orleans, and at the Convention Center in Dallas. And we informed each of the governors of those states today that, at their request, we were making those military medical personnel available to operate in an all-COVID facility.

But we would emphasize to people in that community who believe you've been impacted or have contracted the coronavirus: Contact your local healthcare provider. We anticipate, in the New York area, that your local healthcare provider will make the decision whether you are transferred to the Javits Center. And in all cases, simply look to the guidance of your local governors about how best to receive the care that every American -- every American is entitled to have.

Beyond that, let me say that we have been working through FEMA's acquisition process not only to deploy, but to gather up personal protective equipment.

And, in just a few moments, you will hear from Admiral John Polowczyk about the extraordinary progress that we have made in deploying not just the Strategic National Stockpile, but also in identifying on the commercial marketplace around America and around the world, literally millions of N95 masks, surgical gowns, gloves, protective equipment. And at this point, we've distributed some 7,600 ventilators. And you'll hear today specifically about the states that have received those

ventilators.

We're just -- this team has truly acted in an inspiring way and literally is working with dozens and dozens of people at the FEMA Stabilization Task Force to make sure that we are leaving no stone unturned to find the supplies we need.

Let me also say, today you're going to hear from Jared Kushner, Senior Advisor to the President of the United States, but someone that the White House Coronavirus Task Force directed to work with FEMA on supply chain issues. And in recent weeks, he's been leading a working group, in conjunction with FEMA, that literally has identified millions of medical supplies around the nation and around the world. And we're grateful for his efforts and his leadership.

Finally, you'll hear from Peter Navarro, who will explain the action the President took today, using the Defense Production Act.

But as you hear details today about medical supplies that have been distributed, those that have been purchased, those that we're making available, the ventilators distributed to hospitals, and those that are available, let me just remind every American that you can make a difference in ensuring that every patient has the treatment that they deserve. Every healthcare provider, every doctor and nurse and nurse's assistant has the protective gear to provide the care that you would want your family to have by putting into practice the President's "30 Days to Slow the Spread."

I mean, we want you to take to heart the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, first, to protect your own health, to protect the health of your family, to protect the health of your community. We know so many people are asymptomatic, and people that literally don't know they have the coronavirus but have the

ability to infect others. We want you to put these guidelines into practice: social distancing, using a drive-through at a restaurant, washing your hands on a regular basis.

But as we focus today on supplies, make no mistake about it: Every American can make sure that our healthcare workers and, more importantly, Americans that are struggling with coronavirus have the equipment to support their treatment by putting these principles into practice, because the fewer Americans that contract the coronavirus, the fewer Americans will have to enter our healthcare system. And that'll continue to preserve the capacity in our healthcare economy.

So we thank the millions of Americans who have responded in the first two days of "30 Days to Slow the Spread." And I'm just absolutely confident that, in the days ahead, every American is going to do their part -- for your health, your family's health, the health of your community -- and to ensure the strength and vitality of the greatest healthcare system in the world.

With that, let me introduce Jared Kushner to speak about the work that he's been doing, working with FEMA on ensuring a strong supply chain to meet this moment.

Jared?

MR. KUSHNER: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. And thank you for your great leadership on the task force, and thank you to Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci as well. It's been an honor working with you these past few weeks.

When the Vice President first asked me to help on the task force with different tasks, I asked the President what he expected from the task force and how I can best serve him and the task force.

What the President asked is that all of the recommendations that

we make be based on data. He wanted us to be very rigorous, to make sure that we were studying the data, collecting data. A lot of things in this country were happening very quickly, and we wanted to make sure that we were trying to keep updating our models and making sure that we were making informed decisions and informed recommendations to him based on the data that we were able to collect and put together.

The President wanted to make sure that we had the people doing the best jobs, and making sure that we had the right people focused on all the things that needed to happen to make sure that we can deliver in these unusual times for the American people.

The President also instructed me to make sure that I break down every barrier needed to make sure that the teams can succeed. This is an effort where the government is doing things that the government doesn't normally do, where we are stretching, we're acting very quickly. And the President wants to make sure that the White House is fully behind the different people running the different lines of effort to make sure that we get everything done in a speed that the President demands.

The President also wanted us to make sure we think outside the box, make sure we're finding all the best thinkers in the country, making sure we're getting all the best ideas, and that we're doing everything possible to make sure that we can keep Americans safe, and make sure we bring a quick end to this in the best way possible, and balance all the different aspects that need to be thought of while we do this.

This truly is a historic challenge. We have not seen something like this in a very, very long time. But I am very confident that, by bringing innovative solutions to these hard problems, we will make progress.

Today, we were briefing the President earlier. He asked me to

come out and talk a little bit about what we've doing on the Supply Chain Task Force, which Admiral Polowczyk has been leading. And what he's been very impressed by is the way that we've been resourceful to find product all over the world, all over the country. And we are finding ways to solve the different problems.

The President has been very, very hands on in this. He's really instructed us to leave no stone unturned. Just this morning -- very early this morning -- I got a call from the President. He told me he was hearing from friends of his in New York that the New York public hospital system was running low on critical supply. He instructed me this morning. I called Dr. Katz, who runs the system, asked him which supply was the most supply he was nervous about. He told me it was the N95 masks. I asked what his daily burn was. And I basically got that number, called up Admiral Polowczyk, made sure we had the inventory.

We went to the President today, and earlier today, the President called Mayor de Blasio to inform him that we were going to send a month of supply to the New York public hospital system, to make sure that the workers on the frontline can rest assured that they have the N95 masks that they need to get through the next month.

We'll be doing similar things with all the different public hospitals that are in the hotspot zones and making sure that we're constantly in communications with the local communities.

One thing I will say, just based on data, is that we've been getting a lot of data from different governors and from different mayors and from different cities. One thing I've seen FEMA do very, very well, over the last week or so, is now we're getting real-time data from a lot of cities. People who have requests for different products and supplies, a lot of them are doing it based on projections, which are not the realistic projections. The projections change every day as we see the

cases, as we see the impacts of the "stop the spread" effort that this task force recommended and the President has been pushing forward.

So I do think that we'll see that. Hopefully, there'll be impact of that. And the task force has been working very hard, through the FEMA group, with Admiral Polowczyk to make sure that we're getting the supplies to people before they run out, and making sure that we're doing it in a proper way.

I'd like to just introduce Admiral Polowczyk, who before coming to this -- I guess still is -- he's the vice director for logistics for the Joint Staff. I got a call from one of the senators saying, "Well, why don't you put a great military person in charge of the logistics and the supply chain and the Defense Production Act?" And I said, "Well, the President already did that." This is the best man that we have in the country for supplies and logistics. He joined the task force 13 days ago over at FEMA, and he's built a team -- really, at the direction of the Vice President -- that includes people from FEMA, OMB, the FDA, HHS, the White House, and from everywhere else.

And what they've done over the last 13 days has been really extraordinary. We've done things that the government has never done before, quicker than they've ever done it before. And what we're seeing now is we found a lot of supplies in the country. We've been distributing them where we anticipate there will be needs, and also trying to make sure that we're hitting places where there are needs.

So I can tell you the people on the -- in the task force, they're working day and night. You've got a lot of people in the government. We recognize the challenge that America faces right now. We know what a lot of the people on the frontlines are facing, the fear that they have that they won't have the supplies they need. And our goal is to work as hard as we can to make

sure that we don't let them down.

So I just want to thank everybody. And, with that, I want to introduce Admiral Polowczyk, who's doing an amazing job.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: Thank you, Mr. Kushner, Mr. Vice President.

So today I'm going to cover a couple items -- a couple of -- five things.

The first thing I'm going to talk about is resources pushed out from the federal government. And then I'm going to talk about this air bridge, which you may have heard about. I'm going to talk about data. As you said, we're -- Mr. Kushner is absolutely right; we're trying to be data driven. And, with that, I'm going to talk a little bit about how we're trying to expand the industrial base here to meet this challenge.

So the first thing I want to talk about is surgical masks. So we've all -- we've quickly stated numbers here. So these -- I'm about to go through several different slides to give you just scale and magnitude of federal resources that have been applied at the problem.

So, 27.1 million surgical masks pushed out to state governments. For N95 masks, 19.5 million N95 masks. And so, if I was -- if I was in a local hospital that was running short, I would -- I would look upward because the federal government has pushed out resources.

So for protective gloves, 22.4 million. 22.4 million pairs of protective gloves. For face shields, 5.2 million face shields. For ventilators, we have pushed to the states more than 7,600 ventilators. And I think, as I was coming over here, that number has changed slightly. I think it's now 7,640 given to

these states -- to the predominantly of these states.

So we wanted you to have some numbers.

Now, as we've indicated, we have ventilators in the National Stockpile. We pushed ventilators out. We're holding ventilators to put to the point of need. But we're also buying ventilators, asking the industrial base who produces approximately -- prior to COVID, approximately 30,000 ventilators a year. We are going to, over the next several months, by the end of June, work to acquire 100,000.

And so, one of the -- one of the tools that we're going to -- I can anticipate needing -- we've already executed -- is all of those vendors that we're buying them from will need -- potentially will need help in their supply chains with their suppliers. We might rate orders. We might help them get ahead of others in that endeavor. So I think Mr. Navarro is going to talk a little bit more on that later.

So let me talk about the air bridge. So it normally takes approximately 37 days to get from overseas, the product -- load it, get it to the United States, and distribute it. That's about 37 days.

So, to prime the pump, so to speak, we have lined on an air bridge to get product here faster, working with our major suppliers, as they have -- as they work to fill orders to get more to healthcare workers now. We are working to align transportation to product.

Now, one of the things we're also doing is the team that works for me are scouring the globe and finding pockets of personal protective equipment that might not otherwise be in the U.S. hospital supply chain. That is also going on these flights. Six completed and a number scheduled. Twenty-eight flights scheduled

here in the near future.

We're -- we are working towards -- some days, we'll have one flight, some days there might be two flights, multiple flights over the next coming days. These 28 or -- as far as I can see, out to a couple of weeks. Then, again, matching product to flights to create volume in the supply chain here faster than the 37 days.

I'm just going to leave that up as I talk about a few other items. So let's talk about New York City and the public health hospitals. I believe they're called New York City Health and Hospitals.

The President directed -- as I speak, there are pallets being formed, truck being loaded. I gave an address in New York City here an hour or two ago. And one of our distributors is making that happen, and that delivery will happen tomorrow.

On the data front, this is almost unprecedented. This is a commercial supply chain with six to seven major distributors of health equipment. We brought them all in, and we said we need to make informed decisions, and we are going to help make informed allocation decisions.

So within a matter of days, feeding from their business systems -- their enterprise resource-like systems -- I brought onboard a tool -- a supply chain tower -- that the DOD was using to manage a supply chain for a very complex weapon system. Their data goes into a data lake. We have a tool to be able to use their data and see it. I can tell what product is coming in, what their orders are, what they're filling, what they're not filling, and see the volume in the supply chain, and understand what they're doing down to the county level. We're working to get it potentially down to the hospital level.

So this 200-and-some-odd N95 respirators, we took a look in there, in the supply chain, and we said we can't -- we have the volume to go do that. I called the distributor, and they're making -- they're making that happen.

We anticipate, as the hotspots around the country -- we anticipate these vendors, at our direction, helping them allocate product to the right place at the right time.

So if I can talk finally about expanding the industrial base. So the Vice President was at Walmart the other day, who told him, "I want to get in this game. How do I do that?" So I got the call. We provided them specifications. And now Walmart is going to have -- use their suppliers to cut fabric, make gowns, sew product. But that's not always the case. We have lots of folks that want to help.

I believe you will see, in the coming days, the use of the Defense Production Act in creative ways to help people that are not doing this today to do it.

We have, essentially, leads -- well, the number yesterday was 210 -- I believe it probably grew today -- that we are working with to find how each one of those might need help to get in the game, that's not in the game, to increase the throughput through the healthcare market.

Again, the President gave me one task: Get more to our healthcare workers now. And I took that to heart because I have -- not that I don't need that from the President, that direction to move out -- but I have family in New York. My sister is a nurse practitioner in a Westchester hospital, and my niece is a nurse on a Long Island hospital. And I have other healthcare professionals in the family. So I have skin in this game.

The President asked me to get more to the healthcare

workers. I'm going to get more to healthcare workers.

I'd like to hand it over to Mr. Navarro.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: (Inaudible) the 200,000 going out tomorrow -
-

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: The 200,000 is going out as we speak.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You might want to be very specific about that.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: It'll be -- it'll be delivered tomorrow.

Q Can I ask a question?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Let me -- let me be clear on that, if I can. What Jared announced, what the Admiral just unpacked is that pallets are being loaded right now to send 200,000 N95 masks --

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: N95 respirators.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: -- to New York City to the public health hospitals.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: To the public health warehouse in New York City.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: To all the healthcare workers: Help is on the way.

Q Based on the tools and the data you have available to you, where is the logjam? Where has it been? How have you identified that?

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCYZK: I think --

Q Because as you say all this -- when we have millions more PPEs going out the door, as you well know, the frontline medical workers are not getting it.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCYZK: So I would answer you -- I would answer you this way: We put up a lot of numbers. I said that if you're not a -- you're in a hospital and you're not seeing PPE, I would look up to the state level first.

Q But we aren't --

Q We've hearing from governors, sir, saying they can't get the medical equipment that they need.

Q And the reason for that is because, according to governors and also by the fact that we haven't seen any numbers up there about what is going to the private sector, can you tell us what percentage of the supplies on these large cargo planes are going to private companies versus FEMA, versus the states? Is it 80 percent?

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCYZK: So FEMA is -- so this product that we're moving is primarily commercial product that would enter the commercial system and be distributed through financial business transactions between hospitals and these distributors.

Q So, just to clarify that, that explains why states say they're bidding like they're on eBay, because the supplies are going to the private sector and then they have to go there to get the supplies.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCYZK: That's normally how things --that's normally how things work, right? So I'm not here to disrupt a supply chain and say -- look, these six distributors -- six,

seven -- they have six to seven hundred warehouses. They have trucks to go to the hospital door every day. We're bringing product in. They're filling orders for hospitals, nursing homes, like normal. I'm putting volume into that system.

I would say that we have the data now at last -- so we put together this data element over the last, you know, what? Thirteen days? Get the people in, look at the problem, build this. I am now seeing truth about what's in the supply chain. And I would say that there's been some abnormal behavior.

Okay?

Q Yes. Thank you, Admiral. House Oversight Committee Democrats say that FEMA officials told them that the ventilators that the government has ordered won't be ready until June, which is well after the expected peak. Will the Defense Production Act memo signed today do anything to speed that up?

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: Yes, it will. Mr. Navarro will talk about that. We're on line to receive several thousand ventilators in the month of April and several thousand more ventilators in the month of May, ramping up to a big number in June.

Again, going from, you know, an industry that produces about 30 annum -- 30,000 annum to a -- to a very big number.

Q Admiral, are you confident that this system means the states with the greatest need are getting the supplies?

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: Yeah, so --

Q Because a lot of governors are saying that they can't get what they need and different states have more pressing urgency,

obviously, depending on the caseload.

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: So we marry up -- we're marrying up where CDC -- where the demand for COVID is to what's in the commercial system. We're providing that to these -- to the commercial system. And we are making allocations to those of most pressing need.

Thirteen days -- we now have the data. We now can make informed decisions. And so all of the "I need, I need, I need," I now know the volume that has been happening and needs to be happening.

Q So, Admiral, with that -- and, Mr. President, I'd love for you to weigh on --

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q -- weigh in on this as well. You talk about -- well, you alluded to the fact there is possibly some shady business going on, that the product is here in the United States and --

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: And coming here.

Q Yes, and it is coming here. It's coming from China. It's in warehouses. It's being made here in the United States. It's in warehouses. But it's going to the highest bidder. So what can be done to keep those products here in the United States, not go overseas where companies are making a lot of money, and --

REAR ADMIRAL POLOWCZYK: Yeah. I'm going to let Mr. Navarro talk about that.

Q -- and get it distributed to the most critical places here in the U.S.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Sure. Peter, go ahead.

Q I would love to hear -- how is that being done? Because doctors -- I've talked to surgeons --

MR. NAVRRRO: That's great. Great -- great question.

Q -- on a regular basis.

MR. NAVRRRO: Let me -- let me give you the -- the bigger view of the DPA, and we'll directly address that.

What we have, essentially, is a nation at war. We have a wartime President standing behind me. The Defense Production Act is one of the most powerful weapons this administration can use to fight the invisible enemy of the virus.

When I spoke with you last week, I explained the three points of the compass DPA can be used to hit. The first one is mobilization of the industrial base. This can involve things like repurposing from, say, a distiller, like Pernod Ricard -- from liquor to hand sanitizer. It can also involve expansion of production, which is having Honeywell -- which makes N95 masks -- opened a new factory in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

With respect to the second point in the compass -- allocation of resources -- we have two issues there. If you look at the manufacturer itself, what you want to make sure is that the supply chain, which can go seven-tiers deep, has enough components in that supply chain so we can actually make what we need. And then once it's made, you also want to make sure that it goes to the right -- right people.

And then the third point of the compass, which -- which addresses what you're talking about, is basically -- "bust 'em," I call it -- hoarding of critical or threatened material.

So let me walk through what -- what the President did today in terms of a strong action and what we've done with the DPA across those three points.

The first order that President Trump signed was vigorous, swift. It was the GM order, which directed GM to make ventilators in Kokomo, Indiana, in Trump time -- which is to say "as fast as possible."

As the President mentioned, he'd spoke to Mary Barra today, the CEO of GM. That is moving forward at the same time as the Ford project is moving forward in Rawsonville, Michigan.

And I've issued a challenge to those two companies à la "Ford v Ferrari" -- this is Ford versus GM. Let's see who gets those ventilators out first.

Now, the second point of the compass, which these two orders address today, is this allocation of resource issues. The ventilator companies themselves expressed concern that in this rush to build ventilators, there would be pressure on that supply chain. So what they requested that we do and the President do is to use the DPA to give this gentleman here -- who's one of the strongest gentlemen in the world, in terms of applying things -- is to give him the ability to prioritize that supply chain for those ventilator manufacturers. And he will do things like give them what's called a "DO rating" in the defense procurement, which will allow them to get what they need.

Now, the second order, which the President signed today, has to do with the other part of the equation, which is once they make the stuff, okay, does it go to the right folks? And this is a 3M order. And, to be frank, over the last several days, we've had some issues making sure that all of the production that 3M does around the world -- enough of it is coming back here to the right

places.

So what's going to happen with the signing of that order, in Trump time, is we're going to resolve that issue with 3M probably by tomorrow, at close of business, because we can't afford to lose days or hours or even minutes in this crisis.

Now, the third part of the compass -- this third point there -- this gets to the hoarding issue. The President stood up here with -- he's the Commander-in-Chief, but we have a sheriff in town too, Attorney General Barr. And he stood up here with Attorney General Barr, and Bill Barr said, "I'm going to go out and bust them." And guess what? Three days ago, DOJ went into a warehouse in Jersey, grabbed PPE. And the beauty of that -- the beauty of that: It wasn't only seized, but within hours it was turned around and given to healthcare professionals in New York and New Jersey. That's a beautiful thing. That's a beautiful case of using the DPA.

Now, what's going to happen tomorrow is the President is going to sign another order which is in the works. This is interesting: There is a black market springing up, which you have described, where we're having people bid against each other. Brokers come in; they're bidding and bidding on all this different PPE. It's driving the price up. And guess what? You know where it's going? The domestic sources here are being exported.

When President Trump heard about that, he said, "That's not going to happen anymore under my watch." So tomorrow, we're bringing that order. And what it's going to do is it's going to empower Customs and Border Protection, with the help of people like the Post Office and express mail consigners like UPS, to basically deal with that issue.

So we are going to crack down unmercifully. And I would say to the hoarders out there and the brokers that are trying to make

money off of the misery of people in this country, around the world: That's got to stop. And if you've got inventory, what you need to do is pick up a phone and not call somebody out in -- around the world. You call FEMA and say, "We got some stuff. We'll give it to you at a fair price," and be done with that, because that stuff has absolutely got to stop.

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. NAVARRO: So that's -- that's -- hang on. Hang on. So that's -- that's what we're going to be looking for. And when we hear cases like this, we're going to aggressively issue order after order to crack down on it.

Now, before -- this is not my role to take a bunch of questions, but let me tell you one other thing before I leave the podium. It's a story, which I'd love to share with you today because this again illustrates the key principles of this President and this Vice President, which is to wed the full force of the federal government with the full power of private enterprise.

