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Subject: Remarks by President Trump in Announcement on Remdesivir



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
IN ANNOUNCEMENT ON REMDESIVIR

Oval Office

3:37 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much. And welcome to Dan O'Day, CEO of Gilead. You know what that is because it's been in the news and the company has been in the news, and it's a great American company that's done incredible work on HIV and hepatitis C. And I hear that -- that's what's happening with hepatitis is the great -- a great medical story. Really, a great medical story. I've been hearing about that. It's fantastic, Dan.

I'm pleased to announce that Gilead now has an EUA from the FDA for remdesivir. And you know what that is because that's been the hot thing also in the papers and in the media for the last little while. An important treatment for hospitalized coronavirus patients. And it's something -- I spoke with Dr. Hahn and Dr. Fauci; I spoke with Deborah about it. And it's --

it's really a very promising situation.

We've been doing work with the teams at the FDA, NIH, and Gilead for spearheading this public-private partnership to make this happen very quickly.

So, today, we're going to be -- and I'm going to let Dan do it -- but we're going to let Dan make a statement as to what the company is doing, making a contribution to, really, people that are not doing well, people that are sick, people that have this horrible plague that's set into our country and that we're getting rid of. And we're going to be -- we're going to be having some really incredible results.

We have very promising studies coming out on the vaccines. We have promising studies coming out on therapeutics. And the first one is from Dan and Gilead. And I'd like to maybe have you say a few words, if you would, Dan, as to, number one, about remdesivir, to start off with, and also the contribution being made by your company. And we very much appreciate it.

MR. O'DAY: Sure. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you for having us here. Thank you, Mr. Vice President, for the collaboration that we've had.

Let me start by saying, on behalf of, I know, all the colleagues at Gilead, we want to thank all the collaborators that have brought remdesivir to this point. And that certainly includes NIH and Dr. Fauci and certainly Commissioner Hahn, and many, many more people that have been a part of this to bring this to where we are today.

And, in fact, really, the thanks go to the patients and the caregivers that participated in these clinical trials.

I also want to say I'm privileged to work with a group of amazing

scientists at Gilead that, for decades, have been working on antivirals and were poised to put remdesivir immediately into clinical trials when we saw the COVID-19 circulating. So I'm really proud of the colleagues back at Gilead.

What I'd like to say is that, you know, on behalf of Gilead, to the President's point, we feel a tremendous responsibility. We're humbled by this being an important first step for patients, for hospitalized patients. We want to make sure nothing gets in the way of these patients getting the medicine. So we made a decision to donate about 1.5 million vials of remdesivir.

We'll be working with the government to determine how best to distribute that within the United States. We'll be working very closely to get that to patients, working with FEMA, working with other parts of the government to make sure that we get that to the patients in need as quickly as possible, because there are patients out there that can benefit from this medicine today that are hospitalized, and we don't want any time to waste for that.

And we're also fully committed to continue to expand the supply of this medicine. We started investing in this back in January, as soon as we became aware of the coronavirus. This is a long time to manufacture. It used to be 12 months; it's now 6 months. Our scientists have brought that down.

And so as we get into the second half of this year, we're able to have many more supplies available to patients. And we're fully committed to working, Mr. President, with you and your administration to make sure that patients in need can get this important new medicine.

\THE PRESIDENT: Dan, I really appreciate it. But I also noticed the incredible job you've done with HIV, which I -- you know, I remember so well -- 15 years ago, 16 years ago. It was a

horrible thing. And I lived in New York. I lost a lot of friends through HIV. It was terrible. And also hepatitis C.

Could you give us just a quick moment on how successful that's been? Because I've seen things that are pretty incredible and a lot of people don't know.

MR. O'DAY: Absolutely. And I'm reminded of Ambassador Birx and all of her work in this field as well. And we've worked -- the colleagues at Gilead have collaborated for years, both in the developed and the developing world, on HIV.

I mean, it's really astonishing. This is one of the reasons why, when I joined Gilead a while ago, the reason I joined is because of this progress. So you remember, of course --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. O'DAY: -- back when HIV was a death sentence. And now, thanks to the scientists at Gilead and elsewhere, we've turned this into a, really, chronic disease and also a preventable disease.

And I want to give special thanks to the administration for the work on the HIV Prevention and PrEP Program that we're working now in many particularly disadvantaged parts of our country to get more patients on prevention, because the best way, of course, to stop and to end this epidemic is a combination of treatment and prevention.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

MR. O'DAY: And hepatitis C, I'm really happy to say that the scientists came up with a cure some years ago. And we've made tremendous progress, and including some really creative new arrangements in the United States, like with the state of

Louisiana, where we've looked at ways to look at programs to make sure that every patient in a state is able to get the opportunity to be cured.

So I'm very proud that we have this kind of science, but also that we've put this science in way that gets access to patients.

THE PRESIDENT: And with hepatitis C, it's an actual cure. It's more than just keeping it down.

MR. O'DAY: Yeah. This is actually a cure.

THE PRESIDENT: It's an actual cure.

MR. O'DAY: Twelve-week oral therapy cure. I mean, we're still working on the HIV cure. We haven't given up. It's a much more difficult problem. We'll probably get the long-acting medicines first.

THE PRESIDENT: Is that a more complex problem?

MR. O'DAY: Much more complex, and (inaudible) I'm really embarrassed to talk about this in front of Ambassador Birx. She should talk about this. (Laughs.) But it's a complex to get the virus completely suppressed.

THE PRESIDENT: And where would you put corona in that level of complexity?

MR. O'DAY: Well, I think we're still -- it's early days on coronavirus. I think this is the first step today. And I think what we'll see -- and it may be like with other viruses that we've seen: that with this base step, with an antiviral like remdesivir, that the way to actually even get better results is to add medicines on top of an antiviral. That has been -- that was really how we were able to get HIV to a chronic illness: by a

combination of therapies.

THE PRESIDENT: That's very exciting.

MR. O'DAY: So this is the beginning. There's a lot of great companies out there that are working on this, that we're collaborating with, my colleagues in the industry. And we're all working together to do everything we can.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's very exciting. And just so you know: So Dan is making, and the company, a very major contribution towards helping people. So we very much appreciate that. I mean, I'm talking about a monetary contribution, as well as, more importantly, what you're doing scientifically. So we appreciate it very much.

Doctor, would you say a few words? The FDA has been moving things along at a level that they have never done before. And I appreciate it, Dr. Hahn.

DR. HAHN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. We really appreciate it.

So, as the President just announced, we authorized Gilead's application for emergency use authorization for the use of remdesivir in hospitalized patients. That was issued today.

Thank you very much and congratulations, Mr. O'Day, for the great work from the company and the collaboration that we've had.

I also want to thank the more than 18,000 employees at FDA who have heeded the President's call to reduce regulatory burden and red tape and move things forward. I think I said the other day this was lightning speed in terms of getting something approved. And from clinical trial to getting it authorized from the FDA, it's been quite the speedy but also effective process.

This is an important clinical advance that showed a statistically significant reduction in time to recovery for patients with COVID-19. And it's the first authorized therapy for COVID-19, so we're really proud to be part of it, Mr. President. And thank you for your leadership.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you. And, you know, Dr. Hahn left one of the most important jobs in medicine, as you know --

MR. O'DAY: I know.

THE PRESIDENT: -- to take the FDA. And we're glad he did.

MR. O'DAY: We're grateful.

THE PRESIDENT: He was at a very important job and a tremendous reputation. But to take this job and -- you're doing great. So we're really proud of you.

DR. HAHN: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Deborah? Please?

DR. BIRX: I'll just be very brief. I think this really illustrates what can happen in such a short time. I mean, from the first case that was diagnosed in the United States to now our first step forward with a therapeutic in less than 90 days -- for those of us who have worked in viral diseases and pandemics for a long time, this is our first really positive step forward. It's our first step forward. Obviously, groups are still working on vaccines.

I just want to also thank the company for not only making sure

this got into clinical trial, but for -- for individuals who didn't qualify for the clinical trial, they made compassionate-use drug available from the very beginning at our request and around the world. And I think that combination of really strong, scientific, rigorous clinical trials, but also, when you don't really have something, to make compassionate use available was also really quite extraordinary.

So, again, also thank you for the patients, because obviously this was a randomized trial. There was a group that did not get the drug. It's why the Data and Safety Monitoring Board stopped the trial, because of this statistical difference -- because you can't keep placebos on a trial when you already have shown significance in the treatment arm.

And so to the patients who were willing to be randomized and to the doctors who did the trials and the nurses who took care of them, we're really very grateful because these -- this clinical research is critical for these breakthroughs, but obviously there is someone getting the agent and there's others that aren't. And so that's really been extraordinary.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Deborah. And, you know, while we're here and we have the media, I'd like to just maybe have Alex discuss it for a second.

We will be AIDS-free as a country. And I used to say, two years ago, "Ten years." And now we're down to eight years, and maybe even sooner than that, working with Gilead and other companies and working with the great people that we're dealing with medically in our country.

And maybe you could say something about that, Alex --

SECRETARY AZAR: Sure.

THE PRESIDENT: -- because nobody knows you could even do that. But we're looking to be AIDS-free within the United States within eight years. We started it -- frankly, it could have been started in the previous administration, and they decided not to and I decided to do it.

So, please, Alex.

SECRETARY AZAR: Well, again, it's -- it's a bit embarrassing to be talking about HIV/AIDS standing next to Dr. Birx. So -- (laughs) -- she'll -- she can correct me as we go.

But, really, thanks to President Trump's leadership, the tools were there. The tools were there to end the HIV epidemic in the United States. But it was the President's call in the State of the Union Address that brought everyone together, including this great company, Gilead, and the United States government, all of our partners to actually end the HIV epidemic.

And the tools are that you need to diagnose individuals. So part of that is getting people that are in underserved areas. We particularly have African American males in the southern rural communities. We have Native Americans. We have many underserved who are not getting diagnosed.

If we can get you diagnosed, we can get you on therapy if you are positive for the disease. And if you're on therapy, and your viral load is undetectable, you are un-transmissible. You can't give that virus to somebody else if you stay on therapy. And our amazing Ryan White Program has an incredible -- over 80 percent -- success rate at getting people who are positive to be undetectable by being compliant with their drugs.

And then, if you're negative but you have behaviors that put you at risk for getting HIV, you can take PrEP. You can take the product that, with compliance, it keeps you at 97 percent chance

that you won't get the HIV disease also.

And so the tools are there. It's about execution and blocking and tackling. And that's what the President is leading, and we've gotten the funding from Congress for this. So we really have this in our grasp. But the tools were there, but it took President Trump's call to action to make this a reality.

THE PRESIDENT: My first year in office, I was being briefed, and they told me that this is a possibility, if we wanted to do it. I said, "Who wouldn't want to do this?" And everything is a lot of money, but this is small money compared to what we're talking about. And I'm somebody from New York who lost a lot of friends to AIDS, a tremendous number of friends. Some of the most talented people that I knew I lost to AIDS. And it's incredible.

Do you have anything to add to what -- because you are -- I mean, you're the real expert on AIDS and the eradication. Anything to add about eradication in our country?

DR. BIRX: Well, we just appreciate the government's support on doing both domestic work and global work on HIV/AIDS, because obviously you also are invested in the PEPFAR program to really bring the same level of compassion and treatment to people around the globe to really control the epidemic around the globe. And this is a big step forward for all of us to really --

THE PRESIDENT: And what do you think of the timing? Is -- am I right when I say about eight years?

DR. BIRX: Well, we are always -- to actually control the pandemic, to make it controllable and smaller, that's absolutely possible. To eradicate it, obviously we need a vaccine or a cure. There are groups working on that, under your direction, to really ensure that we have --

THE PRESIDENT: How is that coming?

DR. BIRX: We make forward progress in vaccines and then a little step backwards and then forward progress.

THE PRESIDENT: Tough work.

MR. O'DAY: Tough work.

DR. BIRX: It's tough work.

MR. O'DAY: But we're not going to give up.

DR. BIRX: And the cure is tough work. But your scientists are working on it around the clock and around the world.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. That'd be terrific. Mike? Please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you, Mr. President. I just appreciate the opportunity to express the gratitude that we all feel, Dan, to you and the incredible team of Gilead. And to think of the progress that you've made at such an extraordinary period of time -- when the President brought the pharmaceutical companies here to the White House, you were among them. He said we wanted you to move out quickly on developing vaccines, but he said develop the therapeutics as quickly as you can.

We were told that it was possible that, by the spring, we would have therapeutics. And standing here on May the 1st, the very first therapeutic, with the emergency use authorization and the good work with FDA, is now available.

And -- but donating 1.5 million doses, our task force will be working very closely with Gilead to make sure that those medicines, starting on Monday, are distributed to hospitals where

patients are struggling with serious conditions with the coronavirus today.

And so I -- Dan, I just -- I hope you will carry back our gratitude, but I know the gratitude of the American people, when they see the incredible ingenuity and generosity of the team at Gilead.

God bless you.

MR. O'DAY: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mike.

MR. O'DAY: I appreciate that.

THE PRESIDENT: And, Adam, maybe you could say a few words. You were very instrumental in getting this done, and also on ventilators, getting us to be the kings and queens of ventilators. We have a lot of ventilators, and we're helping countries all over the world now with ventilators, starting with almost none from the past. What do you have to say?

MR. BOEHLER: I think, thematically, it shows the strength of public-private partnerships that you've led and that you, the Vice President, that all of us have been working on.

You talked about ventilators. I know, Mr. Vice President, you just visited the GM plant, and you were looking -- you saw GE making ventilators, how quickly we moved there.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Right.

MR. BOEHLER: This is just another example where you have a company, one of our best, that came up with the first therapeutic that shows the strength of our private business. The other thing

I know that you guys did, Dan, that I really appreciate is you didn't wait to start production. And that means we're going to get the doses next week because they ramped up production and didn't wait because they wanted to help Americans.

So I think it shows the strength of our private business, and I'm very proud to be an American.

THE PRESIDENT: So that would mean that you're -- you were so confident in what you were doing early on that you were able to project it in advance?

MR. O'DAY: I would love to -- I would love to say we were that confident. We really weren't. But we -- but we saw the incredible human need and we said, in the event that this is successful --

THE PRESIDENT: That's great.

MR. O'DAY: -- we have to plan for success. And that's just the way that we operate. I am proud to work for a company that takes those type of decisions.

THE PRESIDENT: And how many doses are we getting, from the standpoint of the country and the contribution?

MR. O'DAY: So we -- I mean, we're -- particularly with the news around the fact that some patients, as Dr. Hahn mentioned, can benefit from only five days of treatment, which I think is a real benefit, by the way --

THE PRESIDENT: Ah, I see. Good.

MR. O'DAY: -- for patients to get five days of IV, and if they're improving, to get out of the hospital. Great for them to get back to their loved ones. Great for reducing the burden on

the healthcare system. And then, that 1.5 million doses goes longer, right?

THE PRESIDENT: That's great.

MR. O'DAY: So we're talking, you know, about hundreds -- more than 100,000 treatment courses -- which again, we need more, and we're still ramping up and we're going to have more in the second half of the year --

THE PRESIDENT: That's a great -- that's a great start.

MR. O'DAY: -- but at least it's a start. And the most severe, the most serious patients, I think, were the ones that we'll work with, with the Vice President and his team on, to make sure that we get it to the most serious patients first.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a great story. Thank you very much, Dan.

MR. O'DAY: Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank Gilead very much. (Applause.) That's fantastic.

We'll be seeing you all in a little while. Thank you very much. Thank you.

END

3:55 P.M. EDT

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump in a Meeting with Governor Murphy of New Jersey



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
IN A MEETING WITH GOVERNOR MURPHY OF NEW JERSEY

Oval Office

11:30 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you very much. It's an honor to be with Governor Phil Murphy of a wonderful state known as New Jersey. I spent a lot of time in New Jersey. It's a beautiful state. People don't realize how dense it is, right?

GOVERNOR MURPHY: That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: They keep saying, I guess, you're number two? And I've even heard number, right?

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Yeah, I think number one.

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody would think that about New Jersey. But it's a great place and a great state. And they have a wonderful

man that's running it, who's -- he runs it with heart and with brains, and he -- he's done a terrific job. We are together. We are working closely. I think we -- somebody said we got you more ventilators maybe than any other state, which surprised me also.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Yep.

THE PRESIDENT: But you've used them well.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: And your numbers are headed in the right direction. And I just want to thank the Governor and his very capable people. The relationship has been a very good one.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: And we're working very hard with New Jersey. We're working hard with everybody. But we're working hard with this governor. He's one of the governors that's really done a job. He's stepped up to the plate, and he has -- and he swung, and he's just -- you're going to see the results very soon.

So, with that, I'd like to ask -- Phil, perhaps you'd like to say a few words.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: First of all, Mr. President, to you and your team, we're incredibly honored to be here. I thank you for the enormous help in our darkest hour of need: ventilators; as you could see, PPE; testing sites. Now, I think, we're going to be in a very good place thanks to you and your team as it relates to expanding testing dramatically so that we'll be able to begin to take those steps to reopen.

We've been crushed as a state. As you know, it's a state you

know very well. We have 6,770 fatalities. But the curves, thank God, are beginning to show promise. And we're beginning to take some baby steps on that road to reopen. In fact, we've announced that, as of this weekend, our state and county parks, golf, under certain protocols, as of Saturday morning will be able to be open again.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: And that's a step on that road. And again, we couldn't be making the progress we're making without you and your administration.

And so to you and to your incredibly talented team with a very heavy dose of New Jersey blood on your team, including yourself -
- (laughter) --

THE PRESIDENT: That's true.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: -- who knows that state extremely well, we thank you for everything.

And again, financially, that's another topic we'll -- you know, we've been crushed, and I appreciate your consideration on the financial side going forward as well.

So thank you for everything.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. And we have been helping on the hospitals. And your hospitals have been really under stress, to put it mildly, right?

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Amen.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, you have some hospitals where you don't have such a big COVID problem, and they -- they do what they

do. In fact, they really could do a lot more because they weren't allowed to use the elective.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Correct.

THE PRESIDENT: And by not having the elective, all of a sudden they had such a different situation from you --

GOVERNOR MURPHY: No question.

THE PRESIDENT: -- because you had to use it for COVID, and it was a tremendous strain.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: You bet.

THE PRESIDENT: So we're going to work with you on that. We have been, but we're going to be working with you on that.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: I just want to thank you for the great job you've done.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. President. And likewise, thank you for your partnership and leadership on this. It's meant an enormous amount on our state.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. And, you know, I have to speak as President but I also speak as somebody that is in New Jersey a lot. It's a great place. It's a beautiful state. People don't understand New Jersey quite. But it's a beautiful -- it's a beautiful state. And it's great to have you as the governor.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: An honor to be with you. And this is a big deal for us. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. And, by the way, he's a Democrat, so I'm getting myself in trouble, but that's okay. (Laughter.) I have to tell the truth. He's -- he's something.

So, any questions? Jim?

Q Mr. President, your economic advisor, Kevin Hassett, said this morning that the unemployment rate could be around 19 percent -- numbers we haven't seen since the Great Depression. What is your plan to get the country out of this ditch?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think we're going to have a great third quarter. That's going to be a transition. So when I say "great," I think the transition is going to be really terrific. And we're going to take it into the fourth, and I think we're going to have, potentially, a great fourth quarter.

There's tremendous pent-up demand. I don't know if Kevin said that or Larry Kudlow. But they're telling -- they see it. But I feel it. I feel it. I think sometimes what I feel is better than what I think, unfortunately or fortunately, Phil.

But I tell you what: I feel it. And I will say that I think next year is going to be a spectacular year in terms of growth, in terms of bringing our country back. I think we're going to have a really good year. We want to be where we were. And I think we can actually surpass where we were. And we were the strongest anywhere in the world. We were the best that we ever were, but we were the strongest anywhere in the world.

But I view what we have now as obviously a period of -- here we are; it is what it is. We just got hit by a vicious virus that should have never been allowed to escape China. They should have stopped it at the source. They didn't do that. A hundred and eighty-four countries have been devastated by it, including China, by the way. Because I looked at their numbers, and their numbers are terrible. And it's just a very tough situation for the people of our country. All the loss, the death, it's a terrible thing.

But I think we're going to make a very strong comeback. It'll start with the third quarter. I think you're going to see some -- some pretty good numbers. I think you're going to see really good transition numbers. But the fourth quarter is going to be -- I really believe it's going to be terrific. And I think that next year is going to be a great year.

Q Is it fair for the voters to take into consideration your handling of the pandemic when they assess whether to reelect you in the fall?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, I think they do. I think they have to do a number of things. They do have to do that. And maybe Phil could speak to that because I think I've handled it -- and not me; I think our whole group has been spectacular. We had ventilators; we didn't have any. We built them. We have thousands -- tens of thousands are right now under construction. And we've given -- as Phil said, you got, I think, more ventilators than anybody in the United States.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: I believe that's correct.

THE PRESIDENT: New Jersey needed them very badly.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Yep.

THE PRESIDENT: And there was never a person that needed a ventilator that didn't get one in any state. Not one person that needed a ventilator. So we didn't say, "He didn't get a ventilator and somebody passed away. Somebody didn't make it."

Now we had a mask problem. Now we have so many masks, we don't know what to do with them. We had a big problem.

And you have to understand: When we took over, the cupboards were bare. And the thing that -- frankly, it's not as tough as the ventilator situation. We're the king of ventilators. But what we have done is -- on testing, we're doing numbers the likes of which nobody has ever seen before.

And I told you, the President of South Korea, President Moon, called me to congratulate me on testing. And we did more tests than any other country anywhere in the world. And I think they told me yesterday a number -- if you add up the rest of the world, we've done more testing. And it's a higher quality test.

So I think we've done a -- I think the whole team, federal government -- we built hospitals for you and others.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: You bet.

THE PRESIDENT: We built medical centers. And I'm talking about thousands and thousands of beds. Many, many medical centers. We had -- as you know, we had the governor of Florida and the governor of Louisiana over the last two days. They could not have been -- and one was a Democrat, and this gentleman happens to be a proud Democrat. They could not have been more supportive of the effort of the federal government.

And I'll tell you, Jim --

Q But aren't you seeing massive lines for food?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just tell you, we have -- we started off with empty cupboards. The last administration left us nothing. We started off with bad, broken tests and obsolete tests.

What we've come up with, between the Abbott Laboratories, where you have the five-minute test. Did they test you today?

GOVERNOR MURPHY: They did test me.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Now I feel better. (Laughter.)

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I'm negative.

THE PRESIDENT: You did the five-minute -- the Abbott test.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: I did the quick turnaround.

THE PRESIDENT: It's so great.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: I feel like a new man.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a brand -- you know what? That's a brand-new test. That didn't exist eight weeks ago, and now it's like the rage. Everybody wants that test.

No, I think we've done -- I think we've done a really great job.

Q But the Obama administration -- people from the Obama administration would disagree on your assessment that the cupboards were bare. They said that there was equipment in --

THE PRESIDENT: Well -- well -- I know, Jim.

Q -- the National Stockpile.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just tell you -- I -- that's fine.

Q And as for, you say, broken tests, it's a new virus. So how could the test be broken when you needed a new test?

THE PRESIDENT: We had a broken -- Jim, we had broken tests. We had tests that were obsolete. We had tests that didn't take care of people.

But here's what's very important: If you take a look at the swine flu, H1N1 -- or, as Joe Biden would say, N1H1, but it's actually wrong. He didn't even know the name, okay? H1N1, the swine flu -- the Obama administration was a disaster. And they did polling on how did they do, and their polls were so negative, so bad. They did a very poor job.

And they did a poor job on a lot of things. They did a poor job on our military. They did a poor job on our ammunition. When I got here, we had no ammunition. Just like we had no ammunition, we had very little medical, too.

So I think, when you ask how did we do -- and I have to say it because the news is so fake and so corrupt -- I think we did a spectacular job. I'm not even referring to me. I'm referring to all of these people, including your people who have been working with my people so closely.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: You bet. You bet.

THE PRESIDENT: But the federal government has done a spectacular job, to a point where we're building, now -- we're going to have thousands and thousands of ventilators, and we're helping other countries. Because Phil doesn't need ventilators. You needed them very badly at the beginning.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: We did. We did.

THE PRESIDENT: And maybe you could say something to Jim's question.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Yeah, I don't know -- I don't have a view on the history, but I will say this: In our hour of need, whether it was ventilators, the Army Corps building out capacity, FEMA with our testing sites, and a big part of our ability to reopen as fast as we all want to is to rapidly expand testing.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: And you all -- literally, in the here and now, this week -- are helping us in a big way to at least -- I would expect by the end of May, thanks to you and your team's help, we'll be able to at least double, and I hope more than double, our testing capabilities. And because of that, that will allow us to much more aggressively and responsibly do the reopening that we all need to do.

THE PRESIDENT: And, Phil, how did we do on ventilators, as an example, where you were really in --

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: -- you needed them badly?

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Yeah. We got them. I mean, there's just no other way to put it. And I'm told that we were the number one state recipient of ventilators.

THE PRESIDENT: I've heard that. Yes.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: And this was -- you know, we were at the edge,

and this is life-or-death stuff. And we got them, and we are forever thankful for that.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Phil.

Q Mr. President, on operation -- on this vaccine operation, "Warp Speed," who's in charge of that? And are you overpromising when you say you're going to have 300 million doses of vaccine in eight months?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not over-promising. I don't know who said it, but whatever the maximum is, whatever you can humanly do, we're going to have. And we hope we're going to come up with a good vaccine.

Johnson & Johnson and Oxford and lots of different great companies, representatives of our country in some time- -- in some ways. NIH is working very hard and doing a terrific job. No, I hope we're going to have a vaccine, and we're going to fast-track it like you've never seen before, if we come up with a vaccine. I think they probably will.

Q And who is in charge of that Operation Warp Speed?

THE PRESIDENT: We have -- you know who is in charge of it? Honestly? I am. I'll tell you, I'm really in charge of it. I could say somebody else. I will say, we're dealing with, as you know, the General and the Admiral. They're very much in charge. But I think probably, more than anything, I'm in charge. And I'm the one that gets blamed. And I get blamed anyway.

Don't forget, if we come up with a vaccine in record time, they'll say I should have done it faster. But we have a lot of good -- a lot of good possibilities. Like the Gilead yesterday, that was a big thing. That was a big thing. And as explained --

and I think very importantly, that was a step. You know, that was a big step: 31 percent step. But the step means, I guess, Deborah -- what Tony, yesterday, was explaining -- the step means you now take another step, another. All of a sudden, you're up to 50, 60, 70. But that was a very positive -- that was a big step, as I understand it.

Okay? Thank you.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Go ahead, please.

Q Thank you --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, Jeff go.

Q Thank you, sir. The intelligence agencies today said that they agree with the scientific community, that the virus did originate in China but was not manmade and was not genetically modified. Do you agree with that assessment?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I haven't seen the report yet, but I will tell you, if you speak to the head of intelligence right now, you speak to the head, they did say that I was given a briefing when I said I was given it, not before. And they also said that it wasn't specific and it was not a panic briefing. It wasn't like, "Oh, we're going to be invaded." It was in January, later January --

Q You were getting a briefing in January?

THE PRESIDENT: And I think -- I think what you'll do is you'll speak to them. In fact, I'll ask Mark to make a report to you because the -- the news was totally -- you know, as usual, fake and corrupt.

So intelligence is doing a report, and the report turned out to be exactly as I said.

Q So, Mr. President, so you're saying that you got a briefing in January about the --

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not saying it. No, no. I'm not.

Q -- about the coronavirus.

THE PRESIDENT: You didn't hear me. I said intelligence are saying it. And they're going to give a report --

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: -- and it will make you very unhappy because it makes you so wrong.

Q Well --

THE PRESIDENT: You, in particular.

All right. Go ahead. Behind you, please.

Q Governor, states received \$150 billion in the first CARES Act. What are -- what are you going to need now to get back on your feet? What have you told the President on that front? And how do you address Republican complaints that the federal government should not be bailing out states who were badly managed prior to the pandemic?

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Yeah. So, I've been in office two -- going on two and a half years, and I got elected to, sort of, fix the economy. And we made a lot of progress on what I would call the "legacy issues": record pension payments; stabilizing

indebtedness; record surpluses. And as Mike Tyson says, "Everyone's got a plan until you get punched in the face."

THE PRESIDENT: (Laughs.) And we -- and we did.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: And we did. So we -- we've made -- we've got a plan, and we're comfortable with the progress that -- it's going to take a while, all the legacy stuff.

The financial assistance we need -- and we need a significant amount; this is a big hit and this is somewhere, in New Jersey alone, could be 20 to 30 billion dollars. But this is to allow us to keep firefighters, teachers, police, EMS on the payroll, serving the communities in their hour of need. And that's something that we feel strongly about.

We don't see it as a bailout. We see this as a partnership, doing the right thing in what is the worst healthcare crisis in the history of our nation. And I want to again thank the President for an extraordinary spirit of partnership across the whole spectrum of our needs. And I want to reiterate that.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: And I will say, that's a tough question because you're talking about the states, and whether you call it a bailout or a lot of money, and it's -- a lot of it's for years, long before you were there. You can't have a better representative than this man. That, I can tell you. Plus, he's an old Goldman Sachs guy. (Laughter.) And what they don't know about him -- he's done a great job, but he went through a big operation just before this happened, and that's a hell of a thing.

GOVERNOR MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, that was a -- that was a big deal.

Q Mr. President -- Mr. President, are you worried about the food supply chain breakdown --

THE PRESIDENT: No, not at all. No. We solved that problem --

Q -- especially in the meat market?

THE PRESIDENT: We solved that problem yesterday. I expect to see the supply chain as strong as ever -- maybe stronger, for certain reasons.

We did something. We got -- we had a roadblock, though. It was a legal roadblock more than anything else. It was a foolish thing that nobody ever took care of for a long time, and we took care of it.

No, I expect things to go very smoothly.

Q So the American people shouldn't worry about any shortage in the market at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Not even a little bit. There's a lot of supply too. But now they're going to get it. And that was solved yesterday very late in the evening. Okay?

Q Mr. President, at what point do people need another check if unemployment is at 20 percent?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're talking about that. I know a lot of people are talking about it. But we've given a lot of stimulus. And again, we think now it's so great. I'm so happy that you're opening up parks and things because that's a big step for New Jersey because they were hit very hard.

I think that -- I think you're going to see something that's going to surprise maybe the world. And, you know, we're the leader of the world. We're really the leader. In this case, the leader of the world. And we've done better. If you look at our deaths, if you look at mortality rates, if you look at the things, we're -- in fact, I'm going to get a chart, because it's maybe the most impressive thing -- right? -- how we've done. And that's a tribute to the governors, and it's a tribute to the federal government and all of us working together.

But I would love you to get that, if you could. Because we're right at the top -- meaning top, in a positive way, of those charts.

I think you're going to see economic numbers that are going to be fantastic. I believe it very strongly. And you're going to start to see it with the transition period, which is number three. And quarter four, you're going to have tremendous numbers. Tremendous numbers.

Q Would you --

THE PRESIDENT: And I think next year you're going to really have tremendous numbers.

Q Mr. President, can we ask you about General Flynn?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Are you going to pardon him? This is what you tweeted back in December of 2017: "I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI."

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Do you still believe that he lied to the Vice President and

the FBI?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, well, I'll tell you --

Q Shouldn't he be punished for that?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. When I looked at what they did to him, they tormented him. Dirty cops tormented General Flynn. General Flynn is a fine man. Thirty-five years or so in the military. You don't get to be where he is by being bad -- that, I can tell you.

And then, he -- right at the beginning of the administration the dirty cops came in. And you see the notes, Jim. I mean, whether you're on our side, that side, whatever. I mean, I assume, let's all talk about fairness. What they did to General Flynn -- and, by the way, to Roger Stone and to others -- was a disaster and disgrace. And it should never be allowed to happen in this country again.

And what I really hope -- because CNN tormented him, in all fairness -- I really hope to see, because they haven't been doing it, and I appreciate your question -- I hope to see that CNN will not even apologize, which they should, but just cover it fairly, because he's in the process of being exonerated. If you look at those notes from yesterday, that was total exoneration. These were dirty, filthy cops at the top of the FBI. And you know the names better than I do, and they were dishonest people.

Now we have to see what's going to happen. But General Flynn was treated like nobody should -- and I'm not talking about generals; I'm saying like nobody in this country should be treated.

Q So were you wrong to fire him at the time?

THE PRESIDENT: And they did it right at the beginning.

Q Why did you fire him at the time?

THE PRESIDENT: They did it right -- Jim, they did it right -- well, look at what they did to the guy. I mean, he couldn't haven't known too much what was happening. They came at him with 15 buses and he's standing in the middle of a highway.

What they did to this man -- they tormented him; they destroyed him. But he's going to come back -- like I say, he's going to come back bigger and better. But what they did to him, and I hear there's a lot of other stuff coming out if I believe everything I'm reading. Because I like to stay out of it. I don't have to stay out of it at all. But I like to stay out of it.

And, Jim, what they did to him is terrible. And I hope that CNN is going to give him a fair shake and cover it, because I think it's very important.

Yeah.

Q But, sir, just to follow up on was it a mistake to fire him, would you bring him back on to the administration?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what I wish I had was all the information where they were out to get him. They wanted him -- they were trying to force him to lie. You see the written statements where they were trying to force him into a position where we can get him on a lie or can we get him this way or that way. This is terrible.

This is like what happened in -- and I'm not going to name the countries, because we deal with these countries, okay? But what would happen in other countries, not the USA. What they did to General Flynn and others -- and others -- is a disgrace. And I

hope -- really, I hope your networks are going to cover it.

Because, you know, I've seen where it's the biggest story in the world a year ago and a year and a half --

"Flynn. Flynn. Flynn." And then he's essentially exonerated. Now, that's not official yet. But when you read the notes, how could you do anything else?

Q In his letter of resignation, though, he admitted to --

THE PRESIDENT: And I hear there's -- I hear there's much -- Jim, I hear there's much more coming out.

Q -- giving bad information to the Vice President.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it would be so good for CNN, if you covered it honestly and if you'd report it honestly. It would be so good for the network.

Q Of course, we have.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, with that, thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, Jim.

END

11:52 A.M. EDT

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump and Vice President Pence in Roundtable with Industry Executives on the Plan for Opening Up America Again



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
AND VICE PRESIDENT PENCE
IN ROUNDTABLE WITH INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES
ON THE PLAN FOR OPENING UP AMERICA AGAIN

State Dining Room

4:18 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much, everybody. A lot of progress is being made, as you see. And we're reopening our country, and it's very exciting. And it should have never happened. This plague should never have happened. It could have been stopped, but people chose not to stop it. It's a very sad thing for the world -- 184 countries, at least.

But it's a great honor to have you with us, friends of mine who have been truly great business leaders and are great business leaders. And you're opening up your company again too, if you

think about it, right? You're, sort of, doing a reopening.

But they're great companies, and they'll do very well -- hopefully better than ever before. And that's what we're seeing. We're seeing tremendous pent-up demand. And it's a beautiful thing to see.

So it's wonderful to have American industry leaders -- and that's what you are: true leaders -- to the White House. You've been here before, all of you, and we've talked about it in different times. We built the greatest economy in the history of the world, and nobody even disputes that. And one day, they walk in and they say, "Sir, we're going to have to close it up until we get rid of this hidden enemy, this -- this terrible scourge." And that's what we did. And we did the right thing. We did an incredible job. We worked with the governments. We worked with states all over the country.

We had no ventilators, or very few, from previous administrations. And we became the king of ventilators. We have thousands and thousands of ventilators. We're now helping other countries with ventilators.

We had old-fashioned tests that didn't work; they were really obsolete. They didn't work. They were broken. And we end up -- the testing has been incredible now and to a level that nobody has seen. I got a call from President Moon of South Korea. He said, "Congratulations. Your testing is just" -- nobody has ever seen anything like we're doing.

We've tested more than all countries put together, and millions of tests and the highest quality test. But it's -- it's great to be with -- with you. We're joined by Matt Maddox of Wynn Resorts, Chris Reynolds of Toyota, Chris Nassetta of Hilton, Josh Bolten of the Business Roundtable, Walt Ehmer of Waffle House.

And thanks to Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary Steve Mnuchin, and Secretary Eugene Scalia. That Scalia has very good genes. Where is Scalia? He has very good genes, that guy, I'll tell you. Scalia. He's got the Scalia genes, right? We all know what that means.

We mourn -- and I have to say this so strongly -- we mourn every life tragically lost to the invisible enemy, and we're heartened that the worst of the pain and suffering is going to be behind us. We think we really have crossed a big boundary, and much better days are ahead. And I often say I see the light at the end of the tunnel, very strongly. This demand is going to be incredible. I think next year is going to be an incredible year for our economy.

I think the fourth quarter is going to be really, really good, Kevin. We were talking about that before. You maybe will say something. And we're going to be in a transition quarter next quarter, the third quarter. And I think we'll do very, very nicely there, from an economic standpoint.

But thanks to the devotion of the American people, the number of new cases continues to decline. The United States has now conducted nearly 6 million tests, far more than any other nation, as I said. So many -- so many tests and so much has been learned about what we're fighting.

And if it does rear up a little bit in the fall or even a lot, we'll be able to put it out. We'll put out the embers or we'll put out the flames.

Two weeks ago, we released guidelines to give states a real strong indication of what we want and how we want it done. We've really had a good relationship with the states. Mike Pence has worked very, very hard with the task force. He's headed the task force, so importantly, with a great group of people.

And it's been -- it's just been incredible what's taken place over a very short period of time, including the gowns and all of the surgical equipment, and the safety equipment and masks. People don't talk about masks anymore; that's the other thing. They're not talking about masks. They were talking about "where are the masks," because we had a cupboard that was bare. We didn't have a lot of -- a lot of equipment or medical supplies in the cupboard that we inherited.

Now we're taking in millions and millions of masks. I'll give you a number that you won't even believe. We have an order: 500 million masks coming in. And we've delivered millions and millions and tens of millions of masks all over. So you don't hear about that anymore either. You don't hear about ventilators; you don't hear about masks. And you shouldn't be hearing about testing, but that's the last thing they can complain about, I guess.

You know, if we do -- if we do 2 million tests, they said, "How come you didn't do three?" Well, we do three and then they say, "How come you didn't do four?" That's like a -- that's like a dream for the media.

But we've done incredible with testing. And you'll see over the next coming weeks -- Mike, you maybe want to speak about that a little bit -- but over the next coming weeks, you'll see some -- some astonishing numbers. I don't know that all of that's even necessary because you have some governors that love the test. You have others that like doing it a different way, an old-fashioned way, with some testing. But we're going maximum testing.