And just two days ago, we at the White House got an urgent SOS from the chief of police of the New York Police Department. And they are in a situation now because of the strain on their resources where personnel, such as their homicide detectives, were having to go on into houses and deal with COVID issues without protective gear.

Now the beauty of this President is because of his leadership, we were able to solve that problem in two phone calls. Two phone calls. The first one went to Phebe Novakovic at the General Dynamics. "Phebe, can you call Tom Kennedy at Raytheon? I need you guys to basically scoop up all the Tyvek suits you can and find any gloves you can."

This President, under his leadership and the voluntary efforts, and the pride and patriotism you talked about it earlier, that -- we had 4,000 Tyvek suits delivered to the New York PD within 16 hours. That's -- that's a new record in Trump time.

At the same time, a second phone call was made the Tara Engel at Pernod Ricard and Laura Lane at UPS. They were on the same phone call. And I said, "Tara, Laura, we got this issue: They need hand sanitizer." Literally, within two hours, we had 50-gallon drums: 6,000 gallons of hand sanitizer on a UPS truck heading up to the NYPD. And it probably arrived today with a promise from Pernod that they will continue to supply the NYPD throughout the course of this crisis.

So this is a beautiful thing that America is rallying to. We are becoming a stronger, more united nation. And I couldn't be more proud of this President, this administration, these guys up here, who are doing a heck of a job organizing the supply chain.

And my promise to you is that the President is going to use that DPA to make sure that the American people, particularly our healthcare professionals, get the PPE, the medicines, everything we need.

So let me -- let me stop there. I don't think it's my place here to field a bunch of questions.

THE PRESIDENT: No, you're doing a good job. Thank you.

MR. NAVARRO: Thank you.

Q Mr. Navarro, what's the status of the "Buy American" executive order?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Go ahead. Answer --

MR. NAVARRO: Sure.

THE PRESIDENT: You go ahead.

MR. NAVARRO: Okay --

THE PRESIDENT: Come here. Come here. Come.

MR. NAVARRO: One of the -- one of the things that this crisis has taught us, sir, is that we are dangerously over-dependent on a global supply chain for our medicines, like penicillin; our medical supplies, like masks; and our medical equipment, like ventilators.

We have -- right now as we speak, over 50 countries have already imposed some forms of export restrictions in their country against the rest of the world. And what we've -- what we're learning from that is that no matter how many treaties you have, no matter how many alliances, no matter how many phone calls, when push comes to shove you run the risk, as a nation, of not having what you need.

And if there's any vindication of the President's "Buy American, secure borders, and a strong manufacturing base" philosophy, strategy, and belief, it is this crisis -- because it underscores everything that we see there.

So the "Buy American" order, which -- which is going through process, would do a couple things. It would simply say, -- not during this crisis, because we don't want to disrupt anything. I want to be really clear about that. But going forward, after this is over, the VA, DOD, HHS, and this government buys American for essential medicines, our medical countermeasures, and the medical supplies and equipment we need.

At the same time, it will deregulate so we can get the FDA and

EPA to facilitate domestic manufacturing. And then, innovate. Because the key here -- the key here is having advanced manufacturing on U.S. soil that can leapfrog other countries so we don't have to worry about competing against cheap sweatshop labor, lax environmental regulations, different tax regimes, and the massive subsidies of foreign governments who are actually directly attacking our industrial base.

So be patient with that, sir. It's -- the other priorities we have right now are to DPA and what the task force is doing. But if we learn anything from this crisis, it should be never again. Never again should we have to depend on the rest of the world for our essential medicines and countermeasures.

THE PRESIDENT: And, by the way, we've cut them out also, to be honest. We've stopped orders going from certain places. And in a couple of places -- like, we had a big order going to Italy on important outfits and some ventilators, and it was going to Italy. They made the order a long time ago. And I said, "You got to let it go." They had an order. And I could have cut it, under the Act. I could have cut it. I said, "Nope, you can't do that. You got to let it go." You know, they have big problems.

We had an order going to Spain, and I said, "Let it go." I could have stopped it. I said, "Let it go." We're going to be fine. I said, "Let it go." So it works that way also.

One other thing, as to your question: Oftentimes -- and we've told this to the governors -- Mike, we've been very strong on this -- have -- if you think there's bidding between federal government and state, let us know and we'll drop out immediately, or you drop out and we lower the price.

Q But states are bidding against each other.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. If we're bidding against each other, I

said find out who it is. And usually, they know. Everyone knows. And we're notified and we get notified, and we'll either drop out or they'll drop out. But we have another problem: There are 151 countries out there, beyond the states. There are 151 countries that have this problem. And they're ordering too. It's really a mess.

Now, in a little while, the hardest thing to get are the ventilators because they're -- you know, it takes a while to build them. And we have a lot. We have thousands of them being built right now. In a little while, they'll be worth about five dollars. But right now, they're very valuable. And we're going to have a lot of them being shipped.

And, in fact, that's why General Motors called up before -- Mary. That's why others called up two days ago. They called up that they're all in production. And they'll start -- they're starting to arrive in a week and a half. But there'll be a time when we're going to build stockpiles.

By the way, the states should have been building their stockpile. We have almost 10,000 in our stockpile. And we've been building it, and we've been supplying it. But the states should be building.

We're a backup. We're not an ordering clerk. We're a backup. And we've done an unbelievable job. Like, for instance, who ever heard of a governor calling up, "Sir, can you build us a hospital of 2,500 rooms?" And we built it. "Can you build us four medical centers?" We built it. "Can you deliver a ship -- a hospital ship -- with 1,000 rooms?" And we did it. And we did it in Los Angeles, too.

We've been an unbelievable -- we've done an unbelievable job -- these people. And so -- and thousands of people behind them. But we're a backup. Ideally, those hospitals would have

had all this equipment. Ideally, those states should have had all this equipment, and I think they will the next time.

You know, you heard the case where thousands of ventilators could have been had at a very inexpensive price three years ago. And a certain state decided not to exercise that right because they wanted to build a road or they wanted to build something else because it's big money. You're talking about -- I think it was a billion dollars.

But you're talking about a lot of money for something that may never happen. Because normally, on a ventilator -- other than a pandemic or an epidemic -- you wouldn't -- you wouldn't need anything like this. Hospitals have three ventilators -- big hospitals -- and they get by with it. And now they want thousands. I mean, they want thousands of ventilators. You call up a governor and he'll say, "Sir, could you send us 40,000 ventilators?" Nobody has ever heard of a thing like this.

So, they've done some job. Let me just tell you, when Secretary Mnuchin spoke, they want you to call not ".com" but SBA.gov -- okay? -- for the application and for information. Okay? So it's SBA -- small business -- SBA.gov, okay? If you don't mind.

Yeah, let's go. Please.

Q Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. President. I want to follow up from a question yesterday regarding, I think, your administration's denial of the expansion of Obamacare special enrollment period in the wake of this pandemic.

In your own words -- VP Pence gave a five-minute non-answer -- but people facing this pandemic -- illness and even worse -- most experts say that having healthcare is critical to our nation's health and financial wellbeing.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q Can you assure Americans tonight that you will reopen Obamacare marketplace so that they can be covered in this time of combined health --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're -- we're doing better than that.

Q -- and financial crisis?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. No, I understand the question. And we're doing better than that. We're going to try and get a cash payment to the people. And we're working out the mechanics of that with legislature.

So we're going to try and get them a cash payment because just opening it up doesn't help as much. So we're going to work it out. So we're going to try and get for that certain group of people -- it's a certain group of people -- a cash payment.

Go ahead.

Q I really want to ask you about masks, but I also just wanted to follow up on a couple of hanging threads there. On just the question earlier about the bidding, what happens though when states are bidding against each other on those markets?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they have that, and they have to work that out. What they should do is they should have -- long before this pandemic arrived, they should have been on the open market just buying. There was no competition. You could have made a great price.

The states have to stock up. It's like one of those things. They waited. They didn't want to spend the money because they thought this would never happen. And their shelves,

in some cases, were bare. And, by the way, in some cases they weren't. They were beautifully serviced. They did a good job. But in some cases, their shelves were bare.

So the best thing they can do is when times become normalized -- and they will, hopefully soon -- and actually, you're going to have a lot of excess material because so much is being done right now in terms of protective gear, protective outfits. A lot is being done. It's going to be -- within six months, it's going to be sold for the right price. They got to stack up for the next time.

But we are doing that. And the Admiral has done a fantastic job. Senator Schumer wrote a letter today and he says, "You should put a military man in charge." I said, "Well, Chuck, if you knew a little bit more, we have one of the most highly respected people in the military: the Admiral." This is what he does too, very professionally. And he's in charge. But Chuck didn't know that.

Okay. Jeff, please.

Q Mr. President, you tweeted this morning about your call with Saudi Arabia's MBS.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q We've had some people say that the figures that you cited -- between 10 million and 15 million barrels per day -- is not what they're agreeing to. Can you be more specific about what exactly they told us?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what they're agreeing to. I think they might agree to more than that.

Look, Russia -- Russia --

Q Did he tell you that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. He did say that actually. Russia talked about 10 million barrels. Russia and Saudi Arabia are fighting over this. And as everybody knows, it's, you know, really killing an industry; hurting Russia badly, hurting Saudi Arabia badly.

I said, "This is an easy one." It should be an easy one. And it may be 10 and it may be more than that. I was actually told it may be 10. As I told somebody before, it may be 10, and it may be more than that. Maybe it's 15. Maybe it goes up to 15. Could be as high as 15.

And, you know, there's a tremendous oversupply right now. That industry was -- it was over-supplied before the virus. And when the virus came along, they lost 35, 40 percent of the world. And there's an unbelievable -- you can't get a ship now. Every ship is loaded to the gills, sitting out someplace in the ocean. They're storage tanks. They're not even ships; they're storage tanks.

So it would be great for Russia, it would be great for Saudi Arabia. I hope they make that deal, but that's what they told me they said --

Q (Inaudible) 15 million be --

THE PRESIDENT: -- they said it's --

Q -- enough to address the oversupply issues?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it will be hopefully soon. I think hopefully they'll announce something soon. Now, can a deal be broken? Can something happen where it doesn't happen? I

guess. In which case there's another alternative. But I'd rather not see that other alternative. I hope they can make a deal.

Q What do you mean when you say the "alternative"?

THE PRESIDENT: They both want -- I think they both want to make a deal. And they're both smart. They love their countries. They want to make a deal. It's good, but it's also good for the world if they do because you save an industry.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, please. Go ahead. Go ahead, in the back, please.

Q What do you by "cash payments"?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm going to let Mike, because we went over this very specifically. And I'll let you talk about it, Mike, because you responded last time.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Right. Thank you, Mr. President. As I said yesterday, the President has put a priority on ensuring that no American has to worry about the cost of coronavirus testing. And we've been working every day to make sure that Americans don't have to worry about the cost of treatment.

And at this point, the White House Coronavirus Task Force is working on a proposal for the President to use some of the \$100 billion that we're making available to hospitals to compensate the hospitals directly for any coronavirus treatment that they provide to uninsured Americans. We're working out the details of that. The President will make a final decision. Tomorrow we expect an announcement.

But the President has made it very clear: We don't want American to worry about the cost of getting a test or the cost of getting treatment. And we've expanded coverage through Medicaid. We've expanded coverage through Medicare. Health insurance companies around the country, including Blue Cross, just today announced that all of their members will be waiving all copayments on coronavirus treatment. But for those some 30-odd million uninsured Americans, the President has directed the Coronavirus Task Force to find a way to make sure that they know, we will find a way to pay for your coronavirus treatment. And the President will be addressing that and announcing that tomorrow.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q -- a point of clarification and then a follow-up question. Yesterday, you said that you spoke to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis before he issued his stay-at-home order. Did you advise him to issue that order?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I talked to him about it. And he wants to do what's right for the people of Florida. He's been a great governor. You could see that just by his popularity, which is extraordinary. We're proud of him. He's done a fantastic job and he made the decision.

But we spoke before he made the decision, yes.

Q And he had also said that he is considering putting people who are suspected of having coronavirus, or who have tested for positive for it, in isolation centers, and that he would potentially use --

THE PRESIDENT: That I haven't heard. No, that I haven't heard.

Q So he hasn't consulted with you?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard that.

Yes, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Ebony Bowden from the New York Post. A few hours ago, Mayor de Blasio, the mayor of New York, said that New Yorkers leaving their homes should wear masks. They should also wear masks when they're with other people. Are you considering that kind of recommendation on a federal level? And if you are, how would you prevent a rush on N95 masks?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think they're going to be coming out with regulations on that. And if people want to abide by them, frankly, I don't think you -- I don't think there'll be mandatory, because some people don't want to do that. But if people wanted -- as an example, on the masks, if people wanted to wear them, they can. If people wanted to use scarves, which they have -- many people have them -- they can. In many cases, the scarf is better; it's thicker. I mean you can -- if you -- depending on the material, it's thicker. But they can do that if they want.

Now, a recommendation is coming out. We'll see what that recommendation is, but --

Q Is that a CDC recommendation, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: But I will say this, they can pretty much decide for themselves right now.

Q Would that be nationwide? And can I also just ask--

THE PRESIDENT: Nationwide.

Q Nationwide --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- not just for hotspots.

And then, I think this is best for Dr. Birx, but we've heard some differing guidance here. The WHO and even the Surgeon General have talked about various studies that show that masks, in addition to maybe not even being helpful to protecting people, may actually increase the rates of illness because people touch the masks then they touch themselves.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q Can you talk a little bit about, just the evolution of --

THE PRESIDENT: All right, maybe I will ask --

Q -- your thinking on this?

THE PRESIDENT: -- Dr. Birx. And you might mention that other point also.

Yeah, thanks.

DR. BIRX: No, no, thank you. So I hope you got from the conference today that we're triangulating data that we know from the case numbers, the testing numbers, the supply-chain numbers to create an integrated picture so that we can really support hospitals in their needs. And I think that level of granularity is really critical.

Secondly, I just want to make the point that we really applaud the governors that are looking at a whole-of-state or a whole-of-

metro approach. And what do I mean by that? The United States, going into this, had about 160,000 ventilators across the United States and another 60- to 70,000 anesthesia machines. That's about five times what most of the European countries have.

But it's a matter of distribution to need. And I really applaud the governors that are bringing together their public hospitals with their more private hospitals and their visibility across their state. Because what we tried to talk about yesterday is every state, every county is different. And that's why we're looking at it at that level of granularity.

And as we move through this epidemic, the needs need to be very tailored to those counties and, frankly, those hospitals. I mean, there's a reason why the President and Mr. Kushner have been very much involved in finding out what the public hospitals need. Why is that? Because the public hospital sometimes have the weakest supply chain because they're often sometimes not as attractive to private sector distributors or they may be too busy caring for the needs of patients to be really on top of their order forms and their supply chains.

So really listening to the community that's at the front of this fight and getting feedback from those specific communities, no matter where they are, and listening to the frontline healthcare workers, because it's their reality that is important to all of us, whether you're the mayor or the governor or the federal government. And if they're saying they need something, we have to work together to supply that.

And so that's what you're seeing with this triangulation. Every county will move through this differently, and that allows us to move around these vital issues that protect the frontline healthcare workers and protect the patients, through the ventilators, to make sure that the supply chain is aligned with the need as it happens.

Now, you have to have very good data in order to be willing to work in that level of granularity. And that's what we've been working on to really develop that level of granularity to ensure that.

So I just wanted to say one other thing about testing, just to give you the bottom-line data of what we're seeing. We appreciate the groups who are reporting; not everyone is reporting yet. And this is part of us trying to understand at a very granular level.

We do have two states that do have 35 percent positives, and that's New York and New Jersey. So that confirms very clearly that that's a very clear and important hot zone.

Louisiana, though, has 26 percent of their tests are positive. Michigan, Connecticut, Indiana, Georgia, Illinois -- so that should tell you where the next hotspots are coming -- are at 15 percent test positive. And then Colorado, D.C., Rhode Island, and Massachusetts are at 13 percent.

There's a significant number of states still under 10 percent: everyone that I didn't discuss. California and Washington remain steady at an 8 percent rate.

So what we're seeing finally is testing improving -- more testing being done; still a high level of negatives -- in states without hotspots, allowing them to do more of the surveillance and containment.

And then prioritizing this new rapid test kit to those areas that may not have the same amount of access -- to the Indian Health Services, and to the public health institutions, and the public health and state labs so that they can use that and start forward leaning into surveillance.

Now, we know there are people waiting for tests, and they're waiting for tests because when these areas became very -- when they got onto the logarithmic curve, we prioritized people whose decisions -- where the test decision would make it critical for their care. And so we prioritized hospitals and we prioritized nurses and doctors and frontline workers.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

DR. BIRX: So that means if you went through a drive-through or you went through your doctor, you could have that delay.

So, the masks. So what I tried to give you is how we're using data in a very granular way. And so there are -- there is experiential data. When you look at communities that have oftentimes utilized masks -- in general, for personal protection -- from when they particularly are themselves sick and have used their mask in public. And we've looked at the rate of this COVID-19 in those populations. And then we're looking at the scientific evidence to bring those two pieces together.

Let me just say one thing though: The most important thing is the social distancing and washing your hands. And we don't want people to get an artificial sense of protection, because they're behind a mask. Because if they're touching things -- remember, your eyes are not in the masks. So if you're touching things and then touching your eyes, you're exposing yourself in the same way.

So we don't want people to feel like, "Oh, I'm wearing a mask. I'm protected and I'm protecting others." You may be protecting others, but don't get a false sense of security that that mask is protecting you exclusively from getting infected, because there are other ways that you can get infected because of the number of asymptomatic and mild cases that are out there.

And so this worries us and that's why the debate is continuing about the mask. Because we don't want -- when we're trying to send a signal that every single person in this country needs to stay six feet away from everybody, that needs to be washing their hands constantly and know where their hands are -- to send a signal that we think a mask is equivalent to those pieces.

So in the -- when the advisory comes out, it will be an additive piece if it comes out, rather than saying, "This is a substitute for..." And we want to make sure everybody understands, it is not a substitute for the presidential guidelines that have already gone out, and to be absolutely clear about that.

Q Dr. Birx, can I ask a follow up about the testing please?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q Dr. Birx, there's a lot of evidence we're seeing -- that the experts are saying that a high number of these tests could be producing false -- false negatives. So --

DR. BIRX: Of the Roche and Abbott tests?

Q That as many as one in three tests might be providing false negatives. And I was wondering -- maybe you could explain or --

DR. BIRX: That would be almost be impossible with --

Q -- tell a little about the science.

DR. BIRX: -- having 35 percent positives. You -- if that was true, you would have 100 percent positive --

Q Are you concerned about the underlying data --

DR. BIRX: -- or 66 percent positive.

So, what I can tell you is the number of positive tests is tracking very closely with the number of cases diagnosed. So, I don't -- I will look into that.

I look at the Roche and Abbott numbers every night. They're trending exactly in the same way. And that's important when you're validating data to really validate, "Does this same site" -- in other words, I'm looking between testing sites to see, are there consistencies? Is there an anomaly? To make sure for what you just very specifically asked. So I will go back and look at it more carefully. I haven't seen that kind of anomaly.

This is -- this same platform is being used across the country, and that's a range from what I reported: 3 percent positivity up to 35 percent positivity. And that range reflects also what we're seeing with the hotspots and the number of cases. And, frankly -- I mean, we hate to talk about it, but it also tracks with the hospitalizations independent of diagnosis and the mortality that we're seeing. So all of those pieces validate together.

Q There's no concern that there might -- people might be getting a false sense of security or that we might not be seeing all of the data here on -- and who has it?

DR. BIRX: Well, I'm telling you I'm still missing 50 percent of the data from reporting. I have 660 tests reported in; we've done 1.3 million. So there is -- and it could be those sites, so we do need to see all -- the bill said you need to report. We're still not receiving 100 percent of the test.

Q Dr. Birx, with regard to the test, the President's sample collection took one minute, results reported back in 15 minutes. I realize you're the President of the United States,

but when will everyone get to take a test that works that quickly and you get results that quickly?

DR. BIRX: So, these are new tests and we have prioritized the groups that we think have the least access to testing now. And who do we mean by that? We mean the Indian Health Service -- they're often in remote areas; rural areas; the governors of the northwestern states that may not have the advantage of these high-throughput machines that are often across the East Coast and in high metro areas -- Colorado -- and then across the West Coast.