We've encouraged the more than 30 states that have taken steps to resume economic activity already -- we've given them tremendous encouragement and support. We're backing them 100 percent. You

know, many governors have called me, telling me their plans, laying them out: governor of Texas, Oklahoma, governor of Arkansas -- many, many governors. I spoke with Governor Cuomo. We had a great talk today on a different subject, but he wants to get open. Everybody wants to get open. They want to get open, and they want to get back to business. And their constituents, the citizens of this country, want to get back. And that's what's happening.

So I just want to perhaps start off by introducing our Vice President, and then we'll go around the table, and you'll introduce yourself and say a few words to the media. You're covered by a very serious media out here. The audience can't see it, but these are the most wonderful human beings. Actually, this is a nice group. I can't imagine. We actually have a nice group of people.

But, Mike, if you could say a few words, please, that would be great. And then we'll go around the table. Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you, Mr. President. And I want to thank all the distinguished business leaders who are here and the -- and the, literally, millions of Americans that are employed at the businesses represented around this table.

And it's remarkable to think, Mr. President, that before the coronavirus epidemic came ashore, we had seen extraordinary growth in the American economy, not just the stock market setting records; millions of new jobs; more Americans working than ever before. But in January, when you stood up the White House Coronavirus Task Force, you said we had one mission, and that was to save lives and to make sure that the healthcare providers in America would be able to render the level of care to any American struggling with the coronavirus that we would want our own family members to have.

And thanks to your leadership, thanks to the partnership that we forged with states across the country, working with local health officials, Mr. President, as you said yesterday, we have light at the end of the tunnel. We really are encouraged by the progress. In even the hotspots around the country, cases are leveling off, and in some areas, going down. Hospitalizations are declining even in the Greater New York City area.

That's a testament to the American people and to the way the American people, now nearly 45 days ago, embraced the guidelines to slow the spread. And as we come to the end of this mitigation period, states across the country have all embraced those same mitigation and social distancing efforts. The American people to put them into practice. We've saved lives. We've protected the vulnerable. We preserved our healthcare system. And we're well on our way to healing our land.

As you mentioned, testing will be a part of how we move to the next stage. It was just on the 16th that you laid out a plan for opening up America again. And as we sit here today, I'm -- I'm informed that 35 states have already released formal opening plans, many of which are consulting directly with our team here in the administration, and we're going to continue to work with all of them.

Testing is a major part of it. And I can assure you, Mr. President, and the American people that we'll continue to scale testing across the country. We're doing more than a million tests a week now; 5.8 million tests total. We expect, by next month, very quickly to be at a capacity to do more than 2 million tests a week. We laid out our blueprint for testing.

And as I heard again today on a conference call with America's governors in agricultural states, there's great enthusiasm for the blueprint for testing that you unveiled earlier this week. And we'll be surging supplies and resources and reagents

into the states to support that increased testing.

But we know that, ultimately, we've -- we've got to find a way to help America get back to work. And having the opportunity to hear from these business leaders about best practices that businesses are considering, whether they be restaurants like Waffle House or major corporations and hotels, we welcome that. We look forward to partnering with you, as the President said.

America works when America is working. And we're absolutely committed, as soon as it is safe and responsible to do so, to partner with governors across the country, partner with businesses across the country, and open up America again. So, thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mike. And I just -- before we go around, Puritan Medical ~~Supplies~~ [Products], a wonderful company, will produce 40 million additional swabs per month starting in May. They've opened up a very big process, and that was funding authorized by the Defense Production Act. So that'll help the states. And again, we're there to help the states. A lot of states can buy their own swabs. It's not that big a deal. But we're here to help them. We want them to be successful.

We had, as you know, the governor of Louisiana in today and we told that story, which has been a really great story. And we had the governor of Florida in yesterday. And that was a great story. These were -- just incredible what's been happening.

So maybe we'll start with my left. And, Chris, do you want to take it --

MR. NASSETTA: Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: -- and tell him about -- I know a lot about your company, but maybe a lot of people don't. Tell them the story.

MR. NASSETTA: Indeed, you do. Thank you, first of all, for inviting me back to the White House. I was thinking, on the way down here today -- I'm based in Washington, and I was here about six weeks ago. The world was a different place. We were --

THE PRESIDENT: Different.

MR. NASSETTA: We were not at the beginning, but we were in the thick of it, fighting this war. And we've come a long way. We've made tremendous progress, thanks to your leadership and the leadership of the administration that is represented around this table and otherwise. So, thank you for that.

We -- you know, we are very supportive as an industry, and certainly as a company, on reopening America. We think it's critical that that happen. The guidelines that you and the administration have outlined, we're incredibly supportive of, of opening in a safe and healthy way, which -- which you and Vice President Pence just described.

We have been trying at Hilton, and as an industry, to be part of the solution throughout. So in the middle of the crux of the crisis, when first responders were unable to get housing -- even though our industry and our company has its share of problems -- we provided, with American Express, one million rooms, free of charge, to first responders. Those rooms are still being provided to first responders as they fight the war.

But now, as we think about and I spend my time predominantly on the reopening of our business, what we realize is that people do want to get out. They want safety. They want to be doing it in a way that is safe. They want to feel good about it, but they want to get out. They want to visit their family, their friends,

their loved ones. They ultimately want to get around the country and do business again. And in order to do that, they want to feel safe.

So all the work that you all are doing is obviously, as an administration and the states, is critical. What we're trying to do in our part is develop the best health and hygiene standards that exist. So when they stay in our hotels, they feel safe.

So what we launched just this week was -- in partnership with Lysol, one of the most respected brands with some of the best scientists on cleanliness and killing germs, and the Mayo Clinic, one of the most reputable health organizations in the world -- we have developed and are working on the absolute best protocols so that when people come into our hotels, the rooms have been cleaned, they've been sealed, the public spaces have, and then they can feel safe and secure in that environment so they can get out and see the people they want to see and see this great country again, like they used to.

We've also been trying to work with the industry -- and the industry, to their credit, is trying to mobilize to create a consistent set of standards so that this isn't just Hilton. The whole industry, you know, would have a set of health and hygiene standards that would make -- that would make people comfortable. We will be sharing it with the administration, we're sharing it with governors already, to try and create a standard.

We stand ready, as Hilton, and we stand ready as an industry to help get America open and moving again.

THE PRESIDENT: That's great. Thank you very much. Great company. And you'll have it up and running again very soon. I know you very well and you're going to do a great job reopening. We're reopening Hilton, and we're reopening our

nation. A lot of companies are very excited right now.

Steve, do you want to say just a couple of words about where we are with the different things, please?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, I think -- thank you, Mr. President, Mr. Vice President. It's great to see these companies here today. It's great to see the reopening. I think we're making an enormous amount of progress. Yesterday, we met with small businesses that we saw the benefit of the programs. Today, we're meeting with big businesses. I was particularly pleased to hear from Chris. He's been able to access the capital markets.

Just the announcement of our facilities with the Federal Reserve created liquidity so that public companies could access the capital markets and not need to come to the government for support.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Please. How are you doing?

MR. EHMER: I'm doing great. Thank you, Mr. President. I'm Walt Ehmer, with Waffle House, in Atlanta, Georgia. It is a -- it's an honor to be here today. Thank you for including me, a -- probably a well-dressed cook and dishwasher. I don't know about big companies, but -- but we're happy to be included. And thank you, too, Mr. Vice President, for -- for all of your support.

I am here representing our industry, I believe, and, in large part, the independent restaurant companies of America that are out here that have helped create the fabric of our country with the restaurants that they've put in our communities and the connections they have with communities. And we, in a small way,

feel like we are a part of that.

We did have -- we did have the opportunity this week, in the state of Georgia, in the state of Tennessee, to open up some of our dining rooms to dine-in customers again. And it was very welcomed by our people; it was welcomed by our customers. Our customers are ready to see some sign of progress that we are beginning to move forward. We've done it in a safe way. We have followed all of the guidelines -- your guidelines, the CDC guidelines, in how to make that happen.

But what we believe we've -- when we started out in this journey, we said we really have several goals. And the first goal was we wanted it to be a safe environment for our customers and for our associates. And our second goal was to create financial safety for our workforce.

And I wanted to thank you personally for -- on behalf of our workforce -- for all of the stimulus funds that have gone directly to the workforce of America. It is making a difference. It has made a difference. It is keeping the economic engine turning ever so slowly right now, but it is helping keep people put food on the table and a roof over their head. So, on behalf of our workforce, I thank you for that.

As we got into this, we felt like we needed to make a lot of adjustments coming in. One of the great things about a restaurant and the entire restaurant community: The restaurants are the second largest private employer in the country. And there is a million restaurants out there. And probably no other industry has been hit as hard from a revenue standpoint, or a layoff and furlough standpoint. But restaurants, if you think about --

THE PRESIDENT: What's number one?

MR. EHMER: What's number one?

THE PRESIDENT: (Inaudible.)

MR. EHMER: Health -- healthcare, is my understanding.

THE PRESIDENT: Really? Good.

MR. EHMER: Yeah. Private employers. I assume you guys are number one overall, but --

So, you know, restaurants have a unique opportunity to help lead us out of this. And the reason for that, in my opinion, is -- is that we have been practicing safe food handling for years. The safety of our guests has always been paramount. So, what we have done is we've taken a workforce that is trained to do that and added more sanitation practices to it, more touchpoints, more social distancing, as you have prescribed and the CDC has prescribed.

And we have a -- basically turned our restaurants into the ability, pretty much at half capacity, to seat guests in our restaurant. And it -- it's given us an opportunity to get the wheels of the economy, our economy, our engine turning a little bit, because the next thing we want to make sure is we protect the jobs for the people that work for us and the people in our industry.

So we're very appreciative. I did want to say that, ever since my daughter was young, she -- every time she saw the "WH" on the TV screen, she thought that that stood for "Waffle House." So I don't know if you have the trademark for the "White House" or we do, but we could probably work something out. But I wore my "WH" tie for you today. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: This one was here first. I know

that. (Laughter.) That's great.

MR. EHMER: Well, we might have to talk then.

So -- but thank you for including us. And on behalf of all the restaurant operators out there in the country, we appreciate this opportunity to begin the journey to move forward.

THE PRESIDENT: And thank you very much, Walt. We appreciate it.

Chris Reynolds? Chris, of Toyota.

MR. REYNOLDS: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you, first, for inviting us. Thank you, Mr. Vice President, in giving us an opportunity to share how Toyota is working within the American automotive industry to return to work safely, to reopen America safely.

We announced on March 18 that we were suspending production due to the awful scourge of the coronavirus. On March 19, we started to plan to reopen. We started right away. And just to give you some quick background on Toyota: We've been here in the U.S. for over 60 years; 1,500 dealers; 1.2 million doll- -- 1.2 million units of cars and trucks manufactured last year; 475,000 people employed, including a great number in the state of Indiana from where our Vice President is from.

Going to the next slide, we -- with that as background -- really are trying to apply three fundamental principles to how we're going to return to work. Principle number one is: We need to stay connected with our team members. So, every week, we conduct phone surveys with all 32,000 of our factory workers, asking them how are they feeling, what's their health, what's their family's wellbeing, what's their confidence level in returning to work.

And we also preview with them all of the new safety protocols and processes that we're going to put in place. We share pictures of the reconfigured factory workplace so they can have confidence that we're doing everything possible, Mr. President, to keep them healthy, safe, and productive.

The second principle that we follow is that we've prepared our plants and facilities for safe and healthy working. So, like many here, we're engaging in marked-off areas that require social distancing, the provision of masks and face shields where appropriate, daily temperature screening, as well as a daily app-based questionnaire that, before you come into work, asks you, "How are you feeling today? Do you have any symptoms?" -- so that we can try and manage and contain the virus.

And we're using best practices not only from your own Centers for Disease Control, Mr. President, but also from around the world to try and increase the safety and health of our team members as they produce.

And then the third principle is we're not date driven, we're data driven. So our current plan is to open on May 11. It'll be a slow, gradual opening of our plants around the country. But we're flexible. Every plant will be different. We'll have staggered shifts. We'll do many other things to comply with the Centers for Disease Control guidelines. And our goal is to prioritize team member and health.

Mr. President, one final point: We all know that our team members live in communities. It's not just the workforce that they're in; they're in communities. So what Toyota has done is it's tried to support the communities in which our team members live, including manufacturing half a million face shields just since the start of this crisis --

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

MR. REYNOLDS: -- to distribute to healthcare centers, nursing homes, first responders around the country, so that our team members can feel that we're also part of the community.

And we've also put together -- just released yesterday -- a community service announcement aimed at those communities of color that have been particularly impacted by the lethal nature of this virus. This announcement includes celebrities encouraging everyone to engage in safe practices promoted by the Centers for Disease Control.

So we think it's a holistic process. We think it's also a process that requires commitment. And thank you for the commitment that your administration has demonstrated. We're going to get through this as a family, Mr. President. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: So, Chris, what's Toyota doing in Japan? Are they open? Are they semi-open? What's happening in Japan?

MR. REYNOLDS: Mr. President, in Japan, the situation varies prefecture by prefecture. It depends on the plant. Some facilities are operating, some are not. And that's really a function of both the situation on the ground in a given prefecture, like our state, or it's a function of demand. So it varies, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Great job. You're going to have a great Olympics next year too, by the way.

MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: A really great Olympics. Thank you very much.

Matt Maddox, please, of Wynn -- Wynn Resorts. Hi, Matt.

MR. MADDOX: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

First, I'd like to echo what you're saying about testing and testing capacity. We have seen a real expansion in testing capacity in Las Vegas, so much so that our university hospital is going from a couple hundred tests a day to 10,000 tests a day. They don't have enough people to test. So I signed a deal with them to allow all Wynn employees to get tests anytime for free, and they're going to set up on-site testing. So that's moving forward.

We also, during this time, decided to pay all 15,000 of our employees, from housekeepers to head of sales.

THE PRESIDENT: Great.

MR. MADDOX: And we did that because I thought that could help accelerate the economy. So, as an example, we took our call center, and we've had our call center team up with the Health District to become contact tracers. We tripled the amount of contact tracing ability, on us, for our state to get that moving.

THE PRESIDENT: Great.

MR. MADDOX: And we published a 23-page plan for the whole world to see, 10 days ago, that lays out exactly what we think a Strip opening would look like. We have thermal cameras at our entrances. We have company-supplied PPE. We have just about every UV technology that you can think of for disinfectant. So we're ready. And I'm encouraging our state that we need to begin a phased approach and get back to business.

THE PRESIDENT: So, Matt, when do you think the Las Vegas Strip will be open? Do you have any idea?

MR. MADDOX: So, the plan that I put forward to the state is: This week, let's start phase one -- golf course, tennis courts, small restaurants, small retails, nail salons, et cetera -- with social distancing in place. Judge the benchmarks that we've prepared. We prepared three benchmarks based on disease growth, ICU capacity, and testing positivity rate. We're going to have them out there public every day. If we're inside those benchmarks in three weeks, then on Memorial Day, I would hope that we're open.

THE PRESIDENT: And you have a lot of excess testing capacity. That's great.

MR. MADDOX: We do.

THE PRESIDENT: Others have said that too.

MR. MADDOX: We do.

THE PRESIDENT: Ron DeSantis said it yesterday.

MR. MADDOX: So all 12,000 of our employees in Las Vegas can now go get a test.

THE PRESIDENT: That's fantastic. Thank you very much. Great job.

MR. MADDOX: Sure.

THE PRESIDENT: Say hello to all of my friends.

MR. MADDOX: I will. I will, of course.

THE PRESIDENT: Josh Bolten, please. Josh? Business Roundtable.

MR. BOLTEN: Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: And does a great job at the Business Roundtable. Thank you, Josh.

MR. BOLTEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thanks for this opportunity. I'm Josh Bolten. I'm CEO of the Business Roundtable, an organization of nearly 200 of America's leading CEOs who collectively employ over 15 million people. Every sector of the economy is represented in our organization, so we have an opportunity to get a view of the big picture.

And, Mr. President, we don't need to tell you that right now the big picture is very challenging. We -- we're facing the largest economic crisis in -- certainly in our -- in our lifetimes, and all of our members are keenly aware of that.

We think now is the moment that it's critical that the country start getting back to business as rapidly as possible, not just for the health of the economy, but for the health and wellbeing of all of our citizens in our country. Successful reopening will depend, as the other panelists have said, on a lot of different elements. And if I may, I'd like to highlight three.

Top of the list is: safety first. Business Roundtable companies are all uniformly committed above all to protecting the lives and the wellbeing of their employees and their customers. And that means following sound public health guidance like the one -- like the guidance that has issued here from the very capable people on your team.

At Business Roundtable, all of our members either already have in place or are formulating careful plans for responsibly transitioning back to work, like the plans we've -- we've heard about just now this afternoon. They're devising new measures around personal protective equipment, cleaning procedures, virus screening, ongoing social distancing in the workplace -- all of

the things that you know about, and they all seem to be excellent plans.

Which takes me to my second point, which is: consistent guidelines. No matter how good every company's transition plan is, and we've heard a lot of good ones here this afternoon, public confidence will be undermined, and the speed of the reopening will be dramatically slowed, if we're all doing different things. And that's why the Business Roundtable has called for clear, science-based guidance from the federal and state governments on appropriate safety measures in multiple workplace and commercial settings at different stages in the progression of the disease.

The White House guidelines, Mr. President, that you highlighted in your first slide -- the ones that came out two weeks ago -- are an excellent start in identifying a common set of phases for dealing with reopening. And a number of states are off to a really good start in identifying recommended safety measures in each various different settings.

Now we think, since we are now on the cusp of many places being ready to reopen more fully, we think more specific guidance is needed.

And so, on Friday, we sent to the Vice President and to all the governors a set of recommendations on the kinds of consistent guidance our businesses feel is necessary for the safest and fastest reopening. And we're grateful for the chance to engage with the Vice President's team and all of your task force on those issues.

And I should say, Mr. Vice President, that everybody in your administration, despite the heavy burdens on them, has been very receptive to taking advice from the business community, and we're very grateful for that.

Final point: ample testing and monitoring. The only thing worse than an unnecessarily slow recovery is a reversed recovery. So to avoid serious setbacks, as our businesses reopen, we need to stay vigilant, identifying rapidly, and -- identifying rapidly and isolating new COVID cases, and carefully tracking the spread of the disease, as I know your team is working very hard on.

The robust testing and other forms of monitoring are the keys to the vigilance. And they'll also teach us what's working and what's not working and allow us to make adjustments.

It'll take a while for our economy to return to normal, but the traditional American virtues of vigilance, adaptation, and innovation, we are confident, will see us through and get to -- get us to the other side of this crisis as safely and rapidly as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President, for this opportunity.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Josh. That was great.

The numbers -- when you look at the stock market today, the enthusiasm is great. It's up very substantially, as you know. And I think people are seeing a very big year coming up next year, and I think they're seeing a very big fourth quarter.

Larry, would you like to say -- Larry Kudlow -- a few words, please?

MR. KUDLOW: Just a few words. Thanks to everybody, Mr. President and Mr. Vice President, and all the business folks, and my friend, Steve Mnuchin.

This is a tough one. I've been around a while. This is a tough one. And the contraction is going to go on for a bit, but I like

what I hear around the table. And I agree with the President. We will see a growing, recovering economy by summertime and the back end of the year, and it's going to extend into 2021. That's what I think is going to happen. And I think the stock market is signaling some of that.

I wanted to buck it over to my dear friend and colleague, Kevin Hassett. He gave it to me over in the Oval yesterday. I want to send it over to him today. But I appreciate it, Mr. President. Thank you, sir.

MR. HASSETT: Thank you, Larry. And, Mr. President and Mr. Vice President, I think that when I first came back, back in early March, that it was clear that you had a first objective, with respect to the economy, of building a bridge to the next shore -- the other shore when we could restart the economy.

And it was really massive fiscal action that made it so that a day like today could be possible -- whereas, you look around, there all these businesses that have the wherewithal to start up. And it's because they've stayed connected to their employees. The checks that we've mailed to citizens means that there's going to be a demand for their products. And so that the big negative numbers that we're going to be seeing over the next few months don't necessarily mean what they would've meant absent all those policies.

So I think that we all have a great deal of optimism about how quickly the economy can come back. And it's precisely because of what we see in the room today that people are -- have come up with plans, based on the guidance that your task force, Mr. Vice President, have given that make it so that they can operate safely, and they're gradually across the country opening up and getting back to work. And they're able to do so because of the lifeline that you, Mr. President, threw them with all the first three phases of fiscal policy.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: And it's great to have you back too. Very talented guy. At least he made a lot of good predictions. Your predictions all turned out. Between you and Larry, that's a -- it's a tremendous team. Thank you both very much.

Gene, Secretary of a very important thing called Labor. What's more important than labor?

SECRETARY SCALIA: Well, it is so important. And, Mr. President, I was pleased to be able to tell you earlier today that, as of yesterday, all 50 states in the District of Columbia are now offering the additional \$600 in unemployment insurance that was part of the CARES Act that you signed last month. This was an additional benefit on top of what the states were already making available in unemployment and one important part of your program to support workers during this difficult time.

As you know, the states have had some challenges with their computer systems. We've been working with them. This is not declaring victory in all aspects of delivering those unemployment benefits, but it is a milestone I wanted to note.

I have been very pleased to hear the discussion among this group about all the steps that companies are taking to keep their workers safe. I think we all appreciate that confidence in the part of workers that they will be safe in the workplace is going to be an important part of the reopening, as well as confidence in the part of business about what needs to be done, and that when those steps are taken, they will have satisfied their obligations.

We at the Labor Department have been working carefully, in conjunction with the CDC, to provide guidance for a variety of

different workplaces so that employers and companies know what needs to be done and employees know as well. And we'll continue to do that.

We're also receiving complaints from workers who worry about safe work conditions or that they might have experienced some adverse action for raising safety concerns, and we'll look into those. And we'll -- we have the tools that we need, from an enforcement perspective, if workers' rights aren't respected. But I'm so heartened to hear the steps that businesses want to take and are taking to support their workers.

Just a last observation, Mr. President: As you and the Vice President said, just weeks ago we were enjoying such an extraordinary economy. And there were reasons for that. There were policies that you put in place -- lower taxes, deregulation -- that were vital to what we enjoyed before. Right now, we're in a period of very important government intervention, and we need that.

But as we look forward at the department, I think it will be important to remember as well the limits of government and that the single best thing for workers is a vibrant economy, and that often comes from allowing free markets and free people to go about their business. We'll keep that in mind too.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Any questions for our panelists, please?

Yeah. Please.

Q This could be a question for any of the business leaders. But there are polls that show that Americans say -- the vast majority of Americans say that once they're allowed to go back to restaurants, hotels, places like that, that they won't

because they don't feel safe. So do you -- are you worried that until there is a vaccine, people really won't come back to some of these businesses?

MR. NASSETTA: I mean, of course we worry about it. And we see some of the same polling, and we're talking to our customers by the tens of millions, hundreds of millions.

Last year, we served 180 million people, so we have a pretty -- pretty big and extensive customer base. What -- what we're hearing from our customers is that they're desperate to get back out and move around and see their country again and see their friends again. They obviously want to do it in a safe and healthy way.

And so I think they're looking -- our customers are saying they're looking for the government, both state and federal government, to focus on testing so that they understand, you know, what real mortality rates are as work has been done with the Stanford test and the -- you know, the data in Norway and other data points that are coming out.

As the administration and states do more and more testing, I think our customers -- what I'm hearing from our customers is they're starting to understand while every life is precious, that the reality of the ultimate mortality rates here is probably much, much lower than had been estimated. And if they are old and infirm, that they have great risk and those people should be protected, but if they're not, they probably are at a very low risk.

They're then looking for -- which is why we launched, this week, CleanStay and why we're working with our industry. They want to know that people are being responsible. Right? They want to know that we are doing the testing, the social distancing; that we are using protocols and PPE in protecting our employees so

that they can protect customers; that we're being very thoughtful and sensible that, when they do come and stay with us or they enter into a restaurant where we've always had good hygiene, as you heard earlier -- we are -- you know, our people are trained to have good ideas, but we up our game so that when they're with us, they feel safe.

So I think it's a combination of those things that are happening of broadly understanding the real risk that they have and then mitigating that risk even further by the specific actions that we all take in our places of work with our team members and thus, ultimately, with our customers.

THE PRESIDENT: And I haven't seen that, because I will tell you, to me, I think there's a tremendous pent-up demand for people. I see it in Texas where they have lines going into stores. And a couple of restaurants, I guess, opened, and they're -- they literally have -- they have long lines. I think there's a tremendous pent-up demand.

I've been at the White House now for many months, and I'd like to get out, as much as I love this. This is the most beautiful house in the world, in my opinion.

But I think there's just a great demand to get out and, you know, get our country going again, and that includes going to restaurants and hotels. And I think you're going to find, Chris, that you're going to have -- do a lot of business that you're not even thinking about. I'm seeing it; I feel it. And I've felt a lot of things over the years, including, "Gee, I think I can win for President," you know?

And, frankly, I really feel that next year is going to be a very good year, economically. We're going to be back in business. So we'll have to see. I mean, only time will tell, but there's a lot of good feelings. And a lot of good decisions have been made

by a lot of very talented people. So I'm feeling very much that it's going to be very successful.

Q Just one question for you, Mr. President: Do you want the FDA to issue a emergency use authorization for remdesivir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's a big -- it's a big thing what happened just recently, where they came up with something that has a very substantial percentage. You know, it's a building block. Tony said it today; I thought it was very well expressed. He said that's a building block. That means it's a very substantial chunk of a step. And that's a building block to the ultimate step. That's a big building block, when you hear, I guess, 31 percent. So, it was very good.

Yeah, I want them to go as quickly as they can. Stephen Hahn -- Dr. Hahn has been incredible at the FDA. He's getting things done in record time. There's never been anything like it. And, yeah, we want it -- we want everything to be safe. But we do -- we would like to see very quick approvals, especially with things that work.

Thank you.

Q Mr. President, Mr. Bolten and others suggested that they'd like to see federal guidelines for some of these companies -- explicit federal guidelines for some of these companies and factories opening back up. So far, you've given a lot of discretion to companies and states, but is that somewhere where you'd be willing to step in and do more?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we will step in if we see something wrong. We have given discretion to the governors. I've become very well acquainted with the governors. You have some very talented governors, frankly, and probably some that are a little bit less talented. That's okay. But it's a very talented group

of people.

And they're working with us. We're helping them. Whether it's ventilators or swabs that they can't get, we're there. And we've taken in billions and billions of dollars' worth of equipment and distributed it to the states. And, you know, you -- you've heard the calls and we have no problems. We're doing really well, and we're backing them up.

But we want the governors to call those shots. If we see something that we don't like or that's bad or that's unsafe, we'll stop it immediately. Okay?

Q What might the new normal look like in two, three years from now? Say restaurant workers, hotel workers -- might they be required to wear masks? That sort of thing. What would the new normal look like?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't see that. No, I don't see that. I see the new normal being what it was three months ago. I think we want to go back to where it was. I mean, when I look at a baseball game, I want to see people right next to each other. I don't want to see four seats in between every person so that the stadium becomes 25 percent of its original size. No. I want to see the NFL with a packed house. I don't want to see NFL with three seats in between people.

No, I want to -- I want to go back to where it was. That's where we're going to be.

Look, this thing will pass. And when it passes, that'll be a great achievement. And we -- we've done a very good job. It's far too many people, needlessly, because it could have been stopped at the point of origin. And somehow we weren't helped by -- whether it's World Health Organization or China, whoever, we weren't -- they didn't do what should have been done. Very sad,

actually, for the whole world. It's a very sad thing. This is a very, very sad event. It's a war against the invisible enemy. And we're now on the other side, and we're -- I think what I want to see is I want to see where it was.

And I think we have a chance of an incredible year next year. Now, not if somebody is going to come in like our opponents and raise taxes all over the place. They want to raise taxes. That's -- that will kill something very fast. We have something that's very special. We built the greatest economy in the world, and I want to get that back as soon as possible. I think we can start getting it back very, very quickly.

Look at the stock market today, when it has that kind of -- Kevin and Larry -- when it has that kind of -- Josh -- when it has that kind of a bounce today, as much as it went up. But I think it set some kind -- almost a record over the last week, right? It's almost a record. And this is in the midst of something.

Now, we're not in the midst. They feel we're on the other side of it, or you wouldn't be seeing numbers like this. But -- so we're at 24,000. Maybe even a little above 24,000. And we were at 29,000. We never broke 30 on the Dow. So that's tremendous.

But what it really does -- you have a lot of very smart people. That means that they are looking to the future, number one. And I look at it as jobs. I also look at it as sort of guidance; it's a guidance, in a sense. It's -- the stock market. Who would think you could have a stock market at 24,000 after we've gone through the worst pandemic since 1917? That's over 100 years.

You know, this is the worst since 1917. So I think that's a great indicator. There are a lot of very smart people that understand that world very well and they have a lot of confidence in it, and that's some of the companies that were here -- public

companies.

But it means jobs. It also means not only guidance; it means some really -- some people -- and I know some great investors -- people really have a lot of confidence in what's going forward. And that's what I see, and that's where I want it to be. Okay?

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, ma'am.

Q -- are you open to making a deal with the Postal Service that would allow it to borrow from Treasury without raising its shipping rates, its package rates?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you have to raise the rates on packages because they're losing a fortune on packages. They're losing anywhere from two dollars to three or four dollars a package every time they deliver. So, it's not fair. And it's not fair to the people that work at the Postal Service.

You have some of these companies -- the Internet retail. You look at that, and they drop millions of packages on the post office. The post office delivers a package, and every time they deliver a package, they lose from two to five dollars a package. And what kind of a business is that?

And you could never replicate the post office. The post office is massive. But they've got places and little sections of our country that no company could ever go to. That took hundreds of years to build the post office. And when you look at the size of it and you compare it to companies, it's much bigger than companies. I mean, much, much bigger. There's no company that's the size of that.

No, we want to stabilize the post office, and the way you do that is these companies are going to have to pay more, not the people. We're not looking for the people to pay. But the companies are going to have to pay a percentage of that -- that loss. You can't do that. The government shouldn't have to do it. I think the post office could -- wouldn't it be great if it could, after so many decades, break even?

But we're making a lot of people rich and a lot of companies rich by subsidizing these companies. On top of that, they don't pay the same taxes as a retail store. It's very unfair to the retailers. You look at these stores; the retail stores are being just clobbered. And there are so many disadvantages.

But, no, when we deliver a package at the post office, every package it delivers, they lose a lot of money. And that's not fair. Those companies should pay for it.

Steve?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: The President, over a year ago, asked us to chair a Postal Task Force to look at restructuring. A year ago, we didn't have any Board of Governors. We now have a Board of Governors that's overseeing it. They're conducting a search. We look forward to hearing the results of the new postmaster. And we think this is a business, and the people at the post office will have a terrific opportunity.

THE PRESIDENT: And we're protecting our post office, by the way, and we always will. But we want our post office to be successful. We don't want it to be a laughingstock and a stupidly run organization, the way it's been for so many decades now. It's ridiculous. And then we make other people rich. We make other people rich because we're willing to deliver packages at a fraction of the cost, so other people gain by it.

And, by the way, and you're hurting a lot of other people because you're hurting retailers. You look at stores where the stores are -- they have to pay rent and taxes and all sorts of things that these companies don't have to pay. So, it's not a fair situation.

We want to take care of our taxpayers and we want to take care of -- very, very importantly -- the people that work at the post office.

Yes, please.

Q Mr. President, if there is another round of aid for the states and communities, are you going to try to restrict that aid from going to sanctuary cities and states?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think you should have sanctuary cities if they get that kind of aid. You know, if you're going to get aid to the cities and states for the kind of numbers you're talking about -- billions of dollars -- I don't think you should have sanctuary cities.

And, by the way, the people that have sanctuary cities, they don't like it. I think politicians like it a lot more. I -- I go to California. I go to lots of different places. And I have people with a very liberal bent saying they don't like sanctuary cities. They don't want criminals to be in sanctuary. They want -- they want -- they want security. They want safety.

Q But are you going to --

THE PRESIDENT: And, you know, they want borders too. They don't want people pouring across into our country. And, you know, I was there a long time ago. The wall is -- is up to 175 miles built down. And it's -- the numbers are incredibly good because all of that 175 miles, nobody comes through. Nobody even comes

close to coming through. Unless you have a climber of Mount Everest, but even they don't. It's not even easy for them, Josh. So it's -- it's been good.

But we let -- very important for you -- we want our farmers to be able to get their help. And we work it so it's actually easier for them to get in. You know, they've been taking some people that they've had for years and years. They'd come with the crops and everything else and -- that really have been great for the farmers. And we want that to continue and actually continue at an easier pace. We're working it so it comes in -- so that kind of help can come in even easier, which I think you have to tell your people.

Q Could I just follow up and ask --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, please.

Q Explicitly, will you seek to prevent the next round of aid from going to sanctuary states and cities?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, number one, we shouldn't have to pay anything anyway because all they do is make it very hard for law enforcement. So that's number one.

But I think, in the bigger picture, I don't see helping cities and states if they're going to be sanctuary. Because all sanctuary means to me is it's protecting a lot of criminals and -- and others -- many people. But they are -- there are criminals. And, you know, you write about it all the time. I see stories every day where somebody is being totally protected. ICE can't get to them. Law enforcement can't get to them. You look at law enforcement; law enforcement hates sanctuary cities.

We want a safe country. We don't want people that are criminals

-- and criminals from other countries, in many cases -- protected and you can't get to them. And then we're supposed to make massive payments to those states to bail out what they've done wrong over a 25-year period.

So, we'll see. That'll be a subject that will be discussed, certainly. Sanctuary cities. I think maybe it was brought up yesterday, and I made the statement and people were surprised to hear it, but they shouldn't be surprised.

Okay? Thank you.

Q Mr. President, when would you like the country to fully be reopened to the way it was before, as you mentioned?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we talked about it. And, very strongly, Josh mentioned safety. Have to have safety. But at the same time, people want this country open. The people here want it open. And there is a danger to too much being confined to a house or an apartment or wherever you live. You can't -- and this -- we got to start moving along. And with all of the testing we're doing, with all of the things we're doing, you can do this now.

And governors are actually -- a lot of pressure is being put on governors right now by the people in their states. They want to get it open. And that's what you want. That's what we all want. And with all of the procedures and safety --

We've learned a lot about this hidden enemy. We've learned a lot. And there'll be pockets of fire, and we'll put them out. We'll put them out very, very quickly. But, you know, during this period of time, I think we've really learned a tremendous amount about how to handle it. Nothing easy, but we want safety.

So we want safety and we want economic -- where people can go and make a great living and go back to living the way -- I mean, you had people -- we had wonderful people in yesterday, where their business was going to be lost, other than what we did, Steve, with the great programs that we set up. Their businesses were gone.

One man, he was a chef with five children, and his mother lived with him and his wife. And he got -- he lost his job for the first time in his life. Some of you were there. And -- and you had others that were equally. So it was pretty -- pretty amazing. I thought it was a pretty amazing display of what we've done to help a lot of people. And you have millions of people like that. Millions that have been helped, where they wouldn't have a job right now and where the business -- the small business -- would have closed.

Now these are big businesses, but the small businesses would have closed. And I think it's great when -- when Wynn, which is a terrific group of people -- but when Matt says that, you know, we're supporting all of the people. I know what that is. That's a big -- you have all of your -- practically a full staff and you have no income. That's a big thing. That's a great thing. And I hope you're rewarded for that.

MR. MADDOX: Thank you. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: No, it's a tremendous thing.

Q Is there a target date?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, yeah. His target date is as soon as possible. Some states are already open. I mean, they're opening up rapidly. We have a number of them opening up on Monday. We have a number of them opening up sooner than that, as you know, and -- or at least partially opening. Some of them even very --

even with a very strong bent toward opening, they're opening up where they'll open a certain amount here -- restaurants at 25 percent, then going to 50 percent. Then, ultimately, we want to be back to where the -- where we're 100 percent.

We don't want -- we -- I had one restaurant owner come up to me and say, "Sir, you know, I'm going to be opening up, but if I distance too much, I have 50 percent of the restaurant I had." And I said, "And you'll also have a worse atmosphere." We want to be back where we can have -- we want it to be the way it was, because the way it was is the right way. We can't have somebody with a half a restaurant. You understand. He got 175 seats; now he's got half. That's not going to pay the rent or whatever.

Same thing with an owner. I was on the phone with the commissioners and some of the owners of sports -- of big-time sports. And he was talking almost like he was going to have two or three seats in between everybody that was there. And I said, "You know, you're not going to have to do that for that long. You know it's -- you're going to be back." And he said, "Really? I -- oh, really?" He was like --

I don't want people to get used to this because this virus is going to be gone. And when it's gone, you want to get back to normal. You're not going to have a stadium that's 30 percent the size of what it was three months ago. If I watch Alabama play LSU, I don't want to see 20,000 people instead of 120,000 people. We want it to be the way it was.

Now, we going to wait until it's gone. And it will be gone. And we've done a lot to get rid of it. But we -- we want to open our country. The people want this country open.

Q So this 100 percent scenario that you're laying out, if it's going back to the way it was --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- is that before a vaccine or after the vaccine?

THE PRESIDENT: So, a lot of progress is being made on a vaccine. But you never know, right? You never know. You know, with SARS, they didn't come up with a vaccine. And sometimes they don't, and sometimes they do. I will say this: I don't think there was the same effort because a lot of people don't know what SARS is and some people do. But -- but they do come up with vaccines.

I mean, you look at what's happened, as an example, with Ebola, with AIDS, with others that have been so incredibly successfully -- if not eradicated, certainly it's been incredible what some of -- you know, with -- with what these people that I'm dealing with right now -- like Gilead today -- with, you know, what they came up with, as an example. That's far ahead of schedule.

So we're looking for vaccines. We're looking for therapeutics also. I mean, I think therapeutics, right now -- I'd rather -- if you gave me both, I'd rather have the therap- -- because that, you know, makes people better right now. Whether it's helping them along or makes them better almost instantly, we have to see. But there's tremendous work on therapeutics going on, and I think we're having some good results. One of them was -- was Gilead today.

Q So 100 percent -- the full restaurants, the stadiums -- theoretically, could come before the vaccine?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think -- yeah. I -- no, I think we're -- no, I'm not relying on that. I hope that's going to happen. Johnson & Johnson, Oxford -- you know, you hear a lot of very good stories. I'm hearing them really firsthand. Good

stories. Very promising. But they have to test it. You know, maybe it's not safe. Maybe it eradicates it, but it's not safe. And, you know, they have to do testing with vaccines. Whereas the therapeutics, it's -- it goes a lot quicker, in terms of the process.

No, if you don't have a vaccine, if the virus is gone, we're like we were before. But having a vaccine would be a great thing. And I think we're going to get there in this case, just based on what I know, but we'll see what happens.