So we've prioritized the presidential 15-minute test to the Indian Health Services and public health labs so that they can support nursing home testing and other areas where we think surveillance is absolutely key. So at this moment they're prioritized in that way.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It's thirteen to twelve hundred.

DR. BIRX: Yes, 1,200 of them are going out that way.

Q So do more of those tests need to be made in order for more people --

THE PRESIDENT: They are being made.

DR. BIRX: Yeah.

Q Okay. So in a matter of --

THE PRESIDENT: They're moving very quickly -- it's happening -- in this case.

DR. BIRX: So I'm glad you asked that because, today, there's 18,000 of these machines already out there. We're trying to find

out exactly where everyone is because you can see that gives you amazing flexibility. Because if people would allow it to be loaned to a state that's in a hotspot or a state where you want to do additional surveillance, 18,000 tests, 18,000 machines, is a huge amount. And it really gets to your very question about how we can prioritize what we have at the same time we're moving out what is new.

And so really figuring out who should those go to, how -- who can we ask communities -- because these will be in the community -- to share those machines into the community who need the testing now. And I think that's really an incredible question that really needs to be answered over the next 24 hours.

Q Dr. Birx, a point of clarity about the face-covering guidance. You said it's still a point of debate. You said -- you used the phrase, "the guidance, if it comes out." Is the guidance coming out, and when?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Q And -- and when, sir?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: In the -- in the days ahead. We're currently working through the task force, taking the consultation advice of CDC, our top health experts, and we'll be bringing forward the guidance from the CDC in the next several days.

DR. BIRX: Just remember it's not a substitute for everything that we're asking people to do. And just to -- to everybody out there across the country: When we say no gatherings of 10, we're looking at -- we want it to be clear. If you have a family of 10, we don't want you to be split up. But we don't expect people to be having dinner parties, cocktail parties.

I mean, I know you've seen the slope in the United States versus

the slope in Italy. And we have to change that slope. We have to change the logarithmic curve that we're on. We see country after country having done that. What it means in the United States is not everyone is doing it.

So we're only as strong as every community, every county, every state, every American following the guidelines to a T. And I can tell by the curve and as it is today, that not every American is following it. And so this is really a call to action. We see Spain, we see Italy, we see France, we see Germany, when we see others beginning to bend their curves. We can bend ours, but it means everybody has to take that same responsibility as Americans.

Q Mr. President?

Q Dr. Birx, does that mean --

Q Mr. President, can I have a quick follow-up on oil, please? In your conversations with Russia and Saudi Arabia, did you have to make any concessions to get them to agree to cut their production?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Like, did you agree to cut U.S. production of oil?

THE PRESIDENT: No, No. We didn't discuss that. They want to do that, that's good for their countries, and we did not discuss that now.

Q Mr. President, NBC News has learned that the Navy is set to fire the Captain of the USS Theodore Roosevelt after he raised red flags about the COVID-19 outbreak on his ship. It appears as if he's being punished for trying to save the lives of the sailors in his command. What's your assessment?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so at all. But we're going to wait a little while because I understand there's a news conference by the Secretary of Defense about that. But, you know, I don't -- I don't agree with that at all. Not at all. Not even a little bit.

Yeah.

Q Mr. President, thank you. This morning you said, once again, that New York got off to a late start and they should have pushed harder. But governors and other state leaders say they rely on the federal government to assess the situation and how risky it is. And they want to know, how would they have known to start sooner without your guidance?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they have experts. And, frankly, long after, we came out and talked about it -- look, how would I have known to cut off China? I cut off China very early. And if I didn't, we would have a chart that you wouldn't believe. So how would I know to do that? How would I know to cut off Europe? I cut off Europe very early. I mean, you have to make a decision. People knew that some bad things were going on, and they got off to a late start. And some others got off to a late start also. But we cut off China. If we didn't cut off China, we would have been in some big trouble. And we cut it off.

Q But do --

THE PRESIDENT: And you know what? We cut it off way early.

Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, to follow up on the insurance point, and a separate question that came in from a colleague who can't be in the room --

THE PRESIDENT: Too bad.

Q On the insurance point, is there going to --

THE PRESIDENT: Who are you with? Who are you with?

Q Roll Call. Is there going to be an opportunity for insurance companies -- if in fact hospitals are compensated for uncompensated care --

THE PRESIDENT: Right. Right.

Q -- are the insurance companies going to also get compensated for extraordinary expenses that they may have? Or are they assuming that cost?

THE PRESIDENT: So, we haven't discussed it, but we're talking to them. You know, getting them not to pay copays, in the case of the big ones, was a tremendous thing. That's a lot of money they gave up. But we're discussing that with the insurance companies.

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: We'll let you know. It'll be pretty quickly.

Yeah, go ahead.

Q On -- I have a question on Japan, sir. They are expanding their entry ban to include the United States. Are you planning to take any similar action to ban Japanese nationals from coming to the U.S. as a result of this crisis?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're looking at a lot of things and a lot of different bans. We have more bans than anybody. We had bans

when bans weren't fashionable if you remember, right at the beginning of this administration; it was for different reasons. But we've had bans long before people thought of bans.

When I did China, it had never been done before. I was the first one to do it. Remember that. It had never -- according to what I read in all the papers, this had never been done. This is a terrible thing to do. And four weeks later, they were all saying, "We're lucky we did it." So we're looking at it. No, we heard that. And I think it's fine that they do that. They're trying to protect their country and we have to protect our country.

Yeah, please.

Q Mr. President --

Q Mr. President, I asked you yesterday about stay-at-home orders --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- and if that, you know, decision should be left in the hands of governors or if you're considering telling the entire nation, "Stay at home."

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q So, just today, the -- Georgia's governor finally issued a stay-at-home order --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- saying that individuals could have been infecting people before they ever felt bad, but we didn't know that until the last 24 hours. Is that ignorance, gross incompetence?

THE PRESIDENT: He's a good governor, Brian Kemp. He's a very good --

Q You've been having calls with these governors.

THE PRESIDENT: He's a good governor and he has to make his own decision on that. I let the states -- I think we're about 85 percent positive on that, if you look. I think it's about 85 percent of the states have got the stay-at-home. Brian is a great governor. We'll -- it's his decision. He made that decision. Ultimately, he decided to go along with it.

Q Do you think it was smart decision to wait?

THE PRESIDENT: And they're doing -- and they're doing well. And the state is doing well, in many respects.

Yeah, go ahead, please.

Q This is another question from a colleague who couldn't make it in today. From Emily Goodin at the Daily Mail. I had a question in regards to the Russian plane that landed at JFK with medical supplies. Did the United States ask Russia for this aid or is it just accepting it?

THE PRESIDENT: We're accepting it. It was a very nice offer from President Putin. I spoke to him the other night, as I told you. And they had excess medical equipment, things. And I'll take it. I'll take it.

Q He just offered you --

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's very nice. We've had some from China. We also help other countries. We like doing that. Like I said before, if we have excess stuff, we let it go out. We let

some go out where, frankly, they had orders for it and I didn't want to stop orders. It was a very nice gesture on behalf of President Putin. And I could've said, "No, thank you," or I could have said, "Thank you." And it was a large plane of very high-quality medical supplies. And I said, "I'll take it."

Q Is he offering any further aid in your conversation?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he would, if we asked for it. But he was very nice. It was part of the call. He suggested -- he said, "We have it. It's additional." They have very big difficulties with this virus also, as you know -- Russia. I thought it was a very nice gesture on behalf of President Putin. I could have said, "No, I don't want it," or I could have said, "I'll take it." And you know what I said? "I'll take it."

Q And would you accept further aid?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so, yeah. If they sent things that we need, I'd take it. Sure. Nice gesture.

Q Are there concerns about Russians using it as propaganda?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not concerned about Russian propaganda, not even a little bit. He offered a lot of medical high-quality stuff that I accepted. And that may save a lot of lives. I'll take it every day.

Please, in the back.

Q Mr. President, you said -- in January, you tweeted that you stand with the people of Iran since the beginning of your presidency and you'll continue to stand with the people of Iran.

Given the fact that they're so hard hit with the coronavirus --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, they're very hard hit. They're very hard hit.

Q But would you consider --

THE PRESIDENT: In a lot of ways, they're hard hit. They're hit in -- with their economy, with their military, and with, obviously, the virus. They're very hard hit.

Q Would you consider easing sanctions to allow medical supplies to get in?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they haven't even asked us to do that, okay?

Q But we know that sanctions hit the people, not the government.

THE PRESIDENT: You know what? They haven't even asked us to do that.

Q But how does a person --

THE PRESIDENT: If they want to meet, we'd love to meet and we'd love to settle the whole thing out. But I doubt they'll be --

Q But how does a -- realistically, how does a person in Tehran pick up the phone and call you? I mean --

THE PRESIDENT: I think they love America. I think the Iranians love America. I think they'd love to be free. I think they'd love to have just some of the things that we have.

You know, I remember Iran, many years ago -- friends of mine were always in Iran. They were doing real estate deals in Iran. They

were building beautiful buildings all over Iran. Apartment houses. It was -- they were very successful. And then, one day, that came to an end.

But you know what? The people of Iran, they remember that. It was a long time ago, but not so long ago. And they remember it. And I'll tell you, they love America. They love what we stand for. And we're not looking for cha- -- we're not looking for government takeover, government change. You know, this country has been through that many times. That doesn't work.

Q So (inaudible) health of the people, would you encourage other countries to -- who are maybe concerned about running afoul --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what I did -- yeah. What I did, as you know --

Q -- of sanctions to --

THE PRESIDENT: -- I put it out very publicly, with respect to Iran. I said if they need help with respect to the virus, we'd love to send -- we have the greatest medical professionals in the world. We'd love to send them over.

Q So what countries are you encouraging, perhaps, to -- to lend their support? Because there are many countries that feel -

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not encouraging or discouraging. They've been a very hostile country. They made a deal that President Obama should have never made. It was a short-term deal giving them \$150 billion, giving them \$1.8 billion in cash. Green. Fill up this room five times. Look --

Q But your administration -- do you have a moral

responsibility to --

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not at all. Nobody has even asked me about it. I have a moral responsibility to help them if they ask. If they -- if they needed help, I would certainly consider different things.

Q Well, the United Nations says they need help.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's up to the United Nations. I'm talking about us. And what happens is, if they wanted help -- because they have a very big case of virus. A very, very big case. It -- one of the worst on Earth, if you believe what you're reading. And I happen to believe what I see and what I know. And if they wanted help, we'd give them help.

Yeah. You had one, in the back, please.

Q Yes, Mr. President, and a question for Jared too. The -- you talk about a granular approach to receiving data from these different states and regions to try and figure out what they need. The President -- you just enacted the DPA on ventilators and masks. Are there are signals from across the country that might indicate there are other things besides masks and ventilators that are slowly, kind of, rising in terms of need -- like hand sanitizer, for instance?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

MR. KUSHNER: Sure. So the first -- the first issue that we've been dealing with was really the ventilators. That was the number one, number two, and number three from all the states.

What we've been finding is that people have a lot of these requests based on the models. And what we've been trying to do over at FEMA is say to the states, "Well, if you would like

ventilators, we need to see -- first, look in your states." Right? So, for example, in northern Jersey, they're going down to southern Jersey and they're finding ventilators and trying to relocate them to where they have their hotspots.

The second thing that we've done asked them to survey for alternative ventilators. Dr. Birx spoke before about the anesthesia machines and the ability to -- to convert them to be ventilators. So we're asking people to be resourceful inside their states before they come to the federal government.

The third thing we've been asking states to do is to provide what their daily utilization rates are. So everyone is asking for everything. One congressman got a call from his local hospital saying, "I need 250 ventilators." And he said, "Well, you don't have a COVID patient within four counties, why do you want 250 ventilators?" And he says, "Well, we just want to be safe. We're very nervous right now."

So what you have all over the country is a lot of people are asking for things that they don't necessarily need at the moment. And the job of FEMA and Admiral Polowczyk has been to try to make sure that we're getting the real data from the cities, from the states, so that we can make real-time allocation decisions based on the data.

And right now, what's happening is a lot of the different cities and states are providing FEMA that -- that information. We're talking to them daily. They're updating that information daily. And that's enabling the federal government to make much more informed decisions on where they position ventilators.

You also have a situation where, in some states, FEMA allocated ventilators to the states. And you have instances where, in cities, they're running out, but the state still has a stockpile. And the notion of the federal stockpile was it's

supposed to be our stockpile; it's not supposed to be state stockpiles that they then use. So we're encouraging the states to make sure that they're assessing the needs, they're getting the data from their local -- local situations, and then trying to fill it with the supplies that we've given them.

The same thing with the masks. So the N95 mask is actually an item that wasn't used as frequently in the medical profession before this. It was used mostly for diseases. So speaking to a lot of the doctors and hospital administrators, they would say they used actually a very low percentage of the N95 masks.

What the President and the Vice President were able to do with Congress was to get the waiver so that you could expand the pool because a lot of the masks were used to -- for the construction industries. Now there's a much bigger pool of masks in the country. There was a stockpile. They distributed that based on where they anticipated a lot of the need would go. But a lot of that still is stuck with the states and it hasn't trickled down to the right places within the states.

So I would just encourage you, when you have governors saying that the federal government haven't -- hasn't given them what they need, I would just urge you to ask them, "Well, have you looked within your state to make sure that you haven't been able to find the resources?"

Unlike other countries, a lot of the medical system in America is a private -- it's not a -- it's not a public, government-controlled. So you have to get the data from what's in their state, look at it in that way, and then make sure that they're being resourceful in a way to do that. And also ask them what their utilization percentage is because if one governor is asking for more ventilators and if the federal government sends them more than they need, the goal here is not to have ventilators sitting in a warehouse where you have another state or you have

people who need them.

So what we're trying to do is make informed data-driven decisions, both on ventilators, masks, any other supply we can get to make sure it's going to the people who need them.

Q I wonder if you could weigh in on the reports, of which I'm sure you're aware, where unnamed White House officials have described your role as being something of running a shadow task force. How do you describe your role? How do you describe the qualifications you bring to your role?

MR. KUSHNER: Yeah. I would just say very simply -- look, the President asked the Vice President to run the task force. The Vice President asked me to assist. I've been serving really at the direction of Vice President and he's asked me to get involved in different projects.

The Vice President and I speak probably sometimes 5, 10 times a day. But everything that I'm doing is at the direction of the Vice President. If some people are talking to you, that means they're probably not informed as to what's going on. But I can assure you that I'm speaking with Dr. Birx, Dr. Fauci, the Vice President, and the President multiple times a day to make sure that I'm accomplishing and focusing on the objectives that the Vice President deems a priority.

Q Jared, a follow-up on the ventilators --

THE PRESIDENT: Or they don't exist.

Q -- and the National Stockpile.

THE PRESIDENT: Or the sources don't exist. They're fake persons, okay? A lot of fake sources out there. They don't exist. I read about it -- for a long time, I've been reading. A

lot of them -- fakes sources. They don't exist.

Go ahead. Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Jared, what triggers sending a ventilator from the National Stockpile to a state? In other words, how sick does somebody have to be to get one of these national ventilators?

MR. KUSHNER: Well, that's not the issue that we're -- that's not the criteria. You have the states basically putting in the requests, and they're giving us their utilization -- their utilization percentages. So it's a very simple formula. The states should know how many ventilators they have in their states. And, by the way, some governors you speak to or senators, they don't know what's in their state. You know, some governors I'll speak to, and they'll know, to the number, how many ventilators they have in their state because that's the first thing a good manager will do.

What a lot of the voters are seeing now is that when you elect somebody to be a mayor or a governor or a president, you're trying to think about who will be a competent manager during the time of crisis. This is a time of crisis, and you're seeing certain people are better managers than others.

So, what I would say is that, the way that the federal government is trying to allocate is they're trying to make sure, A, you have your data, right? Don't ask us for things when you know that -- when you don't know what you have in your own state just because you're scared, you asked your medical professionals and they don't know. You have to take inventory of what you have in your own state and then you have to be able to show that there's a real need.

And so we pre-positioned a lot of things because most governors,

off the bat, didn't know what they needed. But FEMA has a joint command with Admiral Polowczyk, Admiral Giroir, and Pete Gaynor, where every couple hours, when their requests come in, they evaluate the request, they all vote on the request. And then if there is something that they want to elevate to the taskforce, they bring it to the Vice President to make a recommendation.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: And, Jared, if I may, you might ask Deborah to -- we're literally tracking hospitalization cases on a daily basis, interacting with governors and health systems, and that informs our supply chain decisions.

DR. BIRX: Yeah, I really -- I want to thank the health commissioners and all of them that have been sending hospital data. And I think it's really critical and important to all of us.

New York City has been providing information, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and certainly Louisiana, in these hotspots. And that allows us -- we can see where they are with the rising number of cases, where they are in their curve, what can be predicted, and really ensuring that people get what they need as they need it.

And so I think many of the governors now and the health commissioners have been: "I had to use 20" -- "I'm intubating 20 people a day now. I have enough for the next three days. If that doubles...We're seeing our hospitalization rates stabilizing, but we still think there will be this many more in the next days." That's the information that they then translate into providing the ventilators.

So when you see the ventilator numbers going out, they're going out in 150s and 200s. Because I think, early on, we sent a big bolus out, and then not all of them, even today, have been fully utilized.

And so we want to make sure every state and every hotspot can be reassured that ventilators are there for them as they move through the curve. And I think, to date, we've been able to do that. And I think that's what's important to me, is that people have what they need when they need it. And, to date, people who have needed ventilators have been able to get on ventilators. And I think that's our goal with governors and with the mayor to make sure that that continues to happen.

But that means all of us have to work together. And I think that's what's been really important over the last few weeks, is people are not making generic requests anymore. They're making data-driven requests because they know precisely what's happening in their hospitals.

Q Dr. Birx, when you are up here a little bit ago, you talked about the curve and what you're seeing, and you're concerned that people are not abiding by the social distancing guidelines. I mean, you seemed, in your voice, to be quite concerned about that. Has the curve changed enough at this point, where that 100,000 to 240,000 people are likely to die? Has that shifted upwards at all?

DR. BIRX: No. It's just when I look at what -- so we're in week 2.2 in our guidelines. And I guess what I expected when the President put out guidelines that said, "Don't go to bars. Don't be in groups more than 10 people," when we said that, now over 16 days ago, that was serious. And then you could see what happened subsequently and you can see the number of individuals have been infected since then. Because the people we're seeing infected today and in hospitals today were infected after the guidelines went out.

So that's what we're worried about, and we're worried about that we're not -- we're still in this. And that's why the President

extended it for 30 days. But we have to get out of this. We have to start seeing this.

THE PRESIDENT: But, Deborah, aren't you referring to just a few states? Because many of those states are dead flat. I mean, so --

DR. BIRX: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: So, it's hard to get -- it's hard to be --

DR. BIRX: Yes. There are states that are dead flat. But, you know, every -- what changes the curve is a new Detroit, a new Chicago, a new New Orleans, a new Colorado. Those change the curves because it all of a sudden spikes with the number of new cases. Because you have a certain projection of new cases and then a whole other city comes on top, where they're in their logarithmic phase.

So those ones that I talked about that had test results greater than 13 percent positive, all of those -- all of those states or all of those counties are in logarithmic phase. That means there are a lot of counties that aren't, and we are really -- we're excited about those counties that have been testing and still finding quite flat. And hopefully, maybe Sunday or so, or sometime this weekend, we can go through all the states and the curves again so you can see where, you know, that California and Washington are still steady.

But we're watching very carefully because we see that you can go from this to this very quickly. And what -- this should not be happening any longer in new places if people are doing the social distancing, washing their hands, not getting together in large groups more than 10.

THE PRESIDENT: Again, so I look at the graphs all the time.

DR. BIRX: Yes, you do.

THE PRESIDENT: And you have many, many --

DR. BIRX: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: -- flatliners. I call them "flatliners." I'm amazed at them. And you have a couple that are up.

It's hard to blame the flatliners for not doing a good job.

DR. BIRX: No, no. I don't want to say that. No. I don't -- no. Thank you, sir. I don't want -- in fact, I want to praise the states that -- and I think I want to be able to call them out and show you their graphs so you can see. They've had steady, small cases. They're testing and they're doing a lot of testing. And their percent of test-positives are under 5 percent. I mean, we have a whole group of states who are testing and their positivity rate is under 5 percent.

We know what it looks like on the logarithmic curve. You're in the 13 percent, then 15 percent, then 26 percent, and then 35 percent. That's what we're trying to prevent. And it's the metro areas that are absolutely crucial in this. And so, if you're in a metro area or you're in a small city, please make sure all of your friends and family are following the guidelines. That's the best thing we can do.

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I saw those pens going five minutes ago. They were so -- they were thrilled. And the fact is -- yes, we compare them to Italy. One place.

But we have many places that are --

DR. BIRX: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: -- really doing great. And I think that's what Deborah meant. She didn't mean all of them. So when you write your story tomorrow, maybe you'll write it correctly. She was talking about one state. And another state is, you know, having a hard time. It's -- and they're closely associated.

And, by the way, the people are doing a very good job, including the people that live there. But when Deborah was talking about Italy, she was talking about the one, and then the other was lower. And then you have mostly states that have been unbelievable.

So she wasn't talking about the average of everything; she was talking about an individual state, which is, I think, still better than Italy. Italy is having a hard time. By the way, Spain is having a hard time. France is having a hard time.

But our states, generally speaking, it's like lots of different countries all over. We have -- many of those countries are doing a phenomenal job. They're really flat. And I think that's what you meant.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't want to -- I don't want to speak for -- but I thought -- that's what I understood she meant.

Yeah, please.

Q Can I ask a question about that though? Because coronavirus is present in all 50 states. You said before that you -- when you implored mayors and governors to be serious about this, you said, "Once it shows up, mitigation efforts are too late."

So how do you then square that with this notion that some states are doing well? I mean, the virus doesn't abide by state law.

THE PRESIDENT: Because some states, they stay in better. They're not touching. They're not -- whatever it is. They're not going out. They're not in groups. And some states are not probably as good, or for whatever reason. Or they also live a lot closer. You know, New York is very dense.

And, you know, California is pretty dense too. And they've got a very good record going so far. We hope it doesn't spike up, but it's very flat. We have states that are doing incredibly well. I mean, when I looked at some of them, I looked at some states that I would have thought maybe wouldn't have done as well, and they're really flatlined. Hope they stay that way. I hope they stay that way.

Q Isn't that the point, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Say it, Jeff.

Q Sir, isn't that the point, that you want those states to stay flatlined?

THE PRESIDENT: I want them -- yeah, that's what I'm saying.

Q I mean, it seems like you're --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, no. But when Deborah mentioned about Italy and our country, she wasn't referring to our country; she was referring to one state.

Q But she's encouraging people to do a better job of following these social distancing measures. That's what I'm understanding it.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. So my understanding -- I'm going to let her say it. But I think that everybody would have to be thrilled with the way most states are doing. Thrilled.

Q I don't think she -- is that what you meant?

THE PRESIDENT: The flat-line -- the flat-line states -- states that have almost no bump. I mean, I would think. Now, then you have others where, for whatever reason, they're higher. That's different. But you can't condemn people living in a flatliner with people living in something where there's the big bump or the bigger bump or more akin to Italy, where they have some very unique problems. In all fairness to Italy, they have some very unique problems.

But if you'd like to come up and --

Q So how many flat-line do we have?

THE PRESIDENT: A lot of them.

Q And how many do we have -- how many? How many do we have?

DR. BIRX: So, why don't I bring you the whole deck again and we'll divide out the states so you can see them.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We'll do it tomorrow.

DR. BIRX: Because you really have to see each state separately. That's why I started with there are states where you've heard me talk about how concerned I was. These are states that before the guidelines went out or right after the guidelines went out -- I mean, you can look at -- it's on the website if you go to the Healthdata.org about when governors made clarity about closing their states, as far as the social distancing, the washing of the hands, the bars, the taking -- doing takeout. And

you can line that up with the presidential guidelines.

And not all states, when the presidential guidelines came out, immediately followed the presidential guidelines. Not all states did. There are states that also may have gotten many more seeds from outside communities. That certainly is one of the issues that New York and New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island are facing. The virus came in from multiple places into those states. It was undetected early on, and they have a very logarithmic curve.

What I am saying is: Even one of those curves in one county, in one city, is one curve too many. So I am passionate about everyone following the guidelines because of the outlier curves. Maybe that was a better way of putting it.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. That's exactly --

DR. BIRX: The outlier curves --

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's perfect.

DR. BIRX: -- in specific counties, is to make sure that doesn't happen anywhere else.

Q So would you feel better if every state did a stay-at-home order? Would you feel better?

DR. BIRX: Well, I think most of the states have done that. I think if you -- one death from this is one death too many. I mean, I come out of epidemics and pandemics. We know what to do. I know we don't have a vaccine. And I know we don't have a therapeutic. But we know what can be done, and others are doing it, and most of the people in the United States are doing it. It's our communities -- it's every American that has to make these changes, and I know they're really hard.

And I know it's hard to remember. I mean, I have to say to myself every day, because I'm around very important people, to like never touch anything. And I'm just like paranoid now about touching things. I'm sure you all are too.

I mean, we've gotten to the place where we don't go to your places on Pebble Beach, we go to the one that's open aired because, I mean, you're trying to protect your reporters. I mean, I understand that. We're all trying to protect each other, and we all have to adapt to this new reality that we're in right now.

And I believe everybody is trying really hard, and I'm just asking them to try really, really hard for these next 28 days because they will make a tremendous difference. We see that evidence. And so it's like having a vaccine or a therapeutic because we know what works, and we're asking everybody to apply what works. And I know it takes amazing attention to detail because you know the minute you forget or do something, you're like, "Oh, my gosh, I should have never done that." And that's the level of attention it takes.

Q If covering our faces could help us do that and guidelines are coming out --

THE PRESIDENT: So I just want to say -- look, many states have started low and slow, and then they stayed at a good level. Some really stayed at a great level. Some -- Louisiana, as an example: It was low and slow and they were looking great. I was watching it because, you know, it's kind of a place people go to with Mardi Gras -- which, sort of, is an interesting point, because after Mardi Gras, it was low, and then all of a sudden it went up very rapidly. And now it's one of our true hotspots, right?

Certain areas of Michigan -- Detroit was -- it looked like it was doing pretty good, and then all of a sudden it went up. So you have that too.

But I'll tell you what: We have states that have been really incredible in the fact that they have kept so -- so low. They have not -- you haven't seen the bump, and I hope you don't. I hope you don't. And you have a couple that, for a lot of different reasons -- and that's not to blame anybody, but they are at a higher level. But very few.

I think, Deborah -- I mean, I may say: I think most people have actually followed the presidential -- you can call them whatever you want. I would never use the word "dictates" because if I used that word, I would be in such trouble. In fact, you'll put me in trouble just that I even mentioned the thought of it. Okay? But we make a recommendation. And I think they've done a good job, and maybe they started a little later, but maybe they're also more difficult states.

But we've done, I think, on average, really phenomenally as a country. I think we've done phenomenally. Because when you looked at that graph the other day -- I don't know if you saw it; I assume you saw it. Everybody in the world saw it. But you look at all those lines on the bottom -- one color after another, all different, representing different states -- it's all crowded at the bottom. And then you had two that were up. But you had -- I don't know, almost every one of them was down low. Very low. So there were a lot of people listening.

And I just did -- I want to be clear because I don't need headlines tomorrow, and neither does the country, because I don't want this country working so hard and then have press that is, in this case, maybe misinterpret something. Because I might have -- I might have -- when I heard it, I was surprised at first too, but I understood what Deborah meant.

Q Mr. President --

Q Can you clear something else up again?

THE PRESIDENT: But I think it's very important -- because I think it's very important for you to be accurate.

One other thing. Just a quick thing. So, what I found is when governors call me -- I mean, I think in every case, they've always been so nice. So nice. And I've seen them and heard them say, "Thank you very much. You have done a great job." "A fantastic job," in one case. "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you." Then I'll see the governor, usually of the opposite party. In almost all cases, except maybe one -- but in almost all cases, they're very generous, they're very nice. They thank me. Everything is great. We're doing a great job.

And then I'll see them on television, and just like a different person. And I realized there are some people, because of politics, that if they say, "We want 1,000 ventilators," and I'll say, "No, Jim, I want to give you 5,000 ventilators," they'll say, "Thank you. You are the greatest President that's ever lived." And then, I'll see them quoted in a paper or see them on a show, and they'll say, "The President didn't come through for me. I'm very disappointed in the President."

And we have a lot of that. They're very happy when they talk to me, and then I see them. But there are some people, if they asked for 500 of something, and if I gave them 5,000, they will say -- you'll say, "How's the President doing?" "Well, we don't like the job." To my face, they're very nice, but then sometimes -- I guess, they assume I don't watch them or something, but I watch very closely.

Yeah, please.

Q Mr. President, one especially vulnerable population is the prison population, and that's -- especially with Jared here, I wondered if you could address what the federal government is doing to protect inmates.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's vulnerable in that it's close together, really. I -- I can't tell you about age, but a lot of young people in prison.

Some people -- some states -- I have not done that at all, but some states are letting people out of prison. Some people are getting out that are very serious criminals, in some states. And I don't like that. I don't like it. But it's a city or state thing in certain cases, as you know. I think maybe Philadelphia comes to mind. So we'll see. You have to see what what's going on. And we don't like it. The people don't like it. And we're looking in to see if I have the right to stop it in some cases, okay?

Q Mr. President, 6.6 million Americans filed for unemployment last week. We haven't heard you talk a lot today about what they're going through. So what's --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think it's --

Q -- your message to them? And --

THE PRESIDENT: I think they're going through -- I think it's terrible.

So, look, four weeks ago, we had the greatest economy in the history of the world. The greatest in the world -- greatest in the history of the world. We had the most jobs ever in the history of the United States. Almost 160 million jobs, right?

And then, one day, I get a call from Deborah, who's fantastic, and from Dr. Fauci. And he said and she said, "We have a problem." I said, "What's the problem?" And they said, "We may have to close it up." I said, "Close what up?" They said, "Close up the country." And I said, "What's that all about?" And we discussed today -- and probably not since 1917; we came to that conclusion -- and she is a fantastic person, a brilliant person, and this is what she knows. I said, "Has it ever been this bad?" And I think I can represent that you said "no." And part of it -- it's a contagion. It's so contagious.

It's like, if you sneeze, I probably get it. Whoever heard of a thing like that? Okay? And this very talented reporter is bailing out. Okay? He's out of here. I don't blame you.

But it's a very contagious thing, and -- probably the likes of which we've never seen in terms of that.

But 1917 -- so that's over 100 years ago, but that was -- you know, it's been written about many, many times. That was a horrible -- whether it was 75 or 100 million people -- I've heard from 50 to 75, I've heard 75 to 100 -- but it was tens of millions of people.

Now, we have the advantage of communication. This could have been just as bad. I mean, here we can read on the Internet. We can see what to do. We can have these meetings; they can watch on television, which they do. A lot of people are watching. A lot of people are watching. And they say, "Gee, social distancing."

But in 1917, they didn't have that option. You know, they didn't know what to do. They just noticed people were dying all over the place. Think of it: 75- to 100 million people died. A lot of people in this country died.

I always -- to me, it's a great -- it's a great question: How come more people didn't die in this country? And they say it actually started in this country and went to Europe. I mean, we lost a lot of people, but relatively, we lost very few compared to Europe. So this is a terrible thing that happened.

And what's happening now, with people and jobs -- so think of the position I'm in. We have built all together, everybody -- not me, everybody -- the greatest economy in history. And all of a sudden, people come in that we respect and we know. And here's the thing: They were right. Everybody questioned it for a while. Not everybody, but a good portion questioned it. They said, "Let's keep it open. Let's ride it." If we did that -- you saw the other graph. And whether it's true or almost true or maybe not true enough -- the number was 2.2 million people would have died. 2.2 million people would have died in a short period of time. In fact, the graph could have been even shorter. I always noticed that that horrible one -- where it goes high -- it actually comes down a little bit faster. It might have been over faster and you would have lost 2.2 million people.

So they come in and they say, "We have to close up the country." And I say, "You know what that does to this -- to the fabric of this country, to people that had great jobs, great family, no problems with money?" Their 401(k) -- everything is perfect, then all of a sudden, they go from that to having no job in one day. They never even thought of it. And then you see 6 million people unemployed. Unemployment numbers get released and you see 6 million people.

And it's an artificial closing. It's not like we have a massive recession or worse. It's artificial because we turned it off. Think of all we're doing. We're saying, "Don't go to work and we'll pay you." Everything is the opposite. It was always, "Go to work and make a lot of money and do well, and -- the American Dream." Because of a hidden enemy, we're saying, "Don't

go to work and we're going to pay you."

Look at the money: \$2 trillion. And we will probably do more. I think infrastructure would be a fantastic thing to do.

You want to get the restaurants back? You give deductibility. You understand what that is. You give deductibility for businesses where they go and they use the restaurants. The restaurants will be bigger and better than they were before. You know, people don't know: A lot of restaurants closed when they ended deductibility. And then they started doing well, but they had fewer restaurants. But the boom of the restaurants is when they had deductibility, where corporations could use them. So -- and entertainment. That was a great thing.

But they closed it, and then they closed it again. And it wasn't the same. But if you want to get them back, you do that.

But infrastructure: We borrow our money now at zero. You know, if we were paying 5 percent, 4 percent, 3 percent, it's a different ballgame. We're borrowing -- we can borrow long term for zero -- literally zero; you know that -- because we're considered the safe investment. All over the world, they want money in the United States. That's where they want the money.

So I know better than anybody. I just -- I know what they're going through, and it's horrible. But you know what I want to do? I want to be able to get them back fast. When this is over, it's going to be a day we're going to celebrate, because everyone is going to go to work and I think we're going to have boom times. I think it's going to be great.

And we've learned a lot. We've learned about borders. We've learned about reliance on other countries. We've learned so much -- so much that I think we really have a chance to be bigger and

better and stronger. And I think it's going to come back very quickly, but first we have to defeat this enemy.

So we will see you tomorrow. Thank you very much. Thank you.

END

7:38

P.M. EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/2/2020 10:23:41 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: ABC

Print: Daily Caller

Radio: VOA

EDT

10:00AM In-House Pool Call Time

11:30AM THE PRESIDENT receives his intelligence briefing

Oval Office

Closed Press

**3:00PM THE PRESIDENT participates in a roundtable with energy
sector CEOs**

Cabinet Room

Closed Press

Briefing Schedule

5:00PM Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press briefing

James S. Brady Briefing Room

On Camera

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: Lenihan, Keagan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=EE7320EE8C184D66BFD521B0105D17D2-KEAGAN.LENI]
Sent: 4/4/2020 4:46:23 PM
To: Campana, Alexandra D. EOP/WHO [Alexandra.D.Campana2@who.eop.gov]
Subject: FW: FDA Diagnostics EUA doc
Attachments: 20200404 FDA COMBATING COVID19 WITH DIAGNOSTICS.docx

Here you go.

From: Lenihan, Keagan
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2020 3:37 PM
To: Joe Grogan (Joseph.j.grogan@who.eop.gov) <joseph.j.grogan@who.eop.gov>; Williams, Michael B. EOP/WHO <Michael.B.Williams@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Bonner, Maria K. EOP/WHO <Maria.K.Bonner@who.eop.gov>
Subject: FDA Diagnostics EUA doc

Joe and team – we put together a much more user friendly version of the EUAs for your team to use. Pls feel free to circulate and we will update weekly for you and the team when there are additional EUAs.

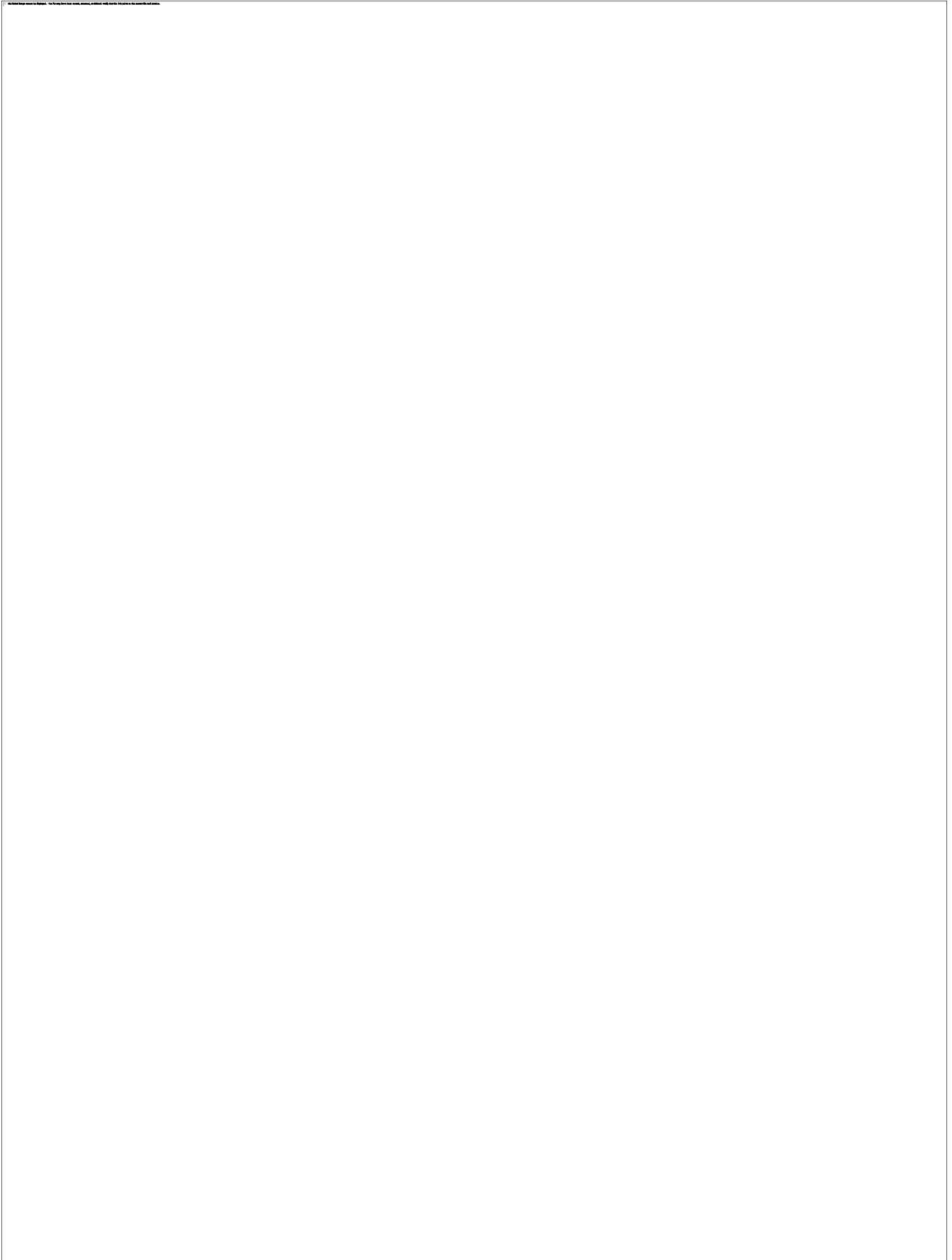
From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/2/2020 6:15:02 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In town pool report 4 - physician's note

From: Swin Suebsaeng <Asawin.Suebsaeng@thedailybeast.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 6:06 PM

Subject: In town pool report 4 - physician's note

This was distributed to the briefing room as today's coronavirus task force press briefing began:



Cheers,
Asawin Suebsaeng
White House reporter
The Daily Beast
@swin24

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2020 8:32:22 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: FOX

Print: The Guardian

Radio: FOX

EDT

10:00AM In-House Pool Call Time

12:30PM THE PRESIDENT has lunch with the Vice President

Private Dining Room

Closed Press

Briefing Schedule

5:00PM **Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press briefing**

James S. Brady Briefing Room

On Camera

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/2/2020 6:06:52 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Memorandum on Order Under the Defense Production Act Regarding 3M Company



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2020

April 2, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT: Order Under the Defense Production Act Regarding
3M Company

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) (the "Act"), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. On March 13, 2020, I declared a national emergency recognizing the threat that the novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 poses to our healthcare

systems. In recognizing the public health risk, I noted that on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the outbreak of COVID-19 (the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2) can be characterized as a pandemic. I also noted that while the Federal Government, along with State and local governments, have taken preventive and proactive measures to slow the spread of the virus and to treat those affected, the spread of COVID-19 within our Nation's communities threatens to strain our Nation's healthcare systems. I further noted that, to ensure that our healthcare systems are able to surge capacity and capability to respond to the spread of COVID-19, it is critical that all health and medical resources needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19 are properly distributed to the Nation's healthcare systems and others that need them most at this time. Accordingly, I found that health and medical resources needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19, including personal protective equipment and ventilators, meet the criteria specified in section 101(b) of the Act (50 U.S.C. 4511(b)).