Look, the Gilead research has been -- I mean, that's gone so fast. That's gone at a level of speed that nobody has ever seen before. And that's a stepping stone. So, I think they're doing very well.

But, no, I want to get -- I want to get back with or without. But I want -- you know, obviously, we have to wait until it's gone. It will be gone. And we want to be back to where we were.

Yes.

Q Without a vaccine, sir, why do you think the virus will just be gone?

THE PRESIDENT: It's going to go. It's going to leave. It's going to be gone. It's going to be eradicated. And it might take longer. It might be in smaller sections. It'll be -- it won't be what we had. And we also learned a lot.

Again, if you have a flare up in a certain area, if you have a -- I call them "burning embers" -- boom, we put it out. We know how to put it out now. But we put it out. And now we're equipped. Now we have more ventilators than anyone thought was possible. I mean, we're doing a tremendous service for the world

right now. We're giving ventilators.

You know, we have -- we're making hundreds of thousands of ventilators in, I believe, nine different plants that made other products. In some cases, cars. In some places, other things. These companies -- General Motors; and -- and Ford, in another way; and GE; so many companies; Honeywell -- they've stepped up. 3M has been terrific. They've stepped up like nobody has ever seen before, and the job they're doing is great.

And I'll tell you, I think the job that they're doing on vaccines and on therapeutics has been great too. We'll see. I mean, we'll let you know about that in a little while.

Please. Anybody else?

Q Yeah, Mr. President. Oil is up today, partially on reports that the Treasury Secretary and others may have --

THE PRESIDENT: What is it up to?

Q It depends which, but it's about \$25. (Laughter.) But on the suggestion that the Treasury Secretary and others may have presented you with a plan for government assistance to the oil companies?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're not going to let our oil companies go and get in trouble. It's not their fault that they got hit by 50 percent less volume in one day. You know, one -- one instant, all of a sudden, these very great companies that are employing all these people.

So I'm talking to Steve and, you know, we're -- we just saved the airlines. The airlines were having the best year they've ever had. And then all of a sudden, they're like out of business? We can't let that happen. So we saved the airlines. That's

done. We're saving other companies and industries.

And I would say -- Steve, maybe you can talk to it -- but I think the oil industry is one of the top on the list.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: So, we're looking at a lot of different strategies. We have a dedicated team, combined of people at Treasury and people the Department of Energy. As I've said before, this is not going to be a bailout of shareholders, but this is going to be supporting the national security issue.

I would just comment: The Secretary of Energy has done an extraordinary job of taking in oil in the Strategic Reserve and being paid for the storage capacity in oil. We're also exploring potentially having the ability to store another several hundred million barrels.

So we're looking at lots of different options. We're in touch with lots of people around the world. And the President is determined that we protect the national security interest and the jobs.

Q Do you expect an announcement this week about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we had a very interesting thing, because we had a lot of capacity -- meaning you can fill it up in the National Strategic Reserves. And, you know, it wasn't full. And we made a great deal.

If you would have told us that we could have had that filled up or it's on the way to being filled up at the kind of pricing that we're talking about, I would have said you have to be kidding. We're talking about 19 -- I'm not sure Chris is going to be happy about this, because it doesn't pertain to the hotel business -- don't get scared. But, you know, we're talking about like 1952 pricing. It's -- it's unbelievable. It's -- prices

that are so low.

And, in some cases, we're storing oil and getting paid for storage because we have a tremendous capacity for it. So, what's happened with the Strategic Reserves is incredible.

Q And the additional aid might be announced this week? Or do you have the timeline for that?

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

Q Additional aid might be announced this week or do you have the timeline for it?

THE PRESIDENT: On -- on that?

Q For oil -- for oil companies.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's -- you mean a plan to help them out?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I would say shortly. I mean, right now, we're dealing with some of the big ones, but we're -- the big ones are very strong. They've been very strong over the years. I think that they're not going to have the problem.

But we have a lot of great people and a lot of great jobs in Texas and Oklahoma and North Dakota and other states that are great. It's energy. It's not -- I don't even call it oil; I call it energy. This is -- this is the backbone of -- of the world, really.

You know, you can talk all of the green -- I'm all for green. But the green can't power these massive factories that are being built in this country. It just can't. The windmills

aren't going to be able to do it, and solar is not going to be able to do it. And I love solar, but it's not going to be able to do it.

And, you know, we're getting it for the right price, but we're not going to let our -- we're energy independent. We're not going to let our energy industry down. We're not going to let them -- and it's not our fault. It's not their fault. But we're not going to let anything happen to them. So we're working on that very hard.

I think protecting energy and energy independence -- to me, that's a very big part of what happened. You know, we -- energy has really helped me turn this country into the economic power that it's been, and we're not going to let that go.

And, sure, it's going to have a couple of bad years. We have a tremendous oversupply. The reason we have the oversupply though -- number one, it was a very efficient business. And -- but the reason we have it is because the demand got cut in half one day by this -- by this plague. One day, all of a sudden -- take a look at the roads, it goes from packed highways, everybody traveling, going all over, to no cars on the road. I mean, that was 25, 30 percent right there. But then there's other things -- factories that aren't working right now because of this.

We did a great thing last night, using the powers that we have to make sure that the processes and -- and all of the delivery of our food chain, that it was protected and safe. And those people -- we were on the phone with, all of them, this morning -- pretty much all of them, as you probably know. They were cheering -- literally cheering over the phone.

We did some good moves. Not moves -- not money moves, so much as -- as commonsense moves. Because they were being -- you know, they were being hurt by stupidity. And we have them really back

online.

So I think that we put out -- that's called "burning embers," too. We put out a fire. So there'll be plenty of meat and pork and everything that you want. Yeah.

Q And -- and, Mr. President, you said you were anxious to get out the White House. Might we see some travel in the next week or so?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. I think I'm going to Arizona next week. And we look forward to that. And I'm going to, I hope, Ohio very soon. And we're going to start to move around. And hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, we'll have some massive rallies and people will be sitting next to each other. I can't imagine a rally where you have every fourth seat full. Every -- every six seats are empty for every one that you have full. That wouldn't look too good.

No, I -- look, I hope that we're going to be able to do some good, old-fashioned, 25,000-person rallies, where everyone is going wild because they love our country. Okay?

Q When you do expect that to happen?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm going to Arizona and that's a little bit different. That's having to do with industry, because it's too soon for -- you know, for the big -- for the big -- everybody get together and stand next to each other crowds. But that'll be next week. I don't know, it -- it'll depend.

It also depends on states. You know, you have different states. Some states are really in great shape now, and some states will be in great shape.

But a lot of progress has been made. A lot of progress has been

made. It's pretty incredible. Even -- if you look in New York, I spoke with Governor Cuomo at length today and, you know, they were on that other side of the curve. A lot less. It's been hit very hard. You know, it's -- it's New York and you probably would expect that, but they're on the other side of that curve. The -- the bed usage and the people coming to hospitals is way down -- much lower than it was.

So a lot of very positive signs are happening. Okay?

Q So you expect to be able to hold rallies before the election? Do you think that --

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. I hope so. Look, we have a tremendous pent-up demand. They love what we're doing. They don't want to have taxes raised. They don't want to have stupid things happening. They like the trade deals. We've made great trade deals -- I mean, the greatest trade deals ever made in this country. And that's what they want.

And we have a lot of them that were lined up and ready to be done. Right, Kevin? We have deals that were lined up with countries ready to be done that were so good for our country, so good for our workers. And then this scourge came along and -- you know, that's the last thing people are thinking about right now. It's -- you know, we put them on hold for a little while.

But -- but, no, I hope to have -- I hope to see football games and baseball games and basketball. Now, ba- -- for basketball, you're going to have to have a little bit of time. I don't know what they're going to do. Maybe they'll be able to play sort of toward the finals or the playoffs or whatever they're doing.

I saw baseball is doing something very unusual. I don't know -- I don't know if I agree with it. I'd like to see the Yankees play at Yankee Stadium. I see they have some ideas for baseball

that are very different. I guess I'm a traditionalist. But I think they'd be able to play at Yankee Stadium with obviously smaller crowds, and then the crowds would start to build as things get to be a little bit better.

But, no, I -- I think you're going to see some -- some big things happening. And, again, this is going away. This is going away. You know, I think we're going to come up with vaccines and all, but this is going away. And when it's gone, we're going to be doing a lot of things.

And again, you have to look. Other areas -- there are areas -- you know, we all look at New York and we see New York and New Jersey and some of these very high-density places where they're doing a very good job. It's just -- you know, it's not easy. But you have areas that are really at a very low point and -- and really heading -- I would say, heading south quickly, and that's what we want. So we'll see how it all works out. I think it's working very good.

How about one more. Anybody else?

Q Just on that point of this going away: Not to belabor the point, but isn't it going away because people are staying in their homes and people are not traveling, and once they come back out --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, maybe. Maybe.

Q -- there's no evidence that it would go away.

THE PRESIDENT: And maybe that's it. And I -- I cannot tell you how dedicated the people of this country have been, in terms of that. Yeah. You know one thing: If you stay in your home, you're not catching it. If you stay in your place and you don't go out -- you know, which is what people were doing. But they

want to go out now. They want to get back. And they want to do what they have to do.

And some of the facts are coming out, and we did all the right moves. I'll tell you, we did -- we wouldn't do -- we were talking to Mike before. If we didn't do what we did, you would've had a million people die, maybe more. Maybe 2 million people die. And if you think that we'd be at 65 or 70 or 60 or whatever the final number will be -- one is too many. I always say it: One is far too many. This should've never been allowed to happen. It should've been stopped a long time ago, before it ever got here or to other countries.

But if you really think about it, you could've had -- I take a look at Elmhurst Hospital. I take a look at some of these places that I know, growing up in Queens, and I know them. Elmhurst Hospital. I know these places very well, like the back of my hand. And you see body bags lying all over the hallways and outside and going into refrigerated trucks. Multiply that number by 10 or 20 if we didn't do what we did. It wouldn't be acceptable. It wouldn't be sustainable. Nobody would've accepted that. It would've been a terrible thing.

We -- we've just -- we've done it right. I -- I can't -- I can't believe how incredible the American people have been, because they went out and they really did this, Chris. You know, when you think they went out and -- and they did what they had to do.

You know, there're -- every once in a while, a country like Sweden will be thrown out or Brazil. Now, Brazil is having a hard time because they -- you know, they're have a hard time. But Sweden -- the people in Sweden, they're not running around and shaking hands and hugging and kissing each other. You know, they're -- the bars are closed and the -- the people are staying in the house.

The Prime Minister doesn't have to -- doesn't have to say in Sweden, "Stay in your house." The people stay there automatically. And, you know, they're using that as an example, but they've been hit hard. They've been hit hard. But again, their prac- -- you call it automatic. I mean, it's automatic distancing. It's automatic protection. But places were closed, the bars were closed. You can't stand at the bars. You can't do certain things.

You know -- now, what we did was -- what we did is a great tribute to this country. But if we lost -- so if we lose 65,000 people -- it's so crazy to say it. It's just so horrible. But if we lose 65,000 people, and instead of that going the other route, we would have lost a million or a million and a half or 2 million. It's possible. It's possible that you lost more. But could you imagine? Look how horrible it is to lose 65 and then multiply that times many, many times. That would not be sustainable.

So, I think with all of that, I want to just thank everybody. And I want to thank -- these business folks are -- are just tremendously talented people. People have no idea how talented they are, the job they do.

And we're getting our way back. And we're getting our way back, I think, much faster than people think, and I think it's going to be a much more -- a much more successful launch than anybody would have thought. I really think next year is going to be a tremendous year. And I think the fourth quarter is going to be -- Larry, I think the fourth quarter is going to be fantastic. I can feel it.

MR. KUDLOW: Thank you. I feel great. Thank you, Mr. President. I can feel it very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Yeah. I can feel the demand. It's --

it's going to be really fantastic.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

END 5:30 P.M. EDT

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump in Meeting with Governor DeSantis of Florida



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
IN MEETING WITH GOVERNOR DESANTIS OF FLORIDA

Oval Office

11:35 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much. We're with the Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, who's done a spectacular job in Florida. He enjoys very high popularity, and that's for a reason. The reason is he's doing a good job.

And he came up. We talked about many things, including he's going to be opening up large portions and, ultimately, pretty quickly, because he's got great numbers -- all of Florida. And I thought Ron would maybe -- we're together, we're in the White House. This was a -- sort of, a little bit of an unplanned meeting, and then we said, "Well, let's bring in the press. Let's talk to them if you'd like." And we had some boards made up.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: And Ron has a few things to say. So, Ron DeSantis, please.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Well, thank you, Mr. President. I think what we're going to talk about is, kind of, our plan for nursing homes, our most vulnerable, what we did from the beginning, and then some of the innovations in testing. And that was really, kind of, state conceived and executed, but with great federal support. And it's made a difference.

Our nursing home population -- obviously very vulnerable in the state of Florida -- so we knew by the time this all started, that that was the most vulnerable part in Florida. So we immediately suspended visitation. We had all staff required to be screened for temperature. They had to be asked a series of questions about contacts they may have had. And then we did require the wearing of PPE, such as masks.

But we also wanted to be offensive about it, so we deployed over 120 of these ambulatory assessment teams to long-term care facilities. That was over 3,800 facilities. And we were working on a needs assessment, trying to figure out where they were deficient so we could try to get ahead of this.

And then we also deployed rapid emergency support teams; we call them "RES teams." These are to facilities where you're training people on infectious controls and helping to augment their clinical mission. So that's the Florida Department of Health going out, the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration going out and doing it.

So what happened was: There were times when some of the facilities didn't follow the regulations, they'd let a sick worker go in, and you would see an outbreak. Most of them did a great job. But what we started to see is there were people that would follow all of this, but you could have a staff member that was just simply asymptomatic and then it would spread amongst the staff. And when you're working with nursing care patients, you have to be in contact with them. That's just the reality.

So we said, "All right, how do we get ahead and try to identify outbreaks amongst asymptomatic and try to limit it so it doesn't affect more of the residents?" So we created -- and then you -- your support of allowing the National Guard with the funding --

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Well, we have 50 mobile teams -- we call them "strike teams" -- that they go prospectively into different nursing facilities and they will test. Sometimes they'll test everyone; sometimes they'll test a sample just to see if there's any prevalence of the virus. So they've already done over 6,000 of those tests. And I think that it's been able to limit some outbreaks.

And then, because we're saying you got to wear PPE, because we're making these directives, we had to step up to the plate, and obviously, federal support on some of the materials. But we have put out, just to our nursing facilities, almost 7 million masks to the nursing facilities in Florida; almost a million gloves; half a million face shields; 160,000 gowns. And so that is a huge thing. That helps reduce the transmission.

THE PRESIDENT: Give me that, Ron. Let me have that. I'll hold it.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Yeah. And then the result has been --

THE PRESIDENT: I'll be an easel. (Laughs.)

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: -- you know, if you look at the fatalities per 100,000, for Florida, we've been able to keep the rate low. We still have cases. We're still going to have cases. But this is going to continue to be an issue that we're going to have to be attuned to. We're constantly looking for ways of how we can innovate. But, you know, our fatality per 100,000, fortunately, I think is much lower than most people would have predicted just a couple months ago. So thank you for your support on that.

And then I think the other area that we've really worked well with the White House and the administration on is with testing. This was a big deal when we were first starting. I've showed the President -- most states were able to do the drive-through testing. We had one of the most successful sites with the Florida National Guard down in Broward County, which is one of our initial hotspots. And they're putting through 750 a day for quite a while. The demand is now lower, but they were able to do the traditional drive-through testing.

But we also have done other things. So we wanted to learn more about COVID-19 very early on, and so the state partnered with the University of Florida to do both clinical testing and research testing in The Villages retirement community. We got 125,000 seniors in Central Florida. And so, as you know, they all do their golf carts, so it's not actually car drive-through testing, it's golf cart drive-up testing. But they loved it.

And we did 1,200 asymptomatic seniors in The Villages to try to see the prevalence of the virus amongst people not showing symptoms. The result of that was pretty astounding: Zero tested positive out of 1,200 asymptomatic seniors.

So, partnering with our academic institutions -- I know Dr. Birx talks about using all the resources you have. We're doing that in Florida, and I think that that's been very successful.

One of the things we also noticed, though, is not everyone has access to a drive-through test site. Maybe you don't own a car. Maybe it's just too far away. So we worked with different groups, like the Urban League in Broward County, to go into communities that may be underserved and do this walk-up testing concept. So you actually have people who are in the neighbor- -- they can just walk up, get tested. We have everything set out.

And so we've done though in Southern Florida, Central Florida. We did one at a housing project in Jacksonville. And so we're going to continue with this concept. This is a way, as you go get back to business, you can put

this almost anywhere. You can put it in a business district and then have people have access to this. So we think that that's very important.

And then, of course, our National Guard strike teams at the long-term care facilities have just been very, very important. So the support of the Guard -- the support of all the supplies, whenever we needed them to get down, it's really made a difference.

Going forward, we've already done contracts. Dr. Birx laid out how there's all this lab capacity. So we already have contracts to double our capacity in 24-, 48-hour-type timeframe. And then we're going to turn our state labs into high-throughput labs as well. So that's going to take a month or so, but we're really looking forward to that.

I will say this, though: We have seven drive-through sites around the state of Florida that we operate. Our ability to test exceeds the current demand. And we don't have restrictive criteria. It started off more restrictive. If you have coronavirus symptoms, test. If you're a healthcare worker, first responder, come test. If you have no symptoms at all but just think you may have been exposed, come and test.

And so we have seen more of those latter start to come, but the overall numbers of people who are seeking testing is not currently beyond our capacity. So we're going to have a lot more capacity going forward, but we still, right now, are able to meet the current demand.

THE PRESIDENT: So you actually have more testing than you have demand.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Right now. Yep.

THE PRESIDENT: It's a fantastic thing.

Any questions for Ron?

Q So your safer-at-home order expires on Thursday?

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: So, my -- you know, I did an essential business order, so we kept a lot of things going safely. And I think there's -- I know the people conflate all these around the country, but, you know, I kept construction going. I accelerated road projects in Florida, because we -- the traffic was down. So we're going I-4 in Orlando. We're doing bridges in Tampa. So we had a lot of things going.

So that's through April 30th. I worked with the White House on, kind of, going to phase one. I'm going to make an announcement tomorrow. But I think, for Florida, going from where we are now to phase one is not a very big leap. I think that, you know, it will be able to be a small step for us. But we're going to approach it in a very measured, thoughtful, and data-driven way, and I think that that's -- that's what most of the folks throughout the state are looking for.

Q So you won't be doing what they did in Georgia?

THE PRESIDENT: Ron saw the -- hey, Jon, Ron saw the empty roads. And he was telling me before -- it was fascinating. He saw the empty roads all over Florida from doing this, where they're staying at home. And he said, "This is a great time to build roads. This is a great time to fix bridges." They were fixing bridges down there where normally there'd be a traffic nightmare. And they're fixing bridges and there's hardly any traffic. Very smart.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Yeah. So they -- we've been able to accelerate key projects by as much as two months. And so, when -- as people get back into the swing of things -- and this is going to be a gradual process -- you're going to end up having reduced congestion, probably more than we've ever done in such a short period of time. So I think it was taking advantage of an opportunity.

Q So do more tests than demand, is that the norm in this country, do you think?

THE PRESIDENT: It's true in other places. It's definitely true with

Ron. It seems to be true where the governors have done the proper job using us and utilizing the services that we provide. But it is also true in certain other locations.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: One thing I would say, just so people don't get the misimpression: You know, we have seven sites in major areas in our state. We have more capacity than we get.