Sec. 2. Presidential Direction to the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary). The Secretary, through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Administrator), shall use any and all authority available under the Act to acquire, from any appropriate subsidiary or affiliate of 3M Company, the number of N-95 respirators that the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/3/2020 3:33:36 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-town pool report #7 — attendees at energy meeting

From: Christian Datoc <christian@dailycaller.com>

Date: April 3, 2020 at 3:28:20 PM EDT

Subject: In-town pool report #7 — attendees at energy meeting

From Judd Deere

Today, President Donald J. Trump will meet with executives in the energy industry to discuss the impact of COVID-19 and recent developments in energy markets.

The following individuals are expected to attend:

The White House

President Donald J. Trump

Vice President Mike Pence

Mark Meadows, *Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff*

Jared Kushner, *Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor*

Marc Short, *Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the Vice President*

Larry Kudlow, *Assistant to the President and Director of the National Economic Council*

Dan Scavino, *Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor for Digital Strategy*

Trump Administration

Secretary David Bernhardt, *United States Department of Interior*

Secretary Dan Brouillette, *United States Department of Energy*

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, *United States Trade Representative*

Members of Congress

Senator John Cornyn, *R-TX*

Senator Kevin Cramer, *R-ND*

Senator Ted Cruz, *R-TX*
Senator Dan Sullivan, *R-AK*
Leader Kevin McCarthy, *R-CA*

External Participants

Greg Garland, *Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Phillips 66*
Dave Hager, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Devon Energy Corporation*
Harold Hamm, *Executive Chairman, Continental Resources*
Jeff Hildebrand, *Chief Executive Officer, Hilcorp Energy Company*
Vicki Hollub, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Occidental Petroleum Corporation*
Mike Sommers, *President and Chief Executive Officer, American Petroleum Institute*
Kelcy Warren, *Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Energy Transfer Partners*
Mike Wirth, *Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Chevron Corporation*
Darren Woods, *Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Exxon Mobil Corporation*

--

Christian Datoc
Senior White House Correspondent
Daily Caller
1920 L Street NW, Suite 200
Washington DC 20036
christian@dailycaller.com
C: ((b)(6))
@TocRadio

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/3/2020 4:43:31 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves Indiana Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves Indiana Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Indiana and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of Indiana impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named James K. Joseph as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/3/2020 3:32:37 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Approves New Hampshire Disaster Declaration



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2020

President Donald J. Trump Approves New Hampshire Disaster Declaration

Today, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of New Hampshire and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic beginning on January 20, 2020, and continuing.

Federal funding is available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, for all areas in the State of New Hampshire impacted by COVID-19.

Pete Gaynor, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named W. Russell Webster as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further assessments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT: FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/5/2020 11:11:12 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing | April 4, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP,
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE
IN PRESS BRIEFING

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

April 4, 2020

4:15 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: It's a busy time. Very busy time. And let me begin by again expressing our support, solidarity, and love for the people of our great country. We're fighting for you and we're enduring all of this together. And we will soon prevail together. We're making a lot of progress.

We appreciate all of the great assistance from the governors and people within the states. The relationships have been, really, very good. I spoke with Governor Cuomo. We're working very hard to get additional things to New York as quickly as possible.

We -- as you know, we took care of the hospital, including personnel -- the 2,500 beds that we build just recently at Javits, including personnel. And we opened it up to COVID, and that's something that we also did in Louisiana, and we're doing it in Dallas.

So we have a lot of not only hospitals being built, but now we're manning the hospitals because states are, in many cases, unable to get additional people to work. It's -- it's just an incredible situation. There's never been anything like this.

One of the most important issues in battling this pandemic is coordinating the delivery of the crucial supplies throughout the nation based upon the most accurate information available. And we've got the best healthcare and disaster experts anywhere in the world, and everybody will tell you that, and we're dealing with big parts of the world on helping them also through this horrible situation where 151 -- still, 151 nations are going through it.

We're working to ensure that the supplies are delivered where and when they're needed, and in some cases, we're telling governors we can't go there because we don't think you need it and we think someplace else needs it. And pretty much, so far, we've been right about that. And we'll continue to do it.

As it really gets -- this will be probably the toughest week between this week and next week. And there'll be a lot of death, unfortunately, but a lot less death than if this wasn't done. But there will be death.

We're looking for an obvious focus in the hardest-hit regions. Some of them are obvious and some aren't so obvious. They spring up. They come and they -- they hit you like you got hit by a club, an area that wasn't at all bothered. You look at what's going on in New Jersey -- the

governor is doing an excellent job, by the way -- but how that sprang up.

Every decision that we're making is made to save lives. It's really our sole consideration. We want to save lives. We want as few lives lost as possible. It's therefore critical that certain media outlets stop spreading false rumors and creating fear and even panic with the public. It's just incredible. I could name them, but it's the same ones. Always the same ones. I guess they're looking for ratings. I don't know what they're looking for. So bad for our country and so bad -- the people understand it. You look at the levels and approval ratings, and they're the lowest they've ever been for media. It's so bad for -- for our country. So bad for the world. You ought to put it together for a little while, get this over with, and then go back to your fake news.

During a national emergency, it's just essential that the federal decision makers cut through the fog of confusion in order to follow the facts and the science. Many hospital administrators that we've been in touch with, even in the really hotspots -- you know what they are -- are communicating directly with us that their level of supplies are meeting essential needs. And at the current time, they're really thrilled to be where they are. Whenever local shortages are reported, we're asking states to immediately meet the demand. And we're stockpiling large amounts in different areas -- in different areas. And we're going to be discussing that in a little while.

But we want distributions to be made on a fair basis. We have to take care of a large country, not just certain areas of the country. But no matter where we're -- we've been there and we've been there very strongly. I want to thank FEMA. I want to thank the Army Corps of Engineers. I want to thank our military for what they're doing.

And we're going to be adding a tremendous amount of military to help supplement the states -- thousands of soldiers, thousands of medical workers, professionals, nurses, doctors. And it'll be a large number. It'll be -- we'll be telling them over the next very short period where they're going. And they're going into war. They're going into a battle that they've never really trained for. Nobody has trained for this; nobody has seen this, I would say, since 1917, which was the greatest of them all. The greatest of this type of battle. Probably the greatest of them all. Right? 1917. Up to 100 million people were killed.

In addition, we're working directly with hospitals and existing suppliers and distributors to ensure that those with the greatest need are prioritized. And that need changes. One day it's one state or one locale, one city. And then all of a sudden, they're starting to do well. We had some very good reports coming out of the State of Washington, coming out of various parts of California -- so, areas that we were getting ready to really hit hard. We can now go to other areas.

It looks like New York is going to be hit very hard. And Louisiana is just amazing the way it just sprang up. And everyone is doing a good job but they're going to be hit hard.

Areas in the country that are not experiencing large-scale infections are requesting supplies beyond what their present circumstances require. And we talk to them and we tell them and we explain it, and for the most part they're good with it. We think we're right.

It's very understandable that officials would seek to get the most they can get for their communities, but the fears of the shortages have led to inflated requests. We have some states and areas where they're just asking for far more. I mean, look, we had one state asking for 40,000 ventilators. Forty thousand. Think of it: 40,000. It's not possible. They won't

need that many, and now they're admitting they don't need that many. But we're getting as many as we can to them.

Again, nobody has ever seen anything like this in terms of ventilators, in terms of protective equipment and uniforms and outfits. But it makes it more difficult for distributors to prioritize the real need, and it could intentionally and, you know -- look, they -- everybody has proper intentions but they want to make sure they're 100 percent. And sometimes, when they know they don't need it, they want it anyway. It gives them that extra feeling of satisfaction, but we just can't do that. It's not even possible to think about it.

And that's why -- and we're a backup. Remember, we're a backup. We're the greatest backup that ever existed for the states, especially when we start getting into the hospital building business and getting into the medical center building business, where you see we built many hospitals -- numerous hospitals in some states -- and medical centers.

That's why my administration has been requesting actual usage numbers directly from the states and hospitals to meet their needs, because we want to be ready when -- when the brunt of it comes, which is coming quickly; you see it. You see it as sure as you can see it. And when the brunt of it comes, we want to be ready to hit the area that needs it. We don't want to have spent everything in one area, and they don't need it there to anywhere near the extent.

So let me be extremely clear about one point: We will move heaven and earth to safeguard our great American citizens. We will continue to use every power, every authority, every single resource we've got to keep our people healthy, safe, secure, and to get this thing over with. We want to finish this war. We have to get back to work. We have to get -- we have to open our country again. We have to open our country again. We don't want

to be doing this for months and months and months. We're going to open our country again. This country wasn't meant for this. Few were. Few were. But we have to open our country again.

I just spoke with the commissioners, leaders of, I would say, virtually all of the sports leagues: Rob Manfred, Commissioner of Baseball, Major League Baseball; Roger Goodell Commissioner of the National Football League; Adam Silver Commissioner of the National Basketball Association; Gary Bettman, Commissioner of the National Hockey League; Jay Monahan, Commissioner of the PGA Tour; Cathy Engelbert, Commissioner of the Women's National Basketball Association; Dana White, the Ultimate Fighting Championship; Vince McMahon President of the WWE; Don Garber, Commissioner of Major League Soccer; Steve Phelps, President of NASCAR; Michael Whan, Commissioner of the LPGA; Roger Penske, Founder and Chairman Penske Corp.; and Drew Fleming, President of the Breeders' Cup.

And there were a couple of others on, and these are all the great leaders of sport. And they want to get back. They got to get back. They can't do this. Their sports weren't designed for it. The whole concept of our nation wasn't designed for it. We're going to have to get back. We want to get back soon - - very soon.

For example -- and I have to say, we're using the Defense Production Act very powerfully. In some cas- -- times directly; in many cases, indirectly. Just the threat of it is usually enough.

But FEMA and HHS have ordered 180 million -- think of that -- 180 million. Who ever heard of 180 million N95 masks? And we're working now with 3M to see whether or not that all works out, but we want them to help our country. And I think it's going to be okay. We're going to soon let you know. But we need the

masks. We don't want other people getting it, and that's why we're -- that's why we're instituting a lot of Defense Production Act, you could call it, retaliations because that's what it is; it's a retaliation.

If people don't -- if people don't give us what we need for our people, we're going to be very tough, and we've been very tough. Usually we don't have to use it, but we've used it plenty. It's turning out more and more, unfortunately. And it works very well.

Our Supply Chain Logistics Task Force, led by Admiral John Polowczyk, who's doing a fantastic job, will ensure they're distributed to the healthcare and critical infrastructure workers in the areas with the most pressing requirements. That's the 60 million masks that we're talking about and the hundred and -- 180 million N95 masks. A hundred and eighty million. Who ever heard of 180 million masks?

And this is a incredible thing. A lot of times -- and we have to stop playing this game -- if a governor wants 200 ventilators, and I say, "No, we're going to send you 1,000. We think you need more than 200," and then the media meets with the governor and they say, "Oh, you got more. Well, it's not enough. The President should have sent more." So he's asking for 200. We give him 1,000. They say, "How's the President doing?" "He should have given more." Because that's politics. That's politics. And that's unfortunate, because we can't play that game.

And, you know, that's one party doing it, and the other party is happy. But they're all really happy because they should have been doing this work themselves for a long period of time. Many of their cupboards were bare.

With respect to the ventilators, FEMA and HHS continue to monitor

the data on an hourly basis where provided by the states. In order to most effectively target the distribution of supplies, we've been asking states to provide us with daily updates on the number of ventilators and their utilization rates, because some states have more ventilators than they need. They don't even like to admit it. They'll admit it when everything is over, but that's -- it doesn't help us very much.

This data is vitally necessary so that we can ensure ventilators are getting to the right place at the right time. FEMA, HHS, DOD are developing resources within the next 24 hours. They will have a whole different set of criteria. Every day, it's different criteria. Every day, this horrible, invisible enemy changes a course. It changes course.

If you were fighting the normal fight, you'd know what's happening. Here is: They hit one, they hit another, they hit another state. They hit areas that you didn't expect. But we're watching it and we're capturing it.

Our goal is to stay several days ahead of the needs in each state, but we can only do that if the cities and states utilize real-time local knowledge to provide timely and precise data about actual usage. So we have to be able to do that. And if a state has ventilators, as an example, that they know they're not going to need, they should give them over and we should move them with the other ones. We have now 10,000 in our pipeline, and stockpiled 10,000 -- close.

And we're moving some into New York, so we're going to need some additional. We're moving some into New York City and state, separately. And we're bringing them to the point where they'll need them.

I can also report that, at my direction, 1,000 military personnel are deploying to New York City to assist where they're needed the

most. That's the hottest of all the hotspots. New Jersey is right there. It's right next to it. And I don't know if that's overflow, but New Jersey is -- it's a great state and it's a very -- it's a crowded state also, where you have people on top of people. It's always tough. But we're bringing some of the ventilators. We got some for New Jersey just yesterday, and we're going to bring them some more, including doctors.

We're getting doctors, nurses, respiratory specialists, and other support workers. These are from the military. We're taking people now out of our military. We've been doing it, but now we're doing it on a larger basis. And I want to thank Secretary of Defense Esper, who will detail some of what we're doing, tomorrow and Monday.

As the situation in Washington State continues to stabilize, we're returning a 300-bed federal medical station to a different location -- so where we need it. And we appreciate that. They won't be needing it, and we appreciate them letting us know. We're going to move it to a different location. It was already built.

Many governors initially made large requests for federal support for their states in anticipation of a greater number of cases, but the residents of Washington State have done a really good job of following the federal distancing guidelines. They really have.

I'm also pleased to report that Oregon will be spending and sending -- they're spending a lot of money because they really did stockpile well, and they're also sending 140 ventilators directly to New York, which we appreciate.

And I want to thank the Vice President for the great work he's doing every day, dealing with our nation's governors. Mike Pence has been working day and night on this, and we want to get it

over. He's got to get a little more sleep than he's getting. He hasn't been getting very much, I will tell you that.

And we're all in this together, and it's a beautiful thing to see how people are joining forces to help one another. They really are.

In addition to our courageous doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers, I also want to thank the incredible food supply workers who are feeding our nation. I spoke just a little while ago to Senator Boozman. You know Senator Boozman; we all do. He's a great senator. He's a great person. We spoke just this morning, and we discussed how important it is to keep our farmers and ranchers, processors, and distributors in our nation's prayers. And I want to thank the senator for the incredible job he's been doing. And a lot of the senators and congressmen and everyone -- everybody is working very hard.

My administration is working very aggressively to pioneer new medical countermeasures to treat and prevent infection. Working on a lot of things. We must utilize our nation's scientific brilliance to vanquish the virus. We have to vanquish the virus as quickly as we can, because we have a lot of things happening in this country, and we have a great future, but we have to get back to work.

This week, the FDA established the Coronavirus Treatment Accelerator Program, which is expediting the development of new anti- -- antiviral and other therapies, and they're doing it on a very rapid basis. And I think we're having some very good results. We'll tell you about that.

HHS continues to speed the development of therapies derived from human blood that have the potential to lessen the severity or shorten the length of the illness. And as you know, last Saturday, the FDA also gave emergency authorization for

hydroxychloroquine. And the hydroxychloroquine is a -- I hope it's going to be a very important answer. We're having some very good things happening with it, and we're going to be distributing it through the Strategic National Stockpile. It's going into the Strategic National Stockpile to treat certain patients. And we have millions and millions of doses of it; 29 million to be exact.

In addition to that, we're making it and we're also getting it from various other locations and countries. In one case, I called Prime Minister Modi of India this morning. They make large amounts of hydroxychloroquine -- very large amounts, frankly. And I said -- they had a hold, because, you know, they have 1.5 billion people, and they think a lot of it. And I said I'd appreciate it if they would release the amounts that we ordered. And they are giving it serious consideration. But they do make -- India makes a lot of it.

But we have already 29 million. If you look -- I mean, that's a big number. Twenty-nine million doses. And we've got millions of doses that are being made here and many millions of doses that are made elsewhere that are being shipped here, and it will be arriving.

We're just hearing really positive stories, and we're continuing to collect the data. But I'll just speak for myself: It's been out for a long time. It's a malaria drug. It's also a drug for lupus. And there's a -- there's a study out that people with lupus aren't catching this horrible virus. They're not -- they're not affected so much by it. Now, maybe that's correct; maybe it's false. You're going to have to check it out.

But there's a lot of very positive things happening with that. That's a game changer if that's the case. Obviously, we continue to work on the vaccines, but the vaccines have to be down the road by probably 14, 15, 16 months. We're doing great

on the vaccines. I think Johnson & Johnson is leading -- seems to be leading in terms of the studies, but we'll see what happens. But I feel good about that, but that's down the road.

But tremendous promise with -- with what's just been mentioned. In addition to that, Gilead Sciences has initiated a phase three that's down the line, meaning clinical studies of the drug remdesivir. Now, it's approximately 1,000 patients, which is a pretty -- pretty good study. Other drugs are also being studied in patients.

And this week, Oracle, a great company, donated a new web portal -- Larry Ellison, amazing guy -- and platform to the government to gather real-time data on how patients are responding to the various new treatments. And they have a very sophisticated site, we'll be learning a lot from Oracle. And thank you to them.

We're also spending economic dollars like you wouldn't believe, and speeding economic relief to American workers, families, and businesses. Yesterday, the Small Business Administration launched the Paycheck Protection Program to help employees keep paying their workers. In 24 hours, the Small Business Administration, and over 1,200 lending partners, processed over 28,000 loans -- it's, so far, ahead of schedule -- and billions and billions of dollars.

It's worked out incredibly well, and I want to thank Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase, and a lot of the big banks that have been involved, and a lot of the community banks. Community banks have really jumped on it. And it's, so far, going way ahead of schedule.

The SBA also clarified that faith-based organizations, including houses of worship, are eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program -- that's great -- as well as the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program that you're familiar with, on the same

terms as every other applicant.

If we run out of funding for the employee retention program, I will immediately ask Congress for more money. This is money that's really going directly to the people that need it -- the small businesses that need it and the workers that need it.

Finally, I can -- because when we open, we want to open strong, with businesses that are going. Remember, we had the greatest economy in the world, and then one day, we were told we got to shut it down, stop it, tell everyone to stay home, because of this horrible virus. And we did that, and we did the right thing. But now we have to open. We have to open our country.

Finally, I can report that as of today, the State Department has successfully coordinated the safe return of more than 40,000 Americans stuck abroad on over 400 flights from 75 countries. Many of those countries were terrific in helping us, and I appreciate that very much.

Some of them, I had to call the leaders of the country, most of whom I know. And once I did, they snapped, like you wouldn't believe. They really helped us great. So I appreciate that. So we brought back 40,000 Americans who were literally stuck in some countries, with no chance of getting out, and we got them back. Four hundred flights, seventy-five countries. Think of that. And those countries, in almost every instance, had a big problem with the virus.

I want to thank the American people, most of all, for the selfless sacrifices that they're making for our nation. I know it's not pleasant, although some people have said they've gotten to know their family better, and they love their family more than ever, and that's a beautiful thing. They've actually gotten to know them. They're in the same house with their family for a long time. I guess it can also work the other way, perhaps, but

we don't want to talk about that.

And I want to encourage everyone to keep following our guidelines on slowing the spread. Sustaining this war effort is -- and that's what it is; this is a war effort -- is the patriotic duty of every citizen. While we may be more physically distant for a time, we're closer together in the heart and in the spirit.

And through this, great national unity is happening. We're having a great unity developing that a lot of people didn't think would be possible to develop like this.

And we will conquer the disease and restore our nation to its full and glorious might. We're doing really well, and I'm very proud of everybody out there. We're very proud of you. It's something that nobody could have ever projected. It's been over 100 years that a thing like this has happened.

And the problem with this one is the contagion. It's so contagious. Nobody has ever seen anything like that where it's so contagious. You can be feet away and just talking to somebody and catch it. You can catch it. You know how long it can live on surfaces. So things that nobody even thought of, the level of contagion.

So, we're getting there. We're going to make sure that it's over soon. And just keep going. It's not going to be long.

And thank you very much. And with that, I'd like to ask Dr. Hahn to speak. And he's been doing yeoman's work at the FDA.

Thank you very much. Doctor, thank you.

DR. HAHN: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm going to speak about hydroxychloroquine and the efforts around that. Just to preface, I'd like to echo what the President said about the American

people and the resiliency and the just terrific work. Mitigation is such an important part of our fight against the COVID-19 virus.