These walk-up sites, though, have gone into areas that were underserved. You do have demand there. And so, I think what -- so we definitely have enough supplies and everything, but I think the key is going to be finding pockets that maybe we're not testing as much. I mean, obviously, we've got testing everywhere in Miami because they have the most cases. We have testing in other parts.

So I think this walk-up site is going to give us some confidence that we're going into places that may have been overlooked and giving people easy access.

I also just recently got rid -- or suspended any regulations that would prevent licensed pharmacists from administering tests. So CVS and Walmart, you're hopefully -- and I think they're interested in doing this -- or Walgreens -- you could actually maybe go in there and the licensed pharmacist will be able to test you.

THE PRESIDENT: Pharmacies.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: That's going to be very convenient for an awful lot of people.

Q Mr. President, overall, South Korea has done five times more tests than the U.S. per capita. Why is that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think that's true.

Q That is true. You said this morning that --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't -- I don't think it's true.

Q The White House said the U.S. passes South Korea on virus testing.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it's true. Who are you with?

Q Yahoo News. And it's not true per capita.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you want to respond to that? Do you -- if you have the numbers.

DR. BIRX: (Inaudible) sure I have the numbers. So, remember, early on, we pushed tests to the outbreak areas, just like he described. His primary outbreak was in Miami-Dade and Broward County and Palm Beach, so they pushed tests into that region. We did the same thing in the United States.

So if you look at every single state that had an outbreak, their testing is greater than anywhere in the world. They're in the 4 per -- you know, 42 per thousand range, rather than --

Q Your point is taken about individual areas. But overall, we've had 14 times more infections than South Korea. So are we doing something wrong? And why is that? They have a very dense population.

DR. BIRX: Yeah, our epidemic looks much more like the European epidemic. So, right now, we're tracking very close to the countries in Europe, and we're testing at their rate of their concentrated epidemics and where they're occurring in the metros. I think it really shows the susceptibility of our major cities in the same way they were susceptible in Europe.

And so we've been very focused on that. That's not to say that we're not supporting rural states.

Q But South Korea also has dense major cities, though. They do.

DR. BIRX: We're very much supporting the rural states and very much supporting their testing. There's no -- there's no state right now in the United States that's tested really less than 1 percent, which is pretty remarkable when they don't really have significant cases.

But we've been really working with states to do sentinel surveillance and also to reach out to our Native American populations, as well as our inner city.

So I think now that we've expanded testing dramatically and CDC has altered the criteria for testing, I think you'll see, as governors have unlocked more and more potential in their laboratories, we know that we have more laboratory capacity. And you hear the governors talk about we have capacity and now we have to match things, you know, the resources that you need -- the swabs and the extraction media -- with the capacity. And I think governors are well aware of how to expand testing now.

And so we're in that partnership. That's what was announced yesterday. We want testing linked to critical contact tracing, but we also want testing as he described. The Governor described a really important insight. He went where the virus could cause the most damage to human beings, and so he went into the nursing homes to really proactively test. And that's really in our --

THE PRESIDENT: And that's true also throughout the country.

DR. BIRX: Yes. And that's true in our -- that's why it's in the blueprint. And I think some of the press didn't hear how much we were emphasizing the asymptomatic testing. We believe that's a critical part of this.

So you can't approach this like you just traditionally approached flu, and you have to be more innovative. And we've been in, really, a strong

partnership with the governors. And I think that's why the blueprint was so important, because it talked about symptomatic testing and asymptomatic testing to protect the most vulnerable individuals.

And you can see what it did with the nursing home fatality rates. I mean, it's remarkable.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Well, especially with the asymptomatic -- in a nursing home situation, if that starts getting out, man, that is a perfect environment for this virus to just start spreading. I mean, it can spread like wildfire very quickly.

Q But, Governor, you didn't shut your state until April 1st.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: So that's why -- that's why you're trying to do all this stuff. So --

Q Why did you wait? And are you worried people died because of that?

Q Governor DeSantis, it sounds like that you are planning to announce tomorrow that you're likely to go to the President's phase one (inaudible).

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: So, we're going to make an announcement tomorrow. You know, I created a task force, and I have all kinds of folks. We have all -- some of the great health systems. We have great docs. We've got business folks. I've got elected officials. They've submitted a report to me. I'm going to be reviewing that.

Today, obviously we've been thinking about what we're going to need to do. And so we'll announce it tomorrow, about the next step forward for Florida. But I'll just wait to announce it then.

Q Governor, you still have flights coming from Latin America to Miami. And we see an increase of cases in Latin America and South America. Aren't you worried to see those planes (inaudible)?

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Oh, I've been worried about that the whole time. I mean, I think that Brazil and some of those places, which have a lot of interaction with Miami, you're going to probably see the epidemic increase there as their season changes. And so we could potentially have -- we could be way on the other side doing well in Florida, and then you could just have people kind of come in.

So one of the things I've mentioned to the President is -- you know, you have this Abbott Labs test. If you have some of these international flights, maybe some of these airliners should -- it should be on them to check before they're getting on and coming to this country so that we're able to keep it.

I mean, you've seen what happened with the China flight restrictions. That kept a lot of people from seeding the West Coast more. And so if we're in a situation you could potentially have from hotspots coming in, I think we -- we're technologically more advanced where there should be something like that.

So I've been advocating for that. I've talked with some other governors about it. But for Florida, clearly, that's going to be an issue.

If you look at --

THE PRESIDENT: And that'll be cutting off Brazil? I mean, are you going to (inaudible) Brazil?

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Well, not necessarily cut them off, but it's just -- if you're going to fly to Miami, then the airlines should give you the Abbott test and then put you on the plane. But --

THE PRESIDENT: Would you ever want to ban certain countries?

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: If they're -- if they were seeding the United States, I think you should ban them.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. You'll let us know.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: For sure.

THE PRESIDENT: You'll be watching and you'll let us know.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: But I would say, in the United States -- or in Florida, excuse me -- in spite of all the international travel -- I mean, we have so many people that go to Orlando, Miami, and all that. If you look at our outbreak, not a lot of it is tied to that. It's mostly tied to New York City travel into the three Southern Florida, because the Orlando situation is worlds different than Palm Beach and Broward and Miami-Dade, but yet they have as much international travel as anybody. And yet, as of this morning, I think Orlando had 50 people hospitalized in that whole area for COVID-19. I mean, people were predicting there were going to be hundreds of thousands hospitalized in Florida by this time. So -- so they've had a really modest outbreak.

Southeast Florida -- I mean, still, by some of these other standards, not as bad as other parts of the country. But that was really more of a domestic seeding, I think, than international.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to be in touch on that. Go ahead, please.

Q So, why not then require that people take tests before they take international flights? And why not even require that people wear masks on planes?

THE PRESIDENT: So we're looking at that, and we're probably going to be doing that. Brazil has pretty much of an outbreak, as you know. They also went a different way than other countries in South America. If you look at the chart, you'll see what happened, unfortunately, to Brazil. So we're looking at it very closely, and we're in coordination with other governors also, but in particular with Ron. We'll make that decision

pretty soon.

Q So what about all flights -- all international flights?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're looking at that. That's a very big thing to do. You know, again, I did it --

DR. BIRX: So let me just --

THE PRESIDENT: -- with China. I did it with Europe. That's a very big thing to do. It's certainly a very big thing to do to Florida, because you have so much business from South America. So we'll be -- we'll be looking at that.

DR. BIRX: So, to our Yahoo gentleman, I just want to make it clear that South Korea's testing was 11 per -- per 100,000, and we're at 17 per 100,000. So --

THE PRESIDENT: Right. Are you going to apologize, Yahoo? That's why you're Yahoo and nobody knows who the hell you are.

Q If that's correct -- based on --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Let's go, Jeff. Go ahead.

Q -- the numbers I've seen, that's not --

THE PRESIDENT: That's why nobody knows who you are, including me.

Go ahead.

Q Mr. President --

DR. BIRX: Just check it again.

THE PRESIDENT: You ought to get your facts right before you make a

statement like that.

Q But we have had -- we have had 14 times the infection they have.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, well, your facts are wrong.

Let's go.

Q Just to clarify what you were just talking about, you're looking at cutting off more international travel from Latin America?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we're looking -- we're talking to the governor, we're talking with others also that have a lot of business coming in from South America, Latin America. And we'll make a determination. We're also setting up a system where we do some testing, and we're working with the airlines on that.

Q Tests or taking temperature?

THE PRESIDENT: Testing on the plane. Getting on the planes.

Q Temperature checks, sir, or virus tests?

THE PRESIDENT: It'll be both.

Q And, Governor DeSantis, you did face quite a bit of criticism for not closing your state as soon as some did. There was a lot of --

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Yeah, and look at -- what have the results been? You look at some of the most draconian orders that have been issued in some of these states and compare Florida in terms of our hospitalizations per 100,000, in terms of our fatalities per 100,000.

I mean, you go from D.C., Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois -- you name it -- Florida has done better. And I'm not criticizing those states, but everyone in

the media was saying Florida was going to be like New York or Italy, and that has not happened because we understood we have a big diverse state. We understood the outbreak was not uniform throughout the state. And we had a tailored and measured approach that not only helped our numbers be way below what anyone predicted, but also did less damage to our state going forward.

I had construction going on -- the road projects. But we did it in a safe way, and we did it, I think, in a way that is probably more sustainable over the long term.

So I think people could go back and look at all the criticism and then look now, and nobody predicted that Florida would -- we have challenges. This is not an easy situation. We've had people in the hospital, but I'm now in a situation where I have less than 500 people, at a state of 22 million, on ventilators as of last night. And I have 6,500 ventilators that are sitting idle, unused through the state of Florida.

Q So my question -- my question is, I mean, you faced that criticism, you have these numbers that you're sharing. Are you concerned at all about another outbreak coming this summer or this fall and not being ready for it?

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: So, of course. That's why the whole thing we're doing is -- this is a novel virus. It's unpredictable. But we're in a situation now where we have so many more tools to be able to detect.

And one of the things that I was talking to Dr. Birx about: Our Florida Department of Health -- we have a fully integrated health system with the counties -- we have been doing contact tracing from the very beginning.

Now, sure, once the outbreak gets to a certain point, the mitigation is really what you do. The contact tracing is not going to be able to stop, like what was going on in New York City. But in Florida, we had such an uneven outbreak, and we were doing contact tracing throughout this whole time in parts of the state that the outbreak wasn't as severe. They

limited the spread and did it very effectively. And so that's going to be a huge part of what we're doing going forward. And we think that -- we think that that can be successful.

And we're going to have so many opportunities with sentinel surveillance. We're offensive with the nursing homes. Nothing is going to change on the nursing home testing. This is -- until this virus goes away, this is the population that is most at risk. In Florida, we have -- close to 85 percent of the fatalities have been age 65 or older. And most of them have some comorbidities. And so these are types of facilities that are the most at risk, so nothing is going to change on that.

We're going to continue protecting elderly. And we messaged that very early, about the risk, about how they should stay home. I wasn't going to arrest an elderly if they, you know, left their house. But we told them, limit contacts because you're more at risk, and they listened.

That's why you go to a place like The Villages -- there were articles written saying, "Oh, The Villages is going to crash and burn," and all this other stuff. They have like a 2 percent -- 2.5 percent infection rate. We tested 1,200 asymptomatic, and none were -- none were found to have the virus. And so this is -- this message of understanding the risks are different for different parts of our communities and age and health, and continue doing --

So I think what you'll see is, however we move forward -- and I'll announce that soon -- you're going to see even more attention paid to the vulnerable. And I think that that's what we need to be doing.

THE PRESIDENT: And, you know, Ron -- Ron said one thing that was very interesting: You talk about ventilators. And ventilators were going to be a disaster in Florida. A disaster. "There's not enough." And we sent them thousands of ventilators.

But in the meantime, you have thousands of ventilators that aren't used, and we'll be able to send them probably to other countries. You'll build

up your stockpile, but we'll be able -- because other countries: Italy, France, numerous -- Spain is very much -- we're sending to Spain. I spoke today to Nigeria. They want -- they'll do anything for ventilators. We're going to send at least 200 ventilators to Nigeria; probably more than that.

So -- but ventilators was going to be a big problem, and now we have really -- I mean, through an incredible amount of work by the federal government, we have a big, big beautiful overcapacity.

And it's the same thing with testing. The only problem is the press doesn't give credit for that because, you know, no matter what test you do, they'll say, "Oh, you should have done this. You should have tested 325 million people 37 times." No, the testing is going very well.

But this is a good example of a partnership between the federal government and a state government. Ron has been great. And some of your friends, some of the other governors, have done a good job. And some haven't done a very good job, I'll be honest with you. Some have not.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: But one of the things, I think -- you know, Jared -- he had a team of going about -- like, figuring out where the ventilators would be needed. So when everyone was talking about 40,000 ventilators in New York, I'm in contact with Jared about Florida, about New York. And he was saying, "Whoa, they're not going to need that." And I was like, "Look, I actually -- I agree with your numbers. I don't think we need any ventilators in Florida right now. Maybe things will change."

So they were ready at a moment's notice to get the ventilators wherever they need. We never got -- I think we may have just gotten 100 at the beginning from FEMA, but we never got like an emergency shipment because we didn't need it. But they were absolutely ready, willing, and able to do that once the data suggested they needed to.

THE PRESIDENT: They were on call. A lot of people expected it. When we read reports from the papers, I'd call Ron and say, "Ron, I think we're

going to need maybe thousands," based on what some phony news organization was saying. And more and more -- you know, number one, it was well handled. But we were ready to move, and we still are. We have more than 10,000. Jared, what do we have? Ten thousand? More than 10,000 in the stockpile.

MR. KUSHNER: More than 10,000. And it's growing every day. We're getting a lot more in than we're sending out.

THE PRESIDENT: And what we'll be able to do is help other countries, which is a good thing. Not only allies; countries that need help. We're talking about a lot of countries that need help.

Jennifer?

Q Mr. President, on the food supply chain --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- is there anything your administration is doing or might be doing in the future to make sure that there is enough meat supplies? And should we --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we're working with Tyson.

Q Should we ban exports of pork to other countries?

THE PRESIDENT: We are. We're going to sign an executive order today, I believe, and that'll solve any liability problems where they had certain liability problems, and we'll be in very good shape. We're working with Tyson, which is one of the big companies in that world. And we always work with the farmers. There's plenty of supply. There's plenty of -- as you know, there's plenty of supply. It's distribution, and we will probably have that today solved. It was a very unique circumstance because of liability.

Yeah, Jon.

Q Mr. President, can you clarify what your intelligence advisors were telling you back in January and February? Were you warned about what was happening with coronavirus and the threat to this country? Should there have been stronger warnings?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, no. I think --

Q What were you hearing every day in your --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, yeah. Well, I think probably a lot more to the Democrats, because a month later, Nancy Pelosi was saying, "Let's dance in the streets of Chinatown." You go back and you take a look at -- even professionals, like Anthony, were saying this is no problem. This is late in February: "This is no problem. This is going to blow -- this is going to blow over." And they're professionals, and they're good professionals.

Most people thought this was going to blow over. And if you can go -- we did, I think, on January -- toward the end of January, we did a ban with China. That was a very -- I think you just said, a little while ago, that was a very important step. And then ultimately, we did a ban on Europe. That was very early in the process.

Because if you take the ban and you look at it, I was badly criticized by Sleepy Joe Biden, by others. I was criticized horribly for -- I mean, he called -- he said all sorts of things. We won't even say it. And then he apologized because -- two weeks ago, he put out a statement that I was right. We did a ban --

Q So you were --

THE PRESIDENT: Jon, as you know, we did a ban. And many people -- Democrats, professionals, probably Republicans -- said that this would never happen, there'd be nothing; no big problem. You saw that, I think,

better than anybody, Deborah. This was after the ban. So, obviously, I took it very serious. I'm not going be banning China from coming in if I didn't take it seriously. And I did that early.

Q But -- so were you getting warnings in your presidential daily brief about --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'd have to check. I would have to check. I want to look as to the exact dates of warnings.

But I can tell you this: When I did the ban on China, almost everybody was against me, including Republicans. They thought it was far too harsh, that it wasn't necessary. Professionals, Republicans, and Democrats -- almost everybody disagreed. And that was done very early. And that was a big state--- because I think we saved -- whether it was luck, talent, or something else, we saved many thousands of lives. And Anthony said that, and you were saying that, and a lot of people said it. It was a very -- I think you'd have a much different situation right now if we didn't do the ban.

Q On that, you know, 40- --

THE PRESIDENT: We also did a ban, as you know, earlier. We did a ban on Europe sometime after, but still relatively early.

Q Now, after the ban on travel from China, 40,000 people came into the United States. Those were American citizens largely. In hindsight, looking back, should there have been steps made to quarantine those people that were coming back or to test them? Or --

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Well, there were. We -- in Florida, we had hundreds of people that were under investigation by our health department. There were -- they were asked to quarantine for 14 days anyone that was coming back from China. The Wuhan area in Hubei province, they were having to self-isolate before they could even get to Florida, because that's what you guys did.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: But we had all -- hundreds of people under investigation during this time. And actually, none of them ended up testing positive, the ones that developed symptoms. I don't think -- a lot of them didn't develop symptoms. But that was actually being done in Florida, and we were very much viewing it as a China -- a China deal, of course. I think it was, you know -- New York eventually brought it to Florida. But that was being done in the state level.

THE PRESIDENT: And the people we let back, Jon, as you know, they were American citizens. What are you going to do? "You can't come back into your country"? You know, we had -- it wasn't like we were thrilled either. I said, "Well, we have these people coming back, all American citizens," meaning just about all American citizens. There's not much you can do about that.

Now, we did do testing and individual --

Q In hindsight, would you have --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in hindsight, the states did testing. I know Ron was doing a lot of testing, and the individuals states were doing in cooperation with the federal government. But originally, it was, "Oh, 40,000 people came in." What they don't say -- what the news doesn't say is they happen to be American citizens. How do you keep American citizens -- you say they're coming in from China, they want to come back to their country. There is a tremendous problem in China; they want to come back. Are we supposed to say to an American citizen, "You can't come back into your country"? And we did do testing, and individual states did testing or were supposed to have.

Yeah, anybody else? Yes.

Q (Inaudible) more details on the executive order regarding the meat

supply. So it seems like the issue right now is that with the processing plants closed down, there are all these animals but they can't be processed into meat to hit American supermarket shelves.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. We're handling it. Probably today we'll have that -- that -- it's a roadblock. It's sort of a legal roadblock more than anything else. We'll have that done today. You can speak to the chief in a little if you'd like. Okay? They'll give you a specific. I don't know if you'd like that because there won't be any cameras running, but if you'd like to get a real answer, you can speak to the chief.

Q And also, JetBlue today was the first airline to mandate that passengers wear masks on planes. Is that something that you are considering rolling out for all flights?

THE PRESIDENT: Who did? Who did?

Q JetBlue.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. It sounds like a good idea. To me, it sounds like a very good idea.

Q Governor, you have hundreds of thousands of tourists and visitors coming from Canada each year, spending months in your state.

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: Not right now we don't, but normally we do.

Q No, exactly. Have you been able to evaluate how much your -- the economy of your state is losing from the borders being closed? And when do you think -- what's your feeling about things going back to something normal as for the visitors coming from Canada?

GOVERNOR DESANTIS: So I think that a lot of this is confidence and building confidence with the public that the next step is going to be done thoughtfully, it's going to be done in a measured way, and it's going to be done with an eye to making sure that we're not pretending that this

virus just doesn't exist. I mean, we -- we have to make safety a priority.