Last week, as the President said, we issued an emergency use authorization to allow the donated hydroxychloroquine to come into the country and enter the general circulation. We are prioritizing this drug to come in for clinical trials, and also into general use for physicians, because as you know, physicians, based upon their interaction with the patients, their assessment of the risks and benefits can write a prescription for hydroxychloroquine if they think it's appropriate for the patient. Being a physician, we do this all the time. And that assessment needs to be done between a patient and a doctor.

And then the third portion is we wanted to make sure that these drugs were in the circulation -- in the supply chain, so that people who have them or need them for the other indications -- lupus, rheumatoid arthritis -- had them available. So that was the purpose of the emergency use authorization.

One other thing I'd like to mention is that we, on Friday, stood up a formal convalescent plasma program. We have a great deal of enthusiasm for that. There are some reports that this is a benefit to patients in other countries who have had the COVID-19 virus.

And what this means is taking plasma from patients who have had the virus and who have recovered, and transferring the immunity -- the immunoglobulins, if you will -- the immunity from that person to someone who's sick. And we're hopefully expanding that across the country. The Red Cross is involved in that program. And I think it shows a great promise. It needs to be studied like other things. But just like I said before, it provides hope. We don't want to provide false hope, but definitely hope.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Tony, please.

MR. FAUCI: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'd like to just take a couple of moments to talk a little bit about the public health aspects and how it relates to what the President just said about the need for us to begin to at least think about returning to some degree of normality. And that has to do with what's going to be happening as we end this week and we go into next week.

You will be seeing -- and we should not be surprised because the kinetics of how this virus works -- is that we're going to be seeing that there are going to be deaths that are going to continue to go up. But as I mentioned to this group and to the general public multiple times, there really is a cascading of events where you have new cases, hospitalizations, intensive care, and deaths. So at the same time that we may be seeing an increase in deaths, we want to focus on the effective mitigation is really the number of new cases. And that's what we're going to be thinking about and looking about.

So we're going to pay close attention to that, and hopefully the kinds of mitigations that we're talking about are going to have the impact to allow us to begin to think about maybe changing a bit.

So the question arises is: Is the mitigation working? So let's look historically and then just look at the reality of it. Clearly, in the countries -- China included -- that have implemented very strict kinds of programs of mitigation, clearly it works. In our own country, we've seen indication of that in Washington. Remember, Washington State was the first to get hit. But they put in a really good program of mitigation. And

if you look at the charts that Dr. Birx showed the other day, they're still down, they're doing well.

And the reason is -- again, what I've said before, but I think it's worth reiterating -- that we have two opposing forces here: the virus, which wants to do what the virus wants to do. Viruses transmit from people to people. When people are separated from each other, virus does not transmit; it doesn't go anywhere. And that's the reason why something as simple as the physical separation -- because if you look at the Vice President's chart that he shows all the time here from this podium, every aspect of that, ending the COVID outbreak in 30 days, has some aspect of it, a physical separation -- whether that's avoiding crowds, whether that's staying six feet away from people, whether that's doing teleworking. All of it does that. That's our most important tool. We'll be talking about vaccines and drugs and things like that that will mitigate later. But this is what we really have to do.

And I want to -- I want to actually just plea, as I do multiple times from here, to the American public: You know, as sobering and as difficult as this is, what we are doing is making a difference. So we really need to continue to do that.

I must tell you, I was just mentioning to the Vice President as we came in: Last night, when I wasn't here, I went out with my wife and actually did a little powerwalking down Massachusetts Avenue -- for those who live in Washington, know what I'm talking about -- and we passed a couple of restaurants where people were getting takeout food. The restaurants were closed to people going in, but they were open to takeout.

And I saw something that absolutely made me feel really, really good. They were separating themselves by at least six feet. In fact, some of the restaurants had little things on the floor that said, "Stand here" and then "Stand there."

And I think if we as a nation pulled together to do that, hopefully when we keep coming back here at these press conferences, we'll be able to show you that that curve that we keep talking about is going in the right direction.

And I'd be happy to answer questions later. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Okay, please.

Q Mr. President, you said earlier that the virus is springing up in areas you did not expect. Yesterday you said some states in the country are not in jeopardy. The fact that this is unpredictable, isn't that an argument for every state to have one of these stay-at-home orders?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q Why?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, there are some states that are -- you have great distance, natural distance. Big land, few people. And they're in very good shape. And if there is a case, they can quarantine that person, or that person will be separated, will be brought to a hospital, a secure area.

So you do have different cases as opposed to a New York or Los Angeles. Los Angeles is doing incredibly well, by the way. But areas we have lots of people tight together. It's a big difference.

So, no, it's -- they're different -- there are many different cases.

Please.

Q Mr. President, You mentioned the military off at the top. So 1,000 troops going to New York, and then are we expecting other mass deployments around the country? And then is it just Army? Is it --

THE PRESIDENT: No, not mass. Many of the places are really in great shape. They really have done a fantastic job. And we may add to the thousand. But New York will be getting about 1,000 military people -- nurses, doctors, lots of other people -- because that's what they need.

Q So medical military?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Not -- like not combat --

THE PRESIDENT: And that's -- medical. No, no, medical military. Medical military.

Please.

Q Sir, you tweeted earlier today that you like the idea of a second coronavirus task force that was focused on reopening the economy.

THE PRESIDENT: Thinking about it.

Q So I was wondering if you were planning to go forward with that.

THE PRESIDENT: Thinking about it. Getting a group of people. And we have to open our country. You know, I had an expression: "The cure can't be worse than the problem itself." Right? I started by saying that and I continue to say it: The cure cannot be worse than the problem itself. We've got to get

our country open.

Q Mr. President, in terms of reopening, can you talk about your call with the sports commissioners? Did you say you'd like to see people back, fans back in arenas as soon as August?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely, I want -- I want fans back in the arenas.

Q By August, though, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's -- I think it's -- no.

Q Is that safe?

THE PRESIDENT: Whenever we're ready. I mean, as soon as we can, obviously. And the fans want to be back too. You know, they want to see basketball and baseball and football and hockey. They want to see their sports. They want to go out onto the golf courses and breathe nice, clean, beautiful fresh air. No, the --

Q When do you think that people can be back, based on the science that you're seeing?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you -- I can't tell you a date, but I think it's going to be sooner rather than later.

But -- and, you know, we're not going to have to have separation for the rest of our times on the planet. We need it for this period of time. But eventually people are going to be able to occupy those seats and arenas, next to each other, like we have for all of my life and all of your life. They want to sit next to each other at restaurants. They don't want to be, you know, six feet away.

And some restaurant man called up, and he said, "You know, I'm worried because I have a small restaurant with not too many seats." I think he said 120. And he said, "If I practice what this is, I'm down to 30 seats. I can't make it." I said, "Don't worry about it. That's for a short period of time. You'll be back to your number of seats." We can't do that. Otherwise, you're making everything -- that means your stadium is half the size of what it was a month ago.

No, no, they're going to be close together, but they're going to be breathing air that's not infected, that's not going to kill people.

Please.

Q Since you're not committing to packing the stadiums by August, what are your contingency plans --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm not committing to it. I'm not committing to it. We're going to see where we are. That'd be great if we could. But we're going to be back to good health soon, in my opinion. We're making a lot of progress, and we're making progress because, as Tony told the story about the restaurant and about how they were separated sort of automatically, people are doing that. People are doing that. They're staying in their homes. They don't want to go out. They're doing what they know is the right thing to do. It's -- it's not very complicated. It's -- in many ways, it's a very beautiful thing to see.

Yeah.

Q But what are your contingency plans for the Republican National Convention?

THE PRESIDENT: We have no contingency plan. We're having the

convention at the end of August, and we think by the end of August, we'll be in good shape. We have no contingen- -- you know, it's going to be in North Carolina, as you know, in Charlotte. And I think we're going to have a great convention.

I notice -- I think we had an opponent, but I -- I almost didn't know who it was. He got .00001 percent of the vote. But I heard he dropped out three or four weeks ago. I'm not sure. Maybe you could tell me. That's the kind of opponent I had. And hopefully we have another one just like that in Joe.

Q Mr. President, this weekend, lawmakers are working on the next round release packages. What was not in the stimulus package that you signed last week that you would like to see in phase four?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think we're going to need more money for the small businesses. It's been working out so well. It's been so efficient. The banks have been doing an incredible job. I think we're going to need more money there, I think. You know, we'll see. But based on the first -- the first couple of days, it's been incredible.

I think that restaurants and entertainment -- and that would be -- include sports leagues, all forms of entertainment -- go back to the original, where they get tax deductibility for what they're doing and for people who come in and buy tickets or go out for meals. And corporations can then send people into these restaurants who are going to have a hard time, otherwise, opening, in my opinion. And that could be the same for the sports leagues.

So we want to see, for entertainment and for restaurants, deductibility so that corporations can take a deduction. They'll send their executives, they'll send people there, and they get a deduction. That is something that will really bring life back to

the restaurants; I think make them hotter than before.

You know, they used to have it. And when they ended it, it was really never the same. It was never the same.

Yeah, please.

Q Mr. President, you just said that you want to see as few lives lost as possible in this pandemic.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. That's right.

Q But there are still eight governors, all Republicans, who have refused to issue these statewide stay-at-home orders. Your own experts, including Dr. Fauci, have said stay-at-home orders are the most effective way to stop the spread of this virus. So why not do everything possible --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Tennessee just did it.

Q -- and urge those governors right now --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Yeah.

Q -- to do that?

THE PRESIDENT: We have a thing called the Constitution, which I cherish, number one. Number two, those governors -- I know every one of them -- they're doing a great job. They're being very, very successful in what they're doing. And as you know, I want the governors to be running things.

Now, in some cases, we'll supersede, but in this case it's not --

Q Do you think they should, though? Do you think they should? I'm not asking for you to order them to, but --

THE PRESIDENT: I think it depends -- it depends on the individual state that you're talking about. But they're doing very well, and they're doing a magnificent job in running their states.

Q Well, South Carolina has 1,700 cases right now of coronavirus. Utah has 1,255. I mean, are these not states that you think should have those stay-at-home orders in place?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think they're doing a great job.

Well, that's a very small number relative to population.

Q It's larger than some states that do have stay-at-home orders that are already in place.

THE PRESIDENT: That's okay. It's up to the -- if I saw something wrong, I saw a massive breakout -- of which that's not -- I would come down very hard. But --

Q Isn't the key in this pandemic getting ahead of those numbers, though?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not in that case. But in the case -- I know the states you're talking about. By the way, I think you're up to 92 percent is covered. Ninety-two percent of the country is covered. And from a constitutional standpoint, they made the difference. They called the shots.

Yes, Jeff. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, just a question about messaging. You and the others here are saying people need to continue following the mitigation efforts, but you're also saying, again, the cure must not be worse than the problem. Which is it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm just saying we have to get this country open, Jeff. It has to get open. This country was not designed to be closed. So we have the greatest we've ever had, and then we're paying people to stay home.

Q But you want it to be closed right now, right?

THE PRESIDENT: Think of it: We're paying people not to go to work. How about that? How does that play?

Q I understand that.

THE PRESIDENT: And they want to go to work, by the way. They don't even want -- they don't want money. This country is great. But we're paying people. We have to get back to work. That's what I'm saying.

Go ahead, please.

Q Mr. President, this is off topic. It's about the announcement from last night. It's a yes or no question, but not that we expect the answer to be yes or no.

But wasn't Michael Atkinson doing the job of the Inspector General of the intelligence community, the job he was supposed to do, when he simply took the whistleblower complaint to Congress that hadn't been taken previously? Wasn't he doing the job that he was supposed to do, that American taxpayers were paying him to do? And why did you decide to terminate --

THE PRESIDENT: I thought he did a terrible job. Absolutely terrible. He took a whistleblower report, which turned out to be a fake report -- it was fake. It was totally wrong. It was about my conversation with the President of Ukraine. He took a fake report and he brought it to Congress, with an

emergency. Okay? Not a big Trump fan -- that, I can tell you.

Instead of saying -- and we offered this to him: "No, no, we will take the conversation" -- where, fortunately, we had that transcript. If we didn't have a transcript with the kind of deception and dishonesty that were practiced by the Democrats, I might not be standing here right now. Okay? Fortunately, we had a transcript and it was a perfect transcript, because even the lieutenant colonel admitted it was correct. Okay?

Wait a minute. Wait a minute. You asked a question.

So he took this whistleblower -- and I keep saying, "Where's the whistleblower?" Right? "And why was the whistleblower allowed to do this?" Why was he allowed to be -- you call it fraudulent or incorrect transcript.

So we offered this IG -- I don't know him; I don't think I ever met him. I don't think I -- he never even came in to see me. How can you do that without seeing the person? Never came in to see me. Never requested to see me. He took this terrible, inaccurate whistleblower report -- right? -- and he brought it to Congress.

We offered to have him see my exact conversation. It was all about the conversation, by the way. That was the whole thing, was about the conversation. Right? And then after he saw it, he must've said, "Wow," because as I've said it many times and it drives you people crazy, it was a perfect conversation.

So instead of going and saying, "Gee, this is a terrible thing he said about the President's conversation" -- well, it was a fraud. I didn't say that. And, by the way, you have the whistleblower. Where's the informer? Right?

And here's another question: Remember before I did the -- before

I gave the transcript -- in other words, before I revealed the real conversation -- where's the second whistleblower? Remember the second whistle --

Wait, wait, wait, wait. There was going to be a second whistleblower. But after I gave the conversation, he just went away. He miraculously went away.

Where's the informer? Because there was going to be this informer. Maybe Schiff was the informer. You ever think of that? He's a corrupt guy. He's a corrupt politician.

So, listen, I say this: Where's the informer? Remember, the informer was coming forward. But I gave -- because, see, I did one thing that surprised everybody. This gentleman right here said, "Boy, that was a shocker." I revealed the conversation. I got approval from Ukraine because I didn't want to do it without their approval. And they said, "Absolutely. You did nothing wrong."

By the way, President of Ukraine, Foreign Minister said, "He did nothing wrong." And over that, with 196 to nothing vote by the Republicans -- not one dissenting Republican vote -- dishonest Democrats impeached a President of the United States. That man is a disgrace to IGs.

All right, let's go. Next. Please. He's a total disgrace.

Q Mr. President, did you run by your decision to dismiss the Inspector General by Senator McConnell?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, we'll get off this because people want to talk about what we're talking about. But let me just tell you something: That's my decision. I have the absolute right. Even the fake news last night said, "He has the absolute right to do it."

But ask him, "Why didn't you go and see the actual conversation?" There was no rush. He said, "Oh we'd have to rush it." He even said it was politically biased. He actually said that. The report could have been -- you know who the whistleblower is, and so do you and so does everybody in this room, and so do I. Everybody knows. But they give this whistleblower a status that he doesn't deserve. He's a fake whistleblower. And, frankly, somebody ought to sue his ass off.

Q I just want to follow up, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: All right, it's enough with the whistleblower.

Go ahead, please.

Q Mr. President, the governor of New York today said that he is still desperate for ventilators and that he has accepted 1,000 of them from the Chinese government. Are you concerned that states --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what he didn't say is -- okay, let me tell you what he didn't say.

Two very good friends of mine brought him those whistleblower -- brought him those ventilators, right? Two very good friends of mine -- they brought them. If you'd like their name, I'll give you their name.

Q But should states and cities have to rely on --

THE PRESIDENT: No, but he -- the governor didn't --

Q -- China and Russia for supplies?

THE PRESIDENT: -- mention that. It came through the Chinese --

the country of China. But they were given by two friends of mine, but he didn't tell you that.

Now, the governor also --

Q Who are your friends?

THE PRESIDENT: You'll see when you read the letter.

The governor also asked for 40,000 -- 40,000. He wanted 40,000 ventilators.

Now, the governor, as you know, had a chance to get 16,000 a few years ago. He decided not to get that. The State of New York has asked for help. I've given him four hospitals, four medical centers. Then I gave him an additional hospital. Then I gave him military people to operate the hospital. They were not supposed to be COVID hospitals. The boat -- the ship is not -- an interesting thing happened with the ship. People aren't in accidents because there's nobody driving. There's nobody taking motorcycle rides down the West Side Highway at 100 miles an hour. People are away. So people aren't being injured.

Now they're asking whether or not we could open up the ship for COVID. We have given the governor of New York more than anybody has ever been given in a long time. I'll just say -- I was going to say "in history," but in a long time. And I think he's happy.

But I think that -- because I watched what he said today, and it was fine. I wouldn't say gracious. It wasn't gracious. It was okay. I must tell you, Gavin Newsom has been gracious -- Los Angeles, California, the job we've done, and all of California.

Q But why does that matter if they're gracious or not gracious if they need the supplies?

THE PRESIDENT: It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. But I think when we've given as much as we've given to New York, somebody should say --

Nice -- I'll tell you who's been very nice: Mayor de Blasio has been very nice. He understands what we've given him. We brought him some more ventilators, too, yesterday.

But nobody has been given like New York. And I think -- I know he appreciates it. He just can't quite get the words out, but that's okay.

Q So when he says -- but when he says that he needs 40,000 --

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Please, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, let me come back to Dr. Fauci's comments on -
-

THE PRESIDENT: To which one?

Q Dr. Fauci's comments --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- on mitigation. On the reproductive value of the virus, the WHO had it up, I think, 2 to 2.6. Others had it a percentage point or two higher. Do we have a new number now based on those mitigation techniques? Have we managed to bring it down?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Deb, I think maybe you should answer that, right? Dr. Birx, please?

Q And is the target to get below 1?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, sure -- go ahead.

DR. BIRX: You know, it's an excellent question. And it's why all of the modelers -- and I really want to thank them again -- they're reevaluating all of their models in light of the level of the impact of the mitigation.

Remember, none of us had really been through this before. So when we modeled school closures and distancing and staying at home, and all of these pieces, that had never really come into the model before. They're working on that very diligently now.

Of course, just to be clear, we won't know how valid the models are until we move all the way through the epidemic. What we're triangulating right now -- and instead of working on R naught, we're looking at testing and triangulating testing test- positive cases, hospitalizations, ICUs, and the whole -- and, of course, the recoveries, because that's also very important to us.

I think it's very important that the American people know that there are equal number of states with less than 5 percent positives despite high levels of testing. So there are states that are mitigating and making this work. There are also the states that you know of -- the 18 states that have the larger outbreaks -- and we're watching them very carefully, triangulating for them all of the information to ensure that clients who come to the hospital are cared for.

And then there are states in the middle that we're trying to figure out, are they changing or not. Each of those states, and each of those epidemics within those states, may have a different R value. And that is what we're trying to figure out.

And it's very variable on each of these factors, but the bottom

line is -- and I think going into this weekend, it's really important for the American people to know this: Spain and Italy are moving through this. They are seeing their number of cases drop. They're seeing the number of people in hospitals drop. We are about, on our models and on the actual data, about 12 days behind them.

At the same time, we see, in the United States, really good case studies of the impact at Washington State, of California, and then a series of smaller states where we're trying to learn from them how to do surveillance. And with these new HHS, Abbott ID NOW kits -- and I just want to thank Admiral Giroir for getting them out -- being able to look at testing in a more comprehensive way so we can be doing surveillance and mitigation simultaneously so we can answer that very question.

It's going to be very difficult to answer at this moment, across the United States, because each metro cluster is on a different pathway as they move through -- move through the epidemic. And I think we just really ought to emphasize "through," because we see Italy, we see Spain moving through. And we hope to be in that same position.

At the same time as the President said, he's concerned about every single person that is succumbing to this virus. We all are. And that's why we're making sure that in this triangulation, they're tracking minute by minute. When we say FEMA and HHS is tracking minute by minute the ventilator, hospital, and ICU bed need, that's exactly what's happening.

And also being flexible and responsive. To have DOD take 1,000 healthcare providers out of their medical corps is a very big deal. I was in the medical corps for 29 years. We never did that. So this is saying we respect and understand the importance and value of the American lives and doing that. But the R values will be variable by state.

Q Can I just follow up? A week ago, we talked about a county-by-county --

THE PRESIDENT: Before I do that, you had breaking news last night -- you know that; you saw that -- where I think the probable presidential candidate for the Democrats will be Joe Biden, and he agreed that he was correct when I stopped people from China very early -- very, very early -- from coming into our country. And Dr. Fauci said that was a very big moment because it would be a much different picture we have right now had we allowed thousands and thousands of people from a specific area -- I don't have to go into it -- from China, to come in highly infected. It would have been a very different thing.

The other thing -- so I appreciate the fact that he did, because I was called "xenophobic," "racist." I was called many things when I did that very early. And I got a lot of credit for it in the Federalist. Because the Federalist covered the whole journey. And they said Trump was -- I didn't speak to the author -- respected author. They said, "Trump was right at every single move. And on top of that, he was going through a fake impeachment," a hoax. I was going through a hoax, when I made the decision. And that does take a little time and certainly a little thinking time.

But I appreciated the fact that Joe Biden announced last night that he now agrees that I was correct. You saw the report come out -- that I was correct when I stopped people from China coming at a very early date.

Q Mr. President, can we talk about the -- Captain Crozier of the USS Roosevelt?

THE PRESIDENT: Which one? What?

Q Captain Crozier, who was removed. The captain who was removed as the commander of the USS Roosevelt.

I don't know if you saw the videos of sailors cheering for him as he left. Our reporting shows that some sailors have said that they are worried to reenlist because they are not convinced that commanders are taking care of their health and taking care of them.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q What do you say to them? And does how removing --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know much about it.

Q How does removing this captain --

THE PRESIDENT: I can only tell you this --

Q -- take care of their health?

THE PRESIDENT: Here we have one of the greatest -- here we have one of the greatest ships in the world. Nuclear aircraft carrier. Incredible ship with thousands and thousands of people. And you had about 120 that were infected.

Now, I guess the captain stopped in Vietnam and people got off in Vietnam. Perhaps you don't do that in the middle of a pandemic or -- or something that looked like it was going to be -- you know, history would say you don't necessarily stop and let your sailors gets off, number one.

But more importantly, he wrote a letter. The letter was a five-page letter from a captain, and the letter was all over the place. That's not appropriate. I don't think that's appropriate. And these are tough people. These are tough,

strong people.

I thought it looked terrible, to be honest with you. Now, they made their decision. I didn't make the decision. Secretary of Defense was involved and a lot of people were involved. I thought it was terrible what he did to write a letter. I mean, this isn't a class on literature. This is a captain of a massive ship that's nuclear powered. And he shouldn't be talking that way in a letter. He could call and ask and suggest.

But he stopped in Vietnam. A lot of people got off the boat. They came back and they had infection. And I thought it was inappropriate for the captain of a ship to do --

Q Were you consulted about his removal?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to -- I don't want to comment as to whether or not. But I agree with their decision 100 percent.

In the back, please.

Q Joe Biden actually just attacked you in a tweet. I don't know if you have seen it.

THE PRESIDENT: He just what?

Q Attacked you. He just said that --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he didn't write anything. Look, he has people -- he has professionals from the Democrats writing.

Q Mr. President, let me just read what he said. He said, "Donald Trump is not responsible for the coronavirus, but he is responsible for failing to prepare our nation to respond to it." How do you respond to that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, he didn't write that. That was done by a Democrat operative. He doesn't write. He doesn't -- he's probably not even watching right now. And if he is, he doesn't understand what he's watching.

But just so you understand, it was very nice what they wrote. And, I don't know -- you know, they released it at a strange time. You know, sort of a strange time to release something like that. But he admitted I was right.

And if you read the Federalist story, which most of you won't because you don't want to, but you'd learn something, because if you go -- it goes to a chart, times.

I was early. Dr. Fauci, I think -- I don't think he's changed his mind, but he said it was a very important step when we stopped China from coming in from the specific area that was heavily infected. We'd have a whole different thing right now.

So I don't really know what Joe Biden said. I don't really care. And again, I see -- every once in a while I'll say something, I'll make a speech, and then it'll be critiqued and I'll get this beautiful, brilliant critique. Joe Biden didn't write that. Joe Biden didn't write that. He wished he did, but he didn't.

Go ahead. Please. Back.

Q Sure. I wanted to ask Dr. Fauci a quick question. China has warned of a resurgence of the virus. Has the U.S. developed a plan if, in fact, a second wave of the virus does, in fact, occur here in the country?

DR. FAUCI: Yes. Yes, we do. I mean, one of the things that obviously is parallel with thinking about the possibility, as I mentioned a little while ago, about mitigation allowing us to

turn the corner very much on the front burner is what happens when we do, because the risk of there being a resurgent is real.

So what we need to do -- and I believe I said this before but it's worth repeating -- that what we need to have in place, and we will have that in place, is that as you then pull back, you have to have the capability of, in a very pristine, precise way, do the kind of containment when you do see it. Because remember, when you get to mitigation, containment takes the backseat because you're just struggling to mitigate. But when you get it down, you need to make sure it doesn't resurge. That will require the ability to test, to identify, to isolate, and to do contact tracing. That's what we have to have in place, and hopefully we will at the time that we then pull back.

Q A question for Dr. Hahn from the FDA. You mentioned the plasma, sir. So these are -- this is plasma that were infected, that now either recovered or are doing well enough, and then they're transferring it to -- is it family members? Can you walk us through -- that's working as, kind of, like a case-by-case basis to certain hospitals? What are the results from that? I was just not familiar with that one.

DR. HAHN: So, this is a situation where someone who's recovered from the virus and doesn't have the virus in their system at all, you can take plasma -- and this is a pretty routine procedure. You can actually donate a couple times a week, a couple times of month, frankly, and give that plasma. And that plasma contains the proteins in the blood that have the antibodies against the virus. You can take that, process it, and then give it to someone who's ill. And so that allows you to transfer that immunity. It doesn't have to be matched by family or anything like that.

Since last Tuesday -- the Tuesday before last -- we've allowed academic centers and other laboratories and hospitals around the

country to do this on a compassionate-use basis.

What we did was we pulled this together in what's called an Expanded Access Program and run it through the Red Cross because they've got the greatest system and capacity for doing this. And this allows us to scale up so that when people get sick, we can actually have these donated plasma packs given to the patients who are sick.

Q So are people -- do people need to be donating plasma? Obviously, some of us don't know if we've had it or recovered. I mean, what should people be doing?

DR. HAHN: So, we've started with the Red Cross in this program. We made an announcement yesterday. We are planning to actually scale that up, and we'll have more information this week. Because we want to make sure we have the systems in place. It's a superb question.

Q Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: All right, Jeff, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, can you clarify the situation with 3M right now? Germany said that it was an act of piracy that 200,000 masks were apparently diverted from Thailand to the United States, instead of to Berlin. Is that a miscommunication? Did that actually happen? And should 3M be fulfilling contracts for masks to other countries?

THE PRESIDENT: We're very disappointed in 3M. They should be taking care of our country. And they can sell to others, but they should be taking care of our country.

The people that have dealt with them have dealt successfully with many companies over the last month. They don't like the way 3M

has treated our country. They don't, frankly, like the representatives of 3M. And no act of piracy -- you said piracy, right? Piracy?

Q For Germans -- the German order.

THE PRESIDENT: There's been no act of piracy. No, there's been no act of piracy. It's the opposite. 3M has not treated our country well. And if they do, great. And if they don't, they're going to have a hell of a price to pay. Okay?

Q But the German order --

THE PRESIDENT: I say it that way. And I watched him on television, on something, talking about how "this is so hard to believe, so hard to fathom." They ought to get their act together. Because I got involved and I looked at what happened, and they have not -- 3M has not treated our country well.

Q Can you just clarify about that German order though?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

Q Was that diverted, sir, or was that not diverted?

THE PRESIDENT: We'll get you the information.

Q And can I ask one for Dr. Fauci? I was wondering about what you're seeing as far as lupus patients, in regards to coronavirus. I know the President mentioned this earlier, but what does the medicine say?

DR. FAUCI: What is the question? Is that, "What is the incidence of coronavirus?"

Q Yeah, I mean, if you lupus, do you have --

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. Yeah.

Q -- a greater chance of getting coronavirus or --

DR. FAUCI: There is -- right now, this is being looked at in a natural history study. We don't have any definitive information to be able to make any comment that that -- it's an obvious good question, because it might be a way for us to get some interesting and potentially important data as to the role of those medications. But that's something that is now being looked at, but we don't have any data to be able to say anything definitively.

THE PRESIDENT: And I hope they use the hydroxychloroquine, and they can also do it with Z-Pak, subject to your doctor's approval, and all of that. But I hope they use it because I'll tell you what: What do you have to lose? In some cases, they're in bad shape. What do you have to lose? It's been out there for a long time, and I hope they use it. And they're going to look at the -- with doctors. Work with doctors. Get what you have to get. But we have it stockpiled, and it's -- we have a lot of it, and we're getting more of it.

And as I told you, I spoke to Prime Minister Modi. We're getting more of it, but we have a lot of it. And I hope they use it, because it's been used for a long time and therefore it's passed the safety test. FDA has been terrific. Dr. Hahn, I appreciate it very much, too. But I've seen some results.

Now, it's early, I guess. It's early. But -- and you should -- they should look at the lupus thing. I don't know what it says, but there's a rumor out there that -- because it takes care of lupus very effectively, as I understand it. It's a, you know, a drug that's used for lupus.

So there's a study out there that says people that have lupus haven't been catching this virus. You know, maybe it's true, maybe it's not. Why don't you investigate that?

And there's also other studies, you know, with the malaria, that the malaria countries have very little -- people that take this drug for malaria, which is very effective for malaria -- that those countries have very little of this virus. I don't know. You're going to check it out.

But I think people should -- if it were me -- in fact, I might do it anyway. I may take it. Okay? I may take it. And I'll have to ask my doctors about that, but I may take it.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, please go ahead.

Q Mr. President, last week, the last couple of days, you've been really optimistic about Russia and Saudi Arabia coming together on a deal on oil. But in the last 24 hours, the OPEC-plus meeting has been pushed back. They've traded some really critical statements.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, OPEC can do whatever -- look, I've been against OPEC all my life, because what is it? It's an illegal -- you could call it a cartel, you could call it a monopoly. You have a lot of different names for it. But it broke down very violently. Very violently.

So I don't care about OPEC. I really don't.

Q So you're not --

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't care less about OPEC.

Q So you're not less optimistic about --

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just say -- no, no. I think they're going to settle it. You know why? Because they're going to be destroyed. They're destroying themselves if they don't.

Russia -- it's a very important -- and we had a very good conversation, President Putin and myself. Very good. But Russia -- a big part of their economic wellbeing is from oil. Well, oil is at a record low. Nobody has ever seen anything like it. It's actually lower than you even think. And it's to their advantage. Obviously, it's to Saudi Arabia's advantage.

They told me they're discussing. Saudi Arabia went much further than that. He thinks that a deal is going to be made at 10 million barrels reduction, and maybe more than that. He actually indicated it would most likely be much more than that. So we'll see what happens. I mean, we're going to see what happens.

But as far as OPEC is concerned, I mean, I was against OPEC for years and years because I thought it was very unfair to our country. The beautiful thing is we have built one of the great -- you know, one of the things we've done is created so much. We -- we produce. We're the number one producer in the world right now. I don't like it for a different reason: because it's going to hurt a lot of jobs in our country, this price. It's going to hurt a lot of jobs.

Now, with all of that being said, people are going to be driving, paying 90 cents a gallon. Did you ever hear of that? What's that, 1952 or something? All right?

So from that standpoint -- but you know what? I am a big believer in our great energy business, and we're going to take care of our energy business. And if I have to do tariffs on oil coming from outside, or if I have to do something to protect --

or thousands and tens of thousands of energy workers, and our great companies that produce all these jobs -- I'll do whatever I have to do.

Okay, yeah, ma'am. Go ahead.

Q Yeah. You tweeted a little while ago about how sad it is for kids, they don't have little league right now. But I'm wondering if you're willing to share about your youngest son and how he's dealing with life, and sheltering in place, not going to school, no sports.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he's a good athlete, and he loves soccer. And he -- he's like everyone else. I mean, everything shut down. He's in his room. He's happy, but he's not as happy as you could be. He'd like to be playing sports. Barron.

And let's see what happens. But we have to get back. We have to get back. Remember that. We have to get back, and we have to get back soon. Okay?

Q Mr. President, on the jobs report numbers --

THE PRESIDENT: Do you guys ever stop? Do you want to keep going for a little while? Huh? I mean, do you ever stop? How many times do you ask -- and in many cases, it's the same -- actually, a lot of good questions.

Go ahead.

Q In the jobs report --

THE PRESIDENT: But keep going? Yes?

Q Yes, sir. This is what we do.

THE PRESIDENT: So you're not going to blame me that I kept it going too long? People said, "Oh, he kept..."

Q It's Saturday, yeah. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: No. I mean, no, it's amazing. I'm telling you, every hand went up. I thought we've gone through -- and they're all -- every --

I think every single hand went up the last time.

Q We've got nowhere else to go.

THE PRESIDENT: You know what it shows you? It shows you that you love what you do.

Go ahead.

Q We do love what we do, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: You do. No, you do. And some of you do it well. Not all of you.

Go ahead.

Q No offense taken.

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not looking at you, by the way.

Q So we did get the jobs reports numbers yesterday. Obviously, that's kind of a small portion because it's only the first half of March. Was there anything in there that was any sign of optimism? I mean, obviously, we all saw the numbers, you know, down at retail, down in hospitality. Was there anything that you said, "Okay, maybe with this virus we will see some sort of net gain in jobs"?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, the job numbers are what they are. We asked everybody to go home, don't work. So the numbers are going to be, you know, astronomical. We understand that. I understood that.

I know somebody said that the numbers are meaningless, and then they took that to mean, "Oh, jobs don't mean anything." And, you know, it was just another fake news story. It wasn't me that said it, by the way. It was a very smart person. But they meant it by saying it really is what -- that's why I answer your question very carefully. The numbers are what they are. We know the numbers were going to be massive, because we told everybody to go home and lock your door, essentially. Right? "Don't come to work. You can't come to work. Don't go outside. Don't breathe. Don't do anything."

We got to open up our country. But I know -- I know that it's coming back. And in my opinion, it will come back very strong. There's a tremendous energy. There's a tremendous demand. And some good things have happened.

I mean -- I don't know. You know, there's one habit that, as you know, most of you -- and a lot of you have covered me a long time before I did this -- I was never a big believer in shaking hands. But I decided, if you don't shake hands, you're not going to be winning a lot of contests. Right now, I'm not sure you have to shake hands anymore.

A couple of people have told me -- Deborah, you told me that if we didn't shake hands, the incidence of flu -- flu is a big deal also -- and that flu might be cut down in half. Who knew that shaking hands was such a bad thing? I felt it. I mean, I always felt it. And, you know, I was never to a point where I can't shake somebody's hand. I knew people like that too. But there aren't too many of them.

But when I ran for office, all of a sudden, I'm shaking hundreds of hands. And if I don't, I wouldn't even be standing here. But I think that's a custom that maybe people don't have to. We have to get close together, we have to sit together at the stadiums, we have to sit next to each other in restaurants. All that stuff is going to happen, but I think the concept of shaking hands maybe is something that's going to be a little bit from the past. Let's see what happens. Maybe they'll go right back to shaking hands.

Q And my last question for the day. How about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q Is there anything you want people to do to show their support, especially -- we have two doctors up there -- to show their support for the medical community? Is there something that -- we've seen people clapping when nurses leave. I've seen people make --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we've seen a lot of that. You might say something there. I have seen such support. I saw this morning where everyone -- they're clapping for fire department, they're clapping for police. But they are really going -- these people are --

Q What should people do?

THE PRESIDENT: You know what they're like? They're like -- Tony, they're like warriors. Mike, they're like warriors. They were going into Elmhurst Hospital, which has been tragic -- right near where I grew up, in Queens -- going in. And the people in buildings -- there's -- going. I mean, they're the rockstars. They're warriors. Nurses, doctors, first responders, what they're -- what they're going through.

And they don't even know what's going to happen. I mean, they go in. And, by the way, even if they have great equipment they're catching it. You know, great equipment. They have good equipment, they catch it. They catch it with good, with bad. It is evil.

But, Tony, you might say something. And, Mike, you may say something about that.

DR. FAUCI: Yeah. I'm glad you brought up that question because I don't think people can really fully appreciate the extraordinary effort of these people. I mean, it's -- it's amazing.

I -- you know, I did all of my medical training in New York City, in a big, busy New York City hospital, at a time when it was just what you normally see in a hospital. I came to NIH and I spent about five to eight years in the very early years of the AIDS epidemic -- which was just the darkest years of my life because almost every single one of my patients died.

And yet, as we knew epidemiologically that there was very little risk -- there was a small risk, but very little risk of getting infected from a patient, to see now what these brave warriors are doing in the hospitals, not only giving lifesaving treatment to people, but every single day putting themselves at risk for themselves and their family -- I just think that the American public owe a phenomenal debt of gratitude for these people.

Q How do you want them show that? What would you --

DR. FAUCI: And they should just salute them at every -- every ways you can. You know, when we were at war -- at the height of the war in Afghanistan, in Iraq -- when you're at an airport and you'd see somebody with a uniform come by, everybody would do

that. (Claps.) I think that's what we should do when we see healthcare workers. Just applaud them.

Q Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Pretty much what's happening.

Mike, please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The stories are incredibly moving about what healthcare workers are doing every day. It's not just that they're going back into the hospital in places like New York and New Jersey, and earlier than that, in Washington State and California, where this first began. It's not just that they're providing care to people. But because of the nature of how contagious the coronavirus is, they're also supplementing for family.

I mean, that's what -- that's what gets to me when I hear the stories that, understandably, in nursing homes and in hospitals they're restricting visitors -- and they should -- to prevent the spread of the virus to be brought into the hospital or to be brought out.

And so to hear the stories of healthcare workers who are holding up an iPhone while someone who's critically ill with the coronavirus may well be saying their last goodbyes to their family, and then to be there in those moments -- I mean, our healthcare workers are -- they're not just doctors and nurses today, they -- they're supplementing for family, for people all across the country.

And I just think -- you know, tomorrow is Palm Sunday. It's Holy Week in the great Christian tradition. And I have people ask me, from time to time -- send me an email, or on the many conference calls we have -- they said, "What can we be praying about?" And

my first thought is with the families who have lost loved ones and the patients who are struggling with coronavirus. But during this very special week, I just encourage people to pray for our healthcare workers. Pray for them and their families. They are really the hands and feet every day, not just of healthcare, but of the heart of the American people. And we are all grateful for them every hour of the day.

THE PRESIDENT: And think also about the Army Corps of Engineers. Now, it's a little different, depending on where they are and where they're working. But the Army Corps of Eng- -- throwing up a hospital in New York City: 2,500 beds in three days? I mean, think of that. And FEMA, what they're doing. And the National Guard is now delivering for the state because the state were unable to get -- we'd drop it at a big warehouse where we're told to drop it, and the states were unable -- some of the states were unable to bring it from the warehouse to the site.

So we got the National Guard to become a delivery service, if you can believe it, and they would bring it. And some of those sites were dangerous sites. They were very dangerous sites. Think of that. It's been amazing. It's been amazing.

I just think -- I've never seen anything like it. I'm so proud of this country. And, really, it's a world problem and some countries in the world are just handling it so well.

You know, again, I keep saying it: It's 151. That was as of two, three days ago. It's probably more. Some people said they didn't know there were that many countries. That's how big this is.

And Mike said something also. You have Palm Sunday tomorrow. Think of it. We're not going to churches on Palm Sunday. But think of next Sunday: Easter. And I brought it up before: I said, maybe we could allow special for churches. Maybe

we could talk about it. Maybe we could allow them, with great separation, outside on Easter Sunday. I don't know, it's something we should talk about.

But somebody did say that, well, then you're sort of opening it up to that little -- you know, do we want to take a chance on doing that when we've been doing so well.

But Easter Sunday, Palm Sunday. I'm going to be watching tomorrow live from Riverside, California -- a great church. But I'm going to be watching on a computer. Right? On a laptop. I think, on Easter, maybe I'll be watching from a laptop as opposed --

So how sad is it that we have Easter Palm and Easter Sunday, and people are watching on laptops and computers? It's sad.

But -- but the job that this whole country has done is amazing. But I'll say this: Our medical professionals, what they've done, because they are -- they walk into those hospitals; you see them putting on their gear and they're putting it on as they're walking through the front doors. And some of those people are going to die. They're going to die. You know, it's, like, incredible.

And we can say what we want, Tony and Deb, about young and medium-aged. There are plenty of those people dying too. You know, it's -- it generally hits the older people where they have problems. It hits young people too, and it hits middle-aged people too.