I will say, though, that I do think there is a path to do that. If you look at Florida's outbreak, just think of all the people that were in Florida -- January, February, all -- I mean, Disney was going all the way to mid-March.

We didn't have outbreaks tied to a lot of that stuff for whatever reason. Maybe it's because most of our activities are outdoors and I think it's probably not as an efficient vector when you're outside in the sun, as compared to close contact indoors. But -- and all these different people in these industries, part of my task force -- and this is not going to happen overnight -- but they're all thinking about innovative ways to be able to do -- do different things and do it safely.

And we've seen that even on the basic level of -- if you go to -- like, drive by Home Depot now, they'll be six feet apart, waiting to go in the store, and then they're doing it. So people are adapting and they're innovating. So I think that that will happen. I don't think it's going to happen overnight. I think we're going to have to be measured and thoughtful, but I think that as people see that -- that different things can happen safely -- I think the confidence factor will go up.

But clearly, financially, it's -- it's an issue for Florida because any time people come, they end up paying tax on that. I mean, you look at just the theme parks and the amount of -- of the tax that they contribute to the state. Now, fortunately, we had billions of dollars in reserve, but even with that, you are facing a hit. There is just no doubt about it.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the fourth quarter is going to be really strong, and I think next year is going to be a tremendous year. That's what's building. That's my opinion. Third quarter is a transition quarter. Second quarter is what it is, but the -- I mean, we're -- we're in this period where let's see what the numbers are. Third quarter is

transition. I think fourth quarter is going to be incredibly strong. I think next year is going to be an unbelievably strong year.

Kevin and Larry, would you like to say something about that?

MR. HASSETT: Why don't you start with the CBO numbers?

MR. KUDLOW: Yeah, I mean, I'll just say -- look, we know we're in a deep contraction with rising unemployment. It's a lot of hardships, a lot of difficulty. The President's rescue package, which really totals \$9 trillion between the Treasury and the Fed, has helped to cushion that blow. So that's point number one. We'll take the hit. It's very bad, very difficult. We're doing what we can.

As the Governor said, as confidence returns, with safety features and data-driven, people are anxious to go back to work. And it's interesting to me, the Congressional Budget Office, as well as Wall Street Journal's survey of economists, both predicting very significant pick-ups in growth in the second half of the year -- almost 20 percent growth increases. So that's a good sign.

And the President has commissioned us to study middle-class tax relief, middle-class regulatory relief, infrastructure developments, insurance liability protections for small businesses. And again, middle class -- I think people are anxious to go to work. There's going to be a lot of pent-up demand.

And so, I am optimistic about the future. This current situation -- as my great friend and colleague, Kevin, has said -- right in here, it is going to be the worst we've seen probably. But nonetheless, that will be temporary. I believe it passes. And that's what some of these surveys are telling us.

THE PRESIDENT: And, Larry, I wanted a payroll tax cut.

MR. KUDLOW: Yes, you did.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought that would've been the best thing, but the Democrats did not want to give it to us, so we went a different way, which is fine. But I wanted a payroll tax cut, so we'll --

MR. KUDLOW: Both of -- both of us -- both of us agreed with you, as I recall.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, no, I think they should've done a payroll tax cut. The Democrats did not want a payroll tax cut and I think that's a mistake.

Q Mr. President, Congress comes back next week. Let me try to ferret out the elephant in the room here, potentially, if there is an elephant in the room: What about the idea of aid to states? And, Governor, what do you think of this idea from Capitol Hill and Washington sending money to individual states who may be suffering severely through lost revenues and picking up a lot of the tab here?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there's a big difference with a state that lost money because of COVID and a state that's been run very badly for 25 years. There's a big difference, in my opinion. And, you know, we'd have to talk about things like payroll tax cuts. We'd have to talk about things like sanctuary cities, as an example.

I think sanctuary cities are something -- it has to be brought up, where people that are criminals are protected -- they're protected from prosecution. I think that has to be done. I think it's one of the problems that the states have. I don't even think they know they have a problem, but they have a big problem with it -- the sanctuary city situation. We'd have to talk about a lot of different things. But we're certainly open to talking, but it would really have to be COVID-related, not related for mismanagement over a long time -- over a long period of time.

Q And you're willing to make that distinction -- that much of a

distinction?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's a very --

Q I can only imagine what some governors would say.

THE PRESIDENT: -- very simple distinction to make. Yeah. We're not looking to do a bailout for a state that's been -- it's unfair to -- it's unfair to many of the states, most of the states that have done such a good job. Okay?

Anything else? Thank you very much.

Q Do you have any message --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, Jeff.

Q Just to follow up with something that you mentioned yesterday, sir, in the last --

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

Q A follow-up to a question from yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q You spoke about having a sense of what's going on with Kim Jong Un. Can you say whether or not he's in control of his country?

THE PRESIDENT: I just don't want to comment on it, okay? I don't want to comment on it. I just wish him well. I don't want to comment on it.

Q I just want to ask you: I'm sure you saw that Congress was supposed to come back next week. Steny Hoyer has just announced that the House will not come back, given that D.C. has a stay- -- still has a stay-at-home order. Is that a good move, a wise move, or a bad move? What --

what do you make of that?

THE PRESIDENT: The Democrats, they don't want to come back. They don't want to come back. I think they should be back here, but they don't. They're enjoying their vacation and they shouldn't be. This is a time --

Q You think they're enjoying their vacation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I think they are. I think they are.

Q You think this is a vacation?

THE PRESIDENT: If you look at Nancy Pelosi eating ice cream on late-night television -- yeah, I think they probably are. They're having a good time. I think they should be back. I think they should all come back and we should work on this together.

Thank you very much, everybody.

END

12:12

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Subject: In Town Pool Report #2a more Oval Quotes

From: Liz Goodwin <liz.goodwin@globe.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 12:30 PM
Subject: In Town Pool Report #2a more Oval Quotes

A few more quotes from the earlier Oval Office meeting with Gov Murphy. Check against transcript.

On Flynn: "They destroyed him but he's going to come back, like I say he's going to come back, bigger and better." "I don't have to stay out of it at all, but I like to stay out of it."

On whether the federal government should send more checks: "A lot of people are talking about it, but we've given a lot of stimulus."

Says USA has lower mortality rates than many countries: "We're the leader of the world...We've done better, if you look at our deaths, if you look at mortality rates."

On food issues "I expect to see the supply chain as strong as ever." Said he rectified a "legal roadblock" to fix the situation yesterday and Americans should not fear shortages. "Now I expect things to go very smoothly."

Gov Murphy said NJ could take a 20-30 billion hit from coronavirus. Trump was non-committal on additional support, called it a "tough question"

On vaccines: "If we come up with a vaccine in record time they'll say I should have done it faster."

Murphy also received a rapid covid test prior to the meeting:

Trump to Murphy: Did they test you today?

Murphy: They did.

Trump (joking): Good, now I feel better.

Murphy: I feel like a new man.

Dr Deborah Birx was also in the Oval.

--

Liz Goodwin

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-town pool report #5 - call readout

From: Bolen, Cheryl <cbolen@bloombergindustry.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:06 PM

Subject: In-town pool report #5 - call readout

From the White House:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with King Abdullah II of Jordan. The President and the King discussed the coronavirus response in the United States and Jordan. The President thanked the King for his generous commitment to sending medical supplies to the United States. The President and the King agreed to cooperate closely, along with other Middle East partners and through the G20, to defeat the pandemic and minimize its economic impact. The leaders also discussed critical regional and bilateral issues.

Cheryl Bolen

White House Correspondent

Bloomberg Government

(202) 680-2410

Sent from my iPhone

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Photos of the Week



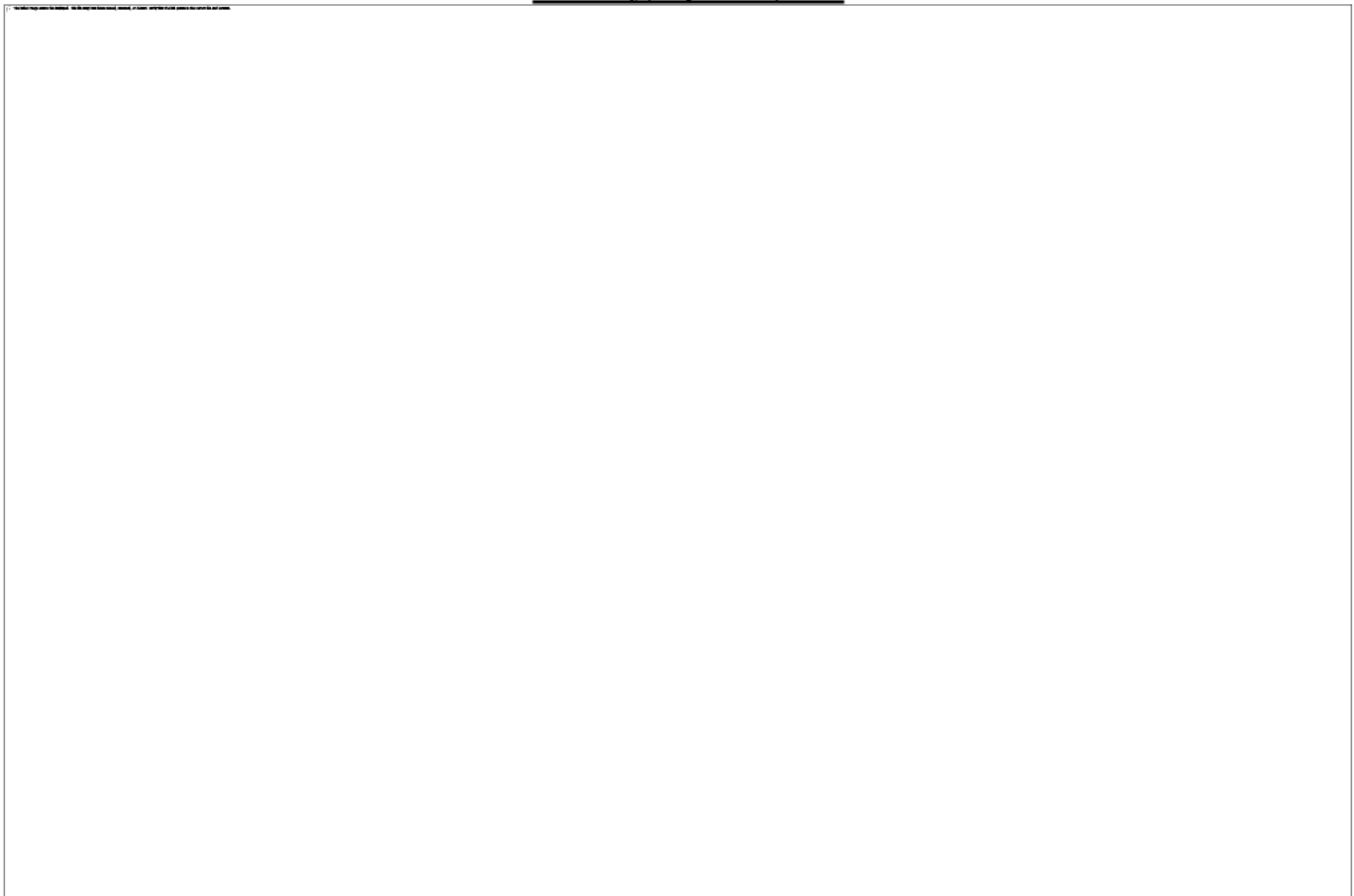
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2020

Photos of the Week

Monday, April 27, 2020



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, delivers remarks during a meeting with

industry executives to discuss their response to the coronavirus pandemic Monday, April 27, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, listens as Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar delivers remarks during a meeting with industry executives to discuss their response to the coronavirus pandemic Monday, April 27, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence walk along the Colonnade of the White House Monday, April 27, 2020, en route to a coronavirus update briefing in the Rose Garden. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 27, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump participates in a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 27, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump looks on as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 27, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump and Assistant Secretary for Health Adm. Brett Giroir listen as Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 27, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence are seen in the reflection on a monitor displaying the Opening Up America Again slogan during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 27, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump takes questions from reporters during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 27, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)

Tuesday, April 28, 2020



President Donald J. Trump, joined by White House senior advisors and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, meets with Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump looks on as Florida Governor Ron DeSantis delivers remarks during a meeting with White House senior advisors and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump looks on as Florida Governor Ron DeSantis delivers remarks during a meeting with White House senior advisors and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump looks on as Florida Governor Ron DeSantis delivers remarks during a meeting with White House senior advisors and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump walk along the Cross Hall of the White House Tuesday, April 28, 2020, as they arrive to attend an event in the East Room about the Paycheck Protection Program and its support of small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump receive applause as they arrive to an event about the Paycheck Protection Program and its support of small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, delivers remarks at an event about the Paycheck Protection Program and its support of small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, and Small Business Association Administrator Jovita Carranza listen as Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump delivers remarks at an event about the Paycheck Protection Program and its support of small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



Michael Heup, an employee of Bitty & Beau's Coffee, gives a thumbs-up to President Donald J. Trump and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump during an event about the Paycheck Protection Program and its support of small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



Bitty & Beau's Coffee employee Michael Heup salutes President Donald J. Trump and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump during an event about the Paycheck Protection Program and its support of small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic Tuesday, April 28, 2020, in the East Room of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

Wednesday, April 29, 2020



President Donald J. Trump meets with Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards Wednesday, April 29, 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, meets with Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards Wednesday, April 29, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



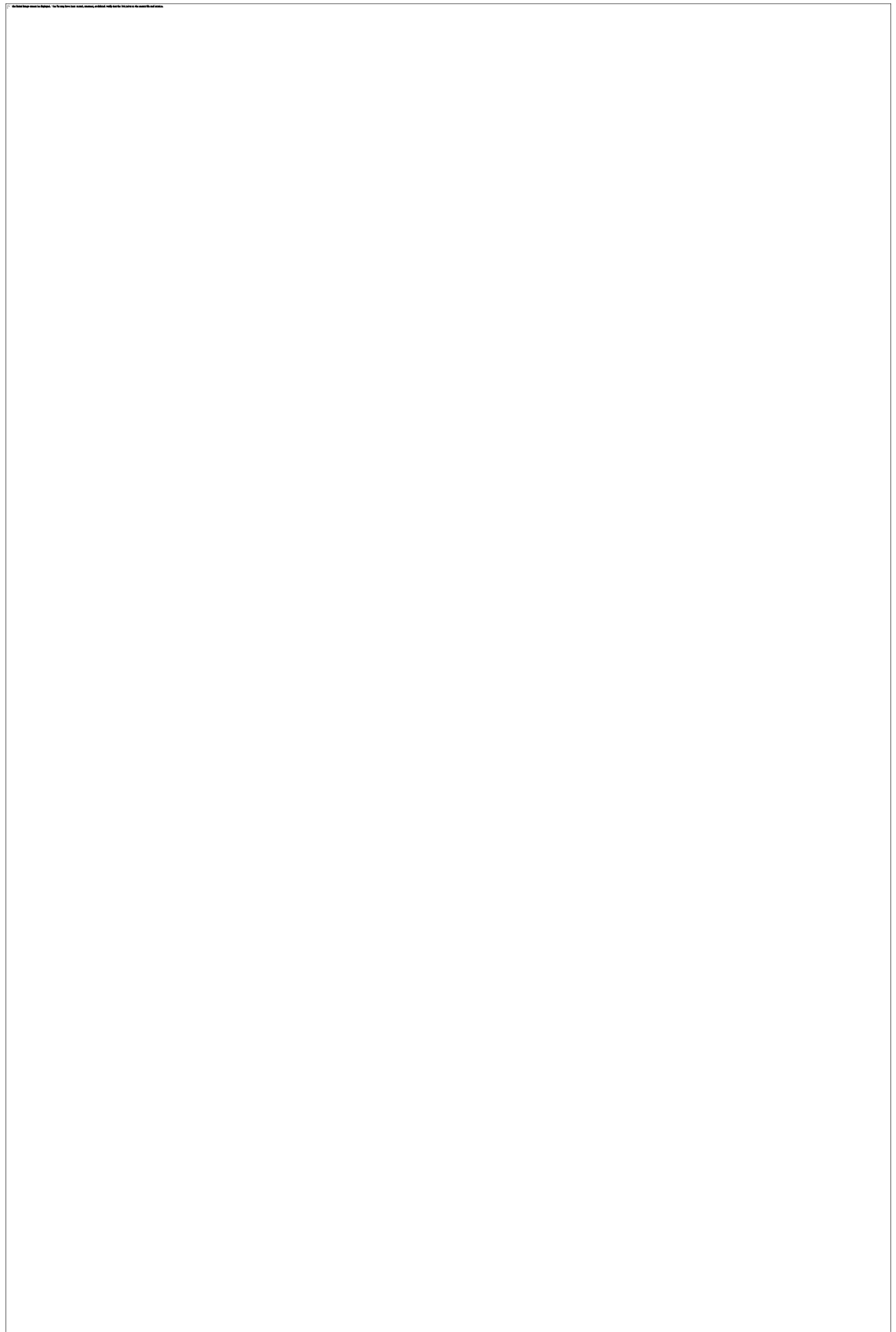
President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence walk along the Colonnade of the White House Wednesday, April 29, 2020, en route to attend a roundtable event with industry executives in the State Dining Room. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks during a roundtable with industry executives to discuss a plan to reopen America Wednesday, April 29, 2020, in the State Dining Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence listen as Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia delivers remarks during a roundtable with industry executives to discuss a plan to reopen America Wednesday, April 29, 2020, in the State Dining Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence listen to industry executives during a roundtable to discuss a plan to reopen America Wednesday, April 29, 2020, in the State Dining Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, delivers remarks during a roundtable with industry executives to discuss a plan to reopen America Wednesday, April 29, 2020, in the State Dining Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)

Thursday, April 30, 2020



President Donald J. Trump meets with New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy Thursday, April 30, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump meets with New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy Thursday, April 30, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



Vice President Mike Pence, joined by White House senior advisors, participates in a walking tour of the GM/Ventec Ventilator Production Facility Thursday, April 30, 2020, in Kokomo, Ind. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



Vice President Mike Pence, joined by White House senior advisors, speaks to employees during a visit to the GM/Ventec Ventilator Production Facility Thursday, April 30, 2020, in Kokomo, Ind. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



Vice President Mike Pence, joined by White House senior advisors, speaks to employees during a visit to the GM/Ventec Ventilator Production Facility Thursday, April 30, 2020, in Kokomo, Ind. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks about protecting America's seniors during the coronavirus pandemic Thursday, April 30, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Cabinet members and White House senior advisors, signs a proclamation designating the month of May as Older Americans Month Thursday, April 30, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump displays his signature on a proclamation designating the month of May as Older Americans Month during an event about protecting America's seniors during the coronavirus pandemic Thursday, April 30, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump listens to a reporter's question during an event about protecting America's seniors during the coronavirus pandemic Thursday, April 30, 2020, in the East Room of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump responds to a reporter's question during an event about protecting America's seniors during the coronavirus pandemic Thursday, April 30, 2020, in the East Room of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