But these people are walking into hospitals, and they watch -- I can't -- I think it's -- it's incredible. And they're putting their outfit, they're getting it ready. And they're going in. They're going -- it's like -- it's like a -- it's like a war.

Again, there's never been anything so contagious as this. In 1917, it was vicious if you got it, but it wasn't contagious like this.

Now, in 1917, had they had the Internet and all the means of communication, they could have practiced distancing. You know, by the time, people started thinking in terms -- in those terms, they lost, I guess, 75 to 100 million people. So that's modern -- you know, that's a modern day, great thing that happened.

Please.

Q Yeah, just on antibodies: To what extent do you think that you can use antibody tests to determine who can go back to work and how --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. I'd rather leave that to the doctor. Doctor, do you have an answer to that?

DR. HAHN: We think it'll be a tool to help us get people back to work. It'll be additional information. Because, as you know, if you have an antibody, that means you were exposed and have recovered from it. That, with the information about diagnosis, should help.

Q But how quickly can you scale up this testing to determine on a large scale how many people can go back to work and have this antibodies?

DR. HAHN: So, as you know, a couple weeks ago, we provided a great deal of regulatory flexibility around this. A lot of great developers have been working on this. Dr. Birx put a call out to the academic labs around the country to do this. And we've been working very closely with a number of manufacturers. So we think that it can be scaled up relatively quickly.

Q Mr. President, a question for Dr. Fauci. In a recent interview, you had said that you knew the 15-day guidance would not be enough. I wanted to ask your confidence level about the 30-day guidance and whether it'll be enough.

DR. FAUCI: You know, it's tough to talk about levels of confidence, but I can tell you one thing that I feel strongly: that if we do in a very proactive way what I said in my opening comments, and people literally across the country, as a baseline, have that physical separation -- and as we've mentioned up here, there'll be varying degrees of that depending upon whether you're in New York City or you're in a place that's less. But every place, everybody, should be doing some degree of this physical separation. If we do that, again, I have confidence that what we will see is the turning around of the curve. Whether or not it'll be all the way down, what we want, it's impossible to say. I would be -- I would be foolish to say that.

But the one thing I am confident in -- so let's take this to the bank: that mitigation works. So, it does. We've seen it in other countries. We've seen it in our own country. And that's the reason why I keep coming up at every chance I get to plea with the American people to please take a look at those guidelines that the Vice President keeps putting up with his chart, because every single one of those points has something to do with physical separation.

THE PRESIDENT: And mitigation does work. But again, we're not going to destroy our country. We have to get back. Because, you know, at a certain point, you'll lose more people this way -- through all of the problems caused -- than you will with what we're doing right now. What we're doing right now, I think it's going to be very successful. But you know what?

Q So if the corona- --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. We're going to -- we have a big decision to make at a certain point. Okay? We have a big decision to make. We went this extra period of time.

But I've said it from the beginning: The cure cannot be worse than the problem itself. And we cannot let that happen. We have an incredible country. We were having the greatest period in our country's history, from an economic standpoint and many other ways. We cannot let this continue.

So at a certain point, some hard decisions are going to have to be made.

Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, ventilator manufacturers are doubling, tripling, even quadrupling their production, in some cases.

THE PRESIDENT: That's true.

Q And yet, medical experts and some of these manufacturers are predicting that there will still be shortages of tens of thousands of ventilators. Is it time for you to level with the American public that there likely will be shortages of ventilators in some cases?

THE PRESIDENT: Could be. I mean, it could be you have shortages, and it could also be that you have some that have way overestimated the number of ventilators they need.

We think that -- you know, we have a good -- a good amount ready to move. I mean, literally, like an army, they're ready to move to any hotspot. But some of the ones that you're talking about - - always a nasty question from CNN -- but some of the ones.

Q Why is it a nasty question?

THE PRESIDENT: Because I think that, frankly, you know --

Q Shouldn't Americans know whether there's going to be shortages?

THE PRESIDENT: Because you know what? You've asked that question about 10 times over the course of about a month.

Look, we're mobilized and ready to go. We have a lot of ventilators ready to go. And if we had given them all out, we wouldn't, and you would be overstocked in many areas.

What we're doing is we have a very good plan to take from some areas, even though we have the 10, or almost the 10,000. We're also taking from areas that won't be as badly hit as today we think they will be. There will be some areas hit harder than we think. And there's nothing that Deborah or Tony or any of these professionals can do about it.

This thing moves in a lot of ways. But what we're going to do is we are going to have -- and if you look at us compared to a lot of other countries, we're in much better shape. But these professionals have done an amazing job.

Now, over the next week and two weeks -- this is going to be a very, very deadly period, unfortunately -- but we're going to make it so that we lose as few lives as possible. And I think we're going to be successful. I think we already are successful in that regard.

When you look at that graph and you see all of the -- the "bumps," if you want to call it, at a very low level, and you see a couple at a higher level -- they were tough -- but you see all of those levels. You know, when you look in -- and when you hear

about Italy and then you hear about France and then you hear about -- you know, what we have is we have many Italys all over. We have -- they're like countries. California is a country; New York is a country -- if you look at them from the standpoint of what we're talking about.

We have many, like, country spots. Some are hotspots and there's nothing we're going to do about it. One of the biggest surprises is Louisiana because it started off so good, and then all of a sudden, it shot up like a rocket. But we are going to try and have ventilators wherever we possibly can.

Jeff, go ahead.

Q But it seems like despite the Herculean effort of some of these companies to ramp up production as fast as possible --

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. Sure.

Q -- it still won't be enough.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, New York wanted 40,000 ventilators, okay? Forty thousand. Think of what 40,000 is. It's like cars. It's a big project. It's an expensive product. I mean, some of them are \$50,000 apiece. I saw one the other day: 55,000. That was before they start playing the games with supply and demand, okay? Some are very, very -- you call them "luxury." Some are not.

But, frankly, these are very expensive products. These are very high-tech projects and products, and they take a period of time. We have thousands of them being built right now. Some will be ready. And we're going to have extra, and we'll keep them at hospitals. But a lot of hospitals, a lot of states had the chance of getting ventilators, and they turned those ventilators down for -- so they could spend their money on

something else.

And in a way, I understand that because who thinks a thing like this -- it's not a knock. If I'm told -- like, perhaps New York -- you can spend a billion dollars on ventilators and get 16,000 or a massive number of ventilators that they've been offered over the years, or you can build a new bridge or road or something. I mean, I understand how that works. I'm not blaming anybody. I'm just saying they -- a lot of the states had chances of stockpiling a lot of ventilators. They didn't do it. And I think we're doing a very good job in helping them out.

Please, Jeff.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: And it's a very fair question. I understand that question very well.

Yeah.

Q To follow up on what you and the others have been saying today about it being a deadly week or two coming: Can you give us a sense, or perhaps Dr. Birx, of what that means, numerically?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. I'd like to ask also. Yeah, I'd like to say we know pretty much the line of attack. We know the numbers. The numbers are the numbers. They seem to be checking out, unfortunately. Or in some cases, you know, they're on the low side, which we're very happy. We want to keep them on the very low side, and that's where we're headed. And I think that's maybe where we're headed.

But I'd like to ask maybe you and Tony, what are -- where is the -- where is the week or the number of days of greatest attack? What will be our worst day? If that's possible to

determine. I think that's what you're asking, right?

Q And how many deaths exactly are you expecting?

DR. BIRX: So as you can look in the places that are the most difficult hit right now -- the Detroit area, the New York area, the Louisiana area -- and we are doing it by the counties in those states because there are -- mostly, it's metro areas and the bedroom communities around those metro areas, because people went to work and got exposed, and came home and exposed other.

If you look out in New York now, you see that it's in Long Island and it's out in Suffolk County and Nassau County.

All of those counties, Wayne and Oakland, they're all on the upside of their curve of mortality. So you know when you get to the peak, you come down the other side.

THE PRESIDENT: And when will that peak be?

DR. BIRX: So by the predictions that are in that Healthdata.org, they're predicting in those three hotspots, all of them, hitting together in the next six to seven days.

Q So are you thinking maybe tens of thousands of deaths in that period of time?

DR. BIRX: You can go to the website. It's variable. Each one of those communities is different. But you know where New York is, how much their mortality has been. And you know -- what we're seeing today are the people who were infected two or three weeks ago.

If mitigation in New York worked -- and we believe it is working -- the cases are going to start to go down, but the mortality will be a lag behind that because of the comorbidities and other

conditions.

So that's why all of the predictions are that this next week -- and I think we said this last Sunday when we talked about the charts -- and it's difficult, and we tried to prepare the American people to understand that you have to -- as much as you go up, you have to come down the other side, because coming down is a reflection of the cases that were coming in before.

Q Would you rather not say a number?

DR. BIRX: I'd rather not say a number, but the numbers are available if you go to the website. I mean, you can see that there's several hundreds per day in New York. And I think Governor Cuomo has talked about that increasing still into the five, six, seven hundred range a day. So, you know, that's very concerning to us.

We, again, applaud the healthcare workers who are doing every single thing humanly possible to save more lives. And we are ensuring on a ventilator by ventilator, day by day, to get them there so that we can say and we can be there when they need it, because we are supposed to be that group that comes in after all of the resources are exhausted.

And we really applaud what Oregon did, and we really applaud what the governor is doing about moving between the states, between the different counties, to bring them to New York, because that's what's needed today. A different place will be needed tomorrow.

Q You mentioned -- just to follow up on something apparently you said yesterday, that you had some concerns about Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Washington, D.C. Could you expand on that?

DR. BIRX: We're watching them because they are starting to go on

that upside of the curve. We're hoping and believing that if people mitigate strongly, the work that they did over the last two weeks will blunt that curve and they won't have the same upward slope and peak that New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and part of Rhode Island are having.

So this is a very important -- the next two weeks are extraordinarily important, and that's why I think you've heard from Dr. Fauci, from myself, from the President, and the Vice President that this is the moment to do everything that you can on the presidential guidelines. This is the moment to not be going to the grocery store, not be going to the pharmacy, but doing everything you can to keep your family and your friends safe. And that means everybody doing the six-foot distancing, washing your hands.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Thanks.

Q Doctor?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Doctor, you want to --

DR. FAUCI: So, I mean, ditto to everything that Dr. Birx said, but also to emphasize why it's so important to do that: because we're looking at three or four really key hotspots that are still going up. It's absolutely essential that the ones that are down at that lower level that Dr. Birx showed the other day -- those communities where they're still going up -- we've got to make sure we don't have multiple waves of peaks.

That's going to be the answer to the question of when we can start pulling back. Because if you keep having multiple peaks and different waves, that's going to make it very difficult.

Q So does more need to be done --

DR. FAUCI: No, I mean --

Q -- to make sure those areas are doing it?

DR. FAUCI: Put your foot on the -- exactly what I said just before and I keep repeating: Just make sure everybody does at least the minimal amount of that physical separation, because the virus has no place to go if you're physically separated.

THE PRESIDENT: And one of the reasons that I keep talking about hydroxychloroquine is that the question that nobody ever asks, and the question that I most hate the answer to, is: "What happens if you do have a ventilator? What are your chances?"

And I just hope that hydroxychloroquine wins, coupled with perhaps the Z-Pak, as we call it -- dependent totally on your doctors and the doctors there -- because you know the answer to that question. If you do have the ventilator, you know the answer to that question. And I hate giving the answer.

So I don't want to get them there. I don't want to get them there. There's a possibility -- a possibility -- and I say it: What do you have to lose? I'll say it again: What do you have to lose? Take it. I really think they should take it. But it's their choice and it's their doctor's choice, or the doctors in the hospital. But hydroxychloroquine -- try it, if you'd like.

The other thing: If you have a heart condition, I understand. Probably you stay away from the Z-Pak. But that's an antibiotic. It can clean out the lungs. The lungs are a point of attack for this horrible virus.

But when you have a ventilator, don't ask the answer because I hate it. If you have it, and it's working beautifully -- I don't

like the answer, because it's not a very high percentage.

So I want to keep them out of ventilators. I want to keep them -
- if this drug works, it will be not a game changer, because
that's not a nice enough term; it will be wonderful. It'll be so
beautiful. It'll be a gift from heaven if it works. Because
when people go into those ventilators, you know the answers, I
know the answers, and I'm glad you don't write about it.

Mike, please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, you've heard from the experts what our
task force has heard: that it's going to be a difficult week for
the American people. You will see testing increased around the
country and so cases are going to continue to rise across
America.

And before I give a few facts relevant to an earlier question
about ventilators, let me just -- let me add my voice to what the
President just said and what all the physicians who have spoken
have said: Even though we see the losses rising in the days
ahead, do not be discouraged, because there is evidence across
the country that Americans have been putting the social
distancing and mitigation into practice, and it is making a
difference. We are seeing it in the new cases that are being
reported.

Because remember, people, families that have experienced loss --
up to this day and in the next week -- have a loved one who
contracted the coronavirus, in most cases, more than two weeks
ago; in many cases, before social distancing and mitigation
efforts were put into effect.

And so we want to encourage you: Believe in the President's
Coronavirus Guidelines for America. Go to
Coronavirus.gov. Print them off again, put them on the

refrigerator, and remind yourself to put them into practice.

On the subject of ventilators, if I can amplify the point the President made: Our team at FEMA is doing a remarkable job working with governors, state health officials, and local hospitals, particularly focused on our priority areas. We'll refer to the New York metro area, which includes New Jersey and Connecticut. We're focused on the New Orleans metro area and Louisiana. We're focusing on Detroit, we're focusing on Chicago. These are the areas where we see the significant rise in cases.

And we are surging supplies -- specifically ventilators, but all personal protective equipment -- from FEMA to those areas. And just to give you a couple of examples: I spoke to governors in New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, Massachusetts Michigan, and Maryland today, alone. And in those cases, Governor Cuomo is actually assessing all of the available ventilators.

We've sent 4,400 ventilators already to New York. As has already been referenced, they're going to receive a shipment of over 1,000 from overseas. And allow me to say as I told her personally today, the governor of Oregon, Governor Kate Brown: Her unilateral decision to send 140 ventilators because Oregon -- they felt Oregon today is in a place where they could give those ventilators to New York, to me was in the very highest American tradition of loving your neighbor.

And when I talked to Governor Cuomo, Mr. President, he actually told me they never asked Oregon for the ventilators, and Governor Brown hadn't even called him to tell him that she was doing that. It really is remarkable.

And I talked to Governor Hogan today -- and the President and I will be speaking to all of America's governors on Monday again -- I told him how inspired I was and how he ought to spread the word

to other governors in areas where they can -- where they can spare resources to be joining with us at the federal level and providing them to states at the point of the need.

But just a few for-instances: As we track New Jersey, as I told Governor Phil Murphy, we deployed 200 ventilators to New Jersey today.

Louisiana -- where we're monitoring literally hour by hour what's taking place in New Orleans with some encouraging news, but still great challenges -- yesterday, you heard the President say that we deployed 330,000 gowns that have been delivered to the public health systems and hospitals there, and 200 ventilators.

I spoke to Governor Charlie Baker today and was able to inform him we're watching Boston area very closely. A hundred ventilators are deploying today.

I spoke to Governor Gretchen Whitmer today. Detroit is experiencing a significant number of cases. We're watching it carefully. And today, FEMA directed 300 ventilators to Michigan.

Again, as the President said, we're all working our hearts out. But what I want to say to American families and what I want to say to healthcare workers is that we are going to identify the resources, leave no stone unturned, and we are going to -- we are going to focus resources on those areas in the order that they emerge.

Now, the last thought is -- back on mitigation -- we are hoping that we do not see other major cities in the country experience what Seattle experienced, what a Greater New York City area is experiencing, what the New Orleans is experiencing. And that's all in the hands of the American people today.

And so I just want to encourage you, again: [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov). Put

into practice the President's coronavirus guidelines and you will do your part to save lives, protect the American people, and ensure that we will have the resources to meet this moment wherever the need should arise.

Q Mr. President, you spoke earlier on the SBA's loan program that got up and running yesterday. But we're hearing from a lot of small-business owners a lot of concerns about whether they will get this money. Some say some of the banks weren't ready to start processing loans. Some banks are layering --

THE PRESIDENT: That's so false. We're way ahead of schedules. The banks have been great.

Q Some banks are layering extra restrictions on people.

THE PRESIDENT: JPMorgan Chase. Bank of America. They're so far ahead. This is typical with you, in particular. "We hear they're behind..." They're not behind. It's been a flawless -- it's been flawless, so far. Far beyond our expectations. You should say, "I hear you're doing well, but maybe..."

I don't even hear of any glitch. They've done billions of dollars of loans to small business.

Q Can you ensure people they will get their money, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: And these are great loans. These are loans that get immediately paid off. These are loans that get businesses back.

I wish you could ask a question where something is working so well. Now, maybe things won't work well, and I don't mind that kind. But where something is working so well and you ask a question in such a negative way --

Uh, it's doing great. Yeah, go ahead.

Q Some banks are adding extra rules, sir, for --

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: It's doing great. Really good. Maybe it won't in two weeks, and I'll respond differently. But it's doing great. You know it and so does everyone else. Everyone is shocked how well it's doing.

Q Mr. President, Dr. Birx has mentioned in the past --

THE PRESIDENT: Who did?

Q Dr. Birx.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q -- some demographics such as seeing that men might be more susceptible to the virus, seeing in Europe more cases among the between 30 and 50 class. Has the data that you've seen in the past two weeks changed that assessment? Are men more susceptible? What are you seeing?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it changed much, has it?

DR. BIRX: No, it's the same pattern as Europe.

THE PRESIDENT: It's the same pattern. Same answer that we've given you for the last --

Q So that includes -- that includes folks with -- between 30 and 50 being more adversely affected than what we've seen in Asia?

DR. BIRX: No, I -- tomorrow, I'll bring you all the graphs back so you can it (inaudible).

THE PRESIDENT: We can bring an updated graph, but it's very similar.

Please.

Q Mr. President, a few days ago you talked about possibly restricting flights from hotspots. Where are you on that ways of thinking now?

THE PRESIDENT: We're looking at it very seriously. Right now, we're dealing with governors, we're dealing with airlines, we're dealing with a lot of different factors. It's a very difficult decision. We're also doing testing getting into planes. Very strong testing. States are doing testing of people that leave planes because they don't want to have people coming in who are infected.

So understanding that -- and the level of testing has been enormous. Okay? And some states are saying you have to go in quarantine for two weeks if you come from certain areas. So, knowing that, we're working with the governors.

Q Mr. President, what kind of tests -- when you say "testing," do you mean domestic travel or people coming in from outside the country?

THE PRESIDENT: Both. Both. Some states are doing when they land -- they're doing very strong, very powerful testing.

Please, go ahead.

Q You know, we've talked to some airlines, sir, and they say they don't know what you're talking about when you say that.

THE PRESIDENT: okay, well, then you'll check them again.

Q One last question on ventilators.

THE PRESIDENT: Governments are doing too -- our government.

Go ahead.

Q One last question on ventilators. The governor of New York said that he received donation in ventilators from Jack Ma of Alibaba, which I think is your friend. Would you call on the business community to donate ventilators, not necessarily to New York, but other states like Louisiana --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I would.

Q -- and Michigan?

THE PRESIDENT: No, Jack Ma is a friend of mine and he's made it very possible to get about 1,000 from ventilators from China. But that was from him and my other friend. It was really a gift, and we appreciate it very much. It was very nice of them.

All right. I think we've had enough.

Q One more?

THE PRESIDENT: We'll be seeing you very soon. And I'm sure that you know that all of us are going to be working very hard. We're working very hard. We are really coming up into a time that's going to be very horrendous, probably a time like we haven't seen in this country. Wouldn't you say? I mean, I don't think we've seen a time like this in the country.

And we're getting to that -- that point where it's going to really be some very bad numbers. And we want to keep those numbers a lot lower than they would have been. And we will do that.

We have tremendous talent working. We have tremendous people, and that includes governors; that includes everybody. Everybody is working.

But unfortunately, we're getting to that time when the numbers are going to peak, and it's not going to be a good-looking situation. I really believe we probably have never seen anything like these kind of numbers. Maybe during the war, during the -- a World War, or a World War One or Two or something. But this is a war all unto itself. And it's -- it's a terrible thing.

We will be seeing you soon. We'll keep you totally abreast. We're also going to be releasing new ventilator numbers, because we have a lot of them coming and a lot of them going to different locations.

And we appreciate it very much. Thank you. Thank you.

END

5:59 P.M. EDT

[Unsubscribe](#)

The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington, DC 20500-0003 · USA · 202-456-1111