Friday, May 1, 2020



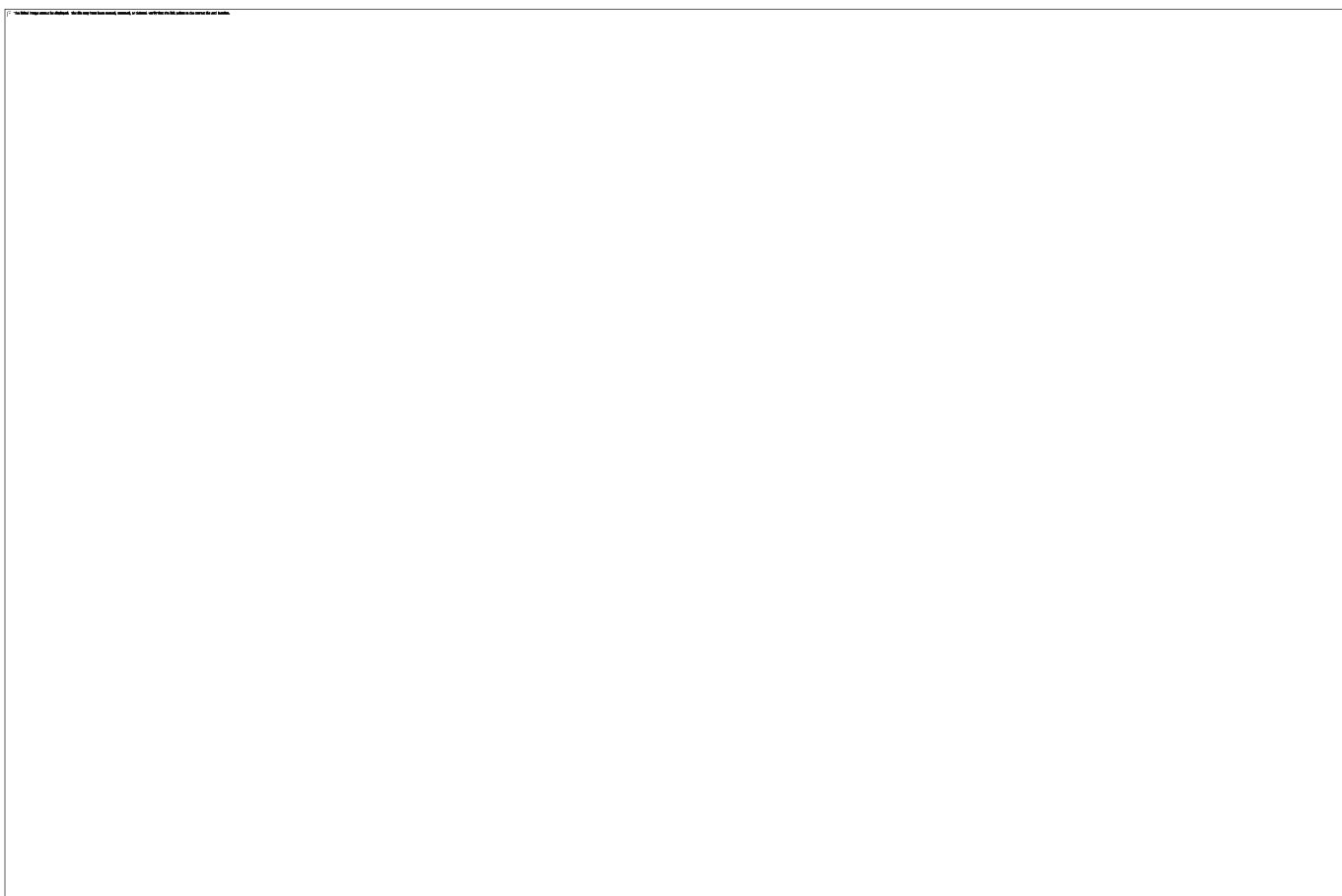
White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany takes questions from reporters during a press briefing Friday, May 1, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany takes questions from reporters during a press briefing Friday, May 1, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and United States International Development Finance Corporation CEO Adam Bohler, meets with Gilead Sciences, Inc. CEO Daniel O'Day to announce that an FDA emergency use authorization has been granted for Gilead's remdesivir drug to treat COVID-19 patients Friday, May 1, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, listens as Gilead Sciences, Inc. CEO Daniel O'Day delivers remarks during a meeting to announce that an FDA emergency use authorization has been granted for Gilead's remdesivir drug to treat COVID-19 patients Friday, May 1, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks at a Presidential Recognition Ceremony celebrating volunteers during the coronavirus pandemic and their hard work, heroism, and hope Friday, May 1, 2020, in the Blue Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump listens as Frank Siller, CEO of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, delivers remarks at a Presidential Recognition Ceremony celebrating volunteers during the coronavirus pandemic and their hard work, heroism, and hope Friday, May 1, 2020, in the Blue Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump talks with reporters outside the South Portico of the White House Friday, May 1, 2020, prior to boarding Marine One to begin his trip to Camp David. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump aboard Marine One departs the South Lawn of the White House Friday, May 1, 2020, en route to Camp David. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)

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Subject: Memorandum on Authorizing the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program for Major Disaster Declarations Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2020

April 28, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT: Authorizing the Crisis Counseling Assistance and
Training Program for Major Disaster Declarations
Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019

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"), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States

to take measures under the Stafford Act to assist State and territorial Governors in their responses to all threats and hazards to the American people in their respective States and territories, including the members of any Indian tribe residing therein. 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, territories, and tribes 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 and territories 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. As of April 18, 2020, I have declared that a major disaster exists in all States and territories as a result of the virus, and have authorized Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) pursuant to section 403 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) for each.

Sec. 2. Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program. (a) For purposes of this memorandum, "State" includes the District of Columbia, and "Governor" includes the chief executive thereof.

(b) To help meet the needs of the American people during this unprecedented and continuously evolving public health crisis, the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary), acting through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Administrator), is authorized to make available crisis

counseling assistance and training services, in accordance with section 416 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5183) ("crisis counseling services"), to the people of a State or territory, including the members of any tribe residing therein, if, in response to the virus and before the date of this memorandum, I declared a major disaster pursuant to section 401 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) with respect to the State or territory, but did not at that time approve crisis counseling services as requested by the Governor, under the following conditions:

(i) the total number of cases of COVID-19 exceeds 5,000 within the State or territory; or

(ii) the total of number of cases of COVID-19 exceeds 1,000 per 1 million of the State or territory's population.

(c) In exercising this authority, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall:

(i) subject to the limitations above, review any request for a major disaster declaration previously submitted by the Governor of a State or territory; and

(ii) approve crisis counseling services, where the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, determines that the Governor has provided in his or her request sufficient justification to support the provision of crisis counseling services to the people of his or her State or territory, including the members of any tribe residing therein.

(d) The authority vested in the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, to approve crisis counseling services shall not be construed to encompass any authority to approve other forms of assistance.

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

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump in a Fox News Virtual Town Hall | May 3, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
IN A FOX NEWS VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Lincoln Memorial
Washington, D.C.

May 3, 2020

7:14 P.M. EDT

Q Welcome back to our Fox News Virtual Town Hall: "America Together. Returning to Work." Here tonight, live from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., we are joined now by President Donald Trump.

Good to see you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you both, very much. We never had a more beautiful set than this, did we?

Q (Laughs.) That's right.

Q It's amazing.

Q Thanks for doing this.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Q This is a little different than our last town hall in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

THE PRESIDENT: That's true. That was a beauty.

Q We'll be taking questions from around the country.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q And a lot of great questions. I want to start with this, though, Mr. President: There is a real split in the country. There are folks out there becoming increasingly angry about the closures. There are many Americans also who are angry about the reopenings. They're fearful, as many of these states are on the rise in their numbers. There are 66,000 deaths. More than that now.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q As President, what do you say to the people who are scared to go back to work, on one side? And what do you say to the people who are really angry about these lingering closures?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think you can satisfy both. If you're scared, you're going to stay back a little bit and you're going to watch it. And I think anyone over 60 -- because we have pretty good -- we have a pretty good roadmap right now. Anybody over 60 -- you could say 65, but let's make it 60 -- we have to protect those people and we have to watch it, and maybe they stay back longer.

But, no, I think you can really have it both ways. I think a lot of people want to go back. They just want to go back. You see it every day. You see demonstrations all over the country, and those are meaningful demonstrations. Oh, it's big stuff.

But you also have some people that are very scared. Probably everybody is scared, when you get right down to it. It's a terrible thing. A terrible thing that happened to our country. It came from China. It should've been stopped. It could've been stopped on the spot. They chose not to do it, or something happened. Either there was incompetence or they didn't do it for some reason, and we're going to have to find out what that reason was.

But people are absolutely scared, but there are other people that are scared about being locked in a room and losing their job and not having an income. And, you know, for the first -- these are workers, these are people that want to get back and work and make a living, and they're afraid their job is not going to be there. And at a certain point, if you keep it going too long, that's going to happen. So I understand that very well.

Q On that note, let's hear from our first video questioner. This is Shana Cruz (ph) from Cullman, Alabama.

VIEWER: Mr. President, my name is Shana Cruz and I'm a single mother from Alabama. I lived paycheck to paycheck before the virus, but then I lost my job in March. I haven't received a stimulus payment or anything from unemployment. I'm behind on every bill, about to be evicted from my home, and I've had to rely on donations in order to feed my children. I feel frustrated and I feel scared not knowing where to turn or what to do. What advice do you have for me and others in my situation? Is there more help coming?

THE PRESIDENT: Number one, there's more help coming. We have really no choice, because incredible people like this are -- you know, it's not -- it's not your fault. I mean, just remember that it's not your fault. And there is more help coming. There has to be. And we want to get it to a point, when we open, we're not going to lose businesses and therefore, more importantly, frankly, we're not going to lose the jobs that run the businesses.

So a case like that is an exact -- you know, it's really -- that's the reason why we have to do more. And we're going to do more, and everybody wants to do more. It's really -- it's actually, on that aspect of it, it's very bipartisan.

So the answer is: Yes, we're going to do more. And you're going to have your job. You're going to get another job or you're going to get a better job. You'll get a job where you make more money, frankly, and I think that's going to happen.

I think we're going to have an incredible following year. We're going to go into a transition in the third quarter, and we're going to see things happening that look good. I really believe that. I have a good feel for this stuff. I've done it for a long time. We built the greatest economy in the world. The greatest economy, frankly, Bret -- and you can correct me if you'd like, but you can't because it's fact -- the greatest economy that the world has ever seen.

And then, one day they said, "Sir, we're going to have to close it." I said, "What are you talking about, closing it?" Nobody ever heard that. We're going have to close it. And we did the right thing. We saved -- I think we saved millions of lives, but now we have to get it back open, and we have to get it back open safely but as quickly as possible.

Q You know, let me ask you about that, because you've talked

about that moment quite a bit with just this roaring economy and advisors saying to you, "We've got to shut it down at this point."

So when you look back on that moment and you see some other examples: Japan, for example, did not do as broad a shutdown. They've only lost about 500 people --

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me, but --

Q -- out of 130 million.

THE PRESIDENT: You're right. But now they're doing a massive shutdown because they've been hit very hard. And so you're right about that.

Q Yeah, that's my question. Do you ever look back at that moment in the Oval Office and say, "Maybe we went too far"?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we did the right thing. I do look back on it -- because my attitude was, "We're not going to shut it down."

Look, we're going to lose anywhere from 75, 80 to 100 thousand people. That's a horrible thing. We shouldn't lose one person over this. This should have been stopped in China. It should have been stopped. But if we didn't do it, the minimum we would have lost is a million-two, a million-four, a million-five. That's the minimum. We would have lost probably higher than -- it's possible higher than 2.2.

You know the way you have to look at that? I've never seen death like this. I've never personally experienced anything like it. And they talk about the flu and all of that. Well, I've known people that had the flu. All my life I see -- I was lucky; I never had the flu. Then I came here; they want to give a flu shot. And I said, "I don't want a flu shot," but they have to

give it.

But you know what? I've known people that had the flu all of my life. I never -- nobody ever died. I never had a friend, he had the flu, and he died.

I've lost three friends. One a very good friend, a very successful man, a New York guy. He employed a lot of people. They were all crying over his death: Stanley Chera. He went to the hospital. He calls me up, he goes, "I tested positive." I said, "Well, what are you going to do?" He said, "I'm going to the hospital. I'll call you tomorrow." He didn't call. I called the hospital; he's in a coma. Now, I know a lot of people that had the flu; they were never in a coma.

This is a very advanced -- this is a very horrible thing we're fighting. But with all of that said, we still -- we've learned a lot about it. It affects older people. It infects -- if you have any problem -- heart, diabetes, even a little weak heart, a little diabetes, a little -- this thing is vicious, and it can take you out, and it can take you out very strongly.

But children do very well. Young children do better than, you know, teens.

Q So you think you've learned from this, how you've dealt with it now?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q If it comes up in the fall, you'll do something to --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we'll put out the embers. We'll put out whatever it may be. We may have to put out a fire.

I tell you one thing: We did the right thing, and I really

believe we could have saved a million and a half lives. And, by the way, just -- just to know what that means: We've seen death, like Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, right where I grew up, right near where I grew up. I know the building very well. I know the hospital. They had body bags lined up in hallways. They had body bags sitting out on sidewalks. We've never seen that in this country. You saw the mass grave; it's called Hart's Island. They built a mass grave. I've never seen anything like that.

When you look at that and look at -- and that's with -- let's say it's 100,000 or 90 or 95. Now multiply it out. Don't go 2.2 or 2.5 million. Say it's half of that. So take the numbers that we looked at, that nobody in this country has ever witnessed, and now multiply it times 15 or 20. So instead of having 10 or 12 body bags laying in a hallway, you'd have 15 times more than that?

Q That's the scary part for business owners who are getting ready to open up.

Our next question comes from here in D.C., and it's a topic we received a lot of questions about, and that is testing and what people have to do. Take a listen.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay.

VIEWER: Hi, my name is Sara Polon. I'm the owner of Soupergirl, based in Washington, D.C. And I'd like to know what kind of federal protocols are going to be in place for running testing to ensure that my potential customers and staff feel safe when people are leaving their homes.

For example, if someone comes from another state that doesn't have the same testing standards as another, and they both come to my establishment, how are we all going to feel safe?

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Look, it depends on where you're coming from. New York is a very much different place than Montana or many other states, really, where it's not, you know, really too -- too bad. It's always bad. If they lose anybody, it's bad. And every state has lost significant numbers of people. I mean, you know, whether you're talking about 20 people or 25 people, that's a significant number of people.

But it depends on where you come from. Certain states are going to have to take a little more time in getting open, and they're doing that. Some states, I think, frankly, aren't going fast enough. I mean, you have some states that -- Virginia, they want to close down until the middle of -- middle of June. And a lot of things that they're doing -- I really believe you can go to parks, you can go to beaches. You keep it -- you know, you keep the spread, you keep -- you stay away a certain amount.

And I really think the public has been incredible with what they -- that's one of the reasons we're successful. That's one of the -- if you call losing 80 or 90 thousand people "successful." But it's one of the reasons that we're not at that high end of the plane as opposed to the low end of the plane.

Q That number has changed, Mr. President. You said 50 to 60 -
-

THE PRESIDENT: It's going up. No, it's going up.

Q You said 60, 70.

THE PRESIDENT: I used to say 65,000 --

Q Now you're at 80 to 90.

THE PRESIDENT: And now I'm saying 80 or 90, and it goes up and

it goes up rapidly. But it's still going to be, no matter how you look at it, at the very lower end of the plane, if we did the shutdown.

Q You said that the governors would be, kind of, responsible for the testing. And we just talked to Governor Hogan. He says there is federal assistance coming to get specific parts --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, not only coming; we've given him a lot of assistance, which is good.

Q So your son-in-law, Advisor Jared Kushner, declared that it's a great success story, the federal response --

THE PRESIDENT: It is.

Q -- and that when you look at the other side, that you're on the other side, medically. Do you think that, as deaths are going up and cases are going up, that we really are on the other side medically and that this is a great success story from the federal government? How do you respond to that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can -- well, it's too soon to say that really, I guess, because, you know, we're still in the middle of something. But certainly we would have lost a lot more people, Bret. If we would have done -- as an example, you call it "herd." If we would have done herd -- in other words, everything is wonderful; let's just keep going along --

Q Herd immunity.

THE PRESIDENT: -- we would have lost two and a half million people, I think, or a million and a half or two million people.

No, I think we've done an incre- -- I think the American people have done a good job. This is a tragic situation.

Everybody knows somebody that's been affected. That's a very rare thing. But everybody knows. Some states have done a better job than others. I mean, that's the way it is.

But in some states, you can do a lot less than in other states. In New York, I think you're going to have to go around with masks for a while. You're going to have to do -- you're going to have to do separation. You're distancing. You're going to have to do that for a while.

But some states are doing so well, and others are -- I have to tell you, I got to know the governors, and with a few exceptions, to be honest, because they're just political machines, and anything you say, it's going to be, like, what's good politically -- because we shouldn't be in that position -- I will say that they really have done, a lot of them, a great job. And we've worked with them. We had no -- there were no ventilators; we're building -- we're the king of -- I said we're the king of ventilators.

You look at the testing: We tested now six and a half million people. The next highest is -- I think it's two and a half million people in either Germany or South Korea. And South Korea thinks we've done an incredible job. They're saying the job -- he's a friend of mine, President Moon. He said the job you've done on testing, and the job we've done on ventilators, we have one of the -- it's one of the greatest buildups we've ever had in this country since certainly the Second World War.

Q Well, speaking of that, you know, Gretchen Whitmer, the governor of Michigan, she's saying, this morning on TV, "We don't have the reagents we need. We don't have the swabs we need." She's still saying that she can't get the testing that she wants.

THE PRESIDENT: Look. Look. We had a phone call, five days ago, with the governors. I was on the call with Vice President Mike Pence, who's done a great job. He's the head of the committee, the task force. Every governor there, we asked it: "What do you need?" Not one governor needed anything. Now, all of a sudden, you see here on the Sunday -- I watched it. "Well, we should get this, and we should get that." She ought to get back to running her state properly because she should have brought it up on a phone call.

I was on that call for an hour and a half. The call -- I stayed right until the end. And at the end, I said, "Does anybody need anything?" We had one governor, Inslee, who's always wanting something. And, frankly, he didn't do a very good job on nursing homes, as far as I'm concerned. State of Washington. And he said, "We need swabs." I said, "Why don't you get them yourself? But if you can't, we'll get them." And I could say the same thing about her.

But here's the thing: Why didn't they -- why didn't they bring this up? I had it -- Bret, you know about that call. It was -- every week or two weeks, we'll have a call. All 50 governors, I believe, were on that call.

The last statement: "Okay, who needs something?" None of them. Many of them spoke. Nobody needed -- other than Washington wanted swabs, which are easy to get. Very easy to get.

Q So let me ask you: The man who you're about to hear from was told he had a 20 percent chance to live. He had COVID-19. He was really in bad shape. Young. I think he's about 40 -- 39 years old, actually.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Thirty-nine years old. But he did recover, and here's Danny Lemos from Grand Island, Nebraska.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay.

VIEWER: President Trump, this is Danny again here, again on Nebraska. With the FDA approving remdesivir as a drug of choice to help fight this, which is the drug I was on, what are we going to do to put in place to make sure that there's enough of this drug available for everybody?

THE PRESIDENT: So we're doing that. It's a great question because it's a very hard drug to make, and it takes a period of time and is made by Gilead. And I know that Danny gave that drug a lot of credit for saving his life. I think that's correct, Danny. But Danny, I believe, gave a lot of credit to that drug for saving his life.

We are pushing it really hard. We're also pushing something else: the vaccines. We are very confident that we're going to have a vaccine at the end of the year -- by the end of the year have a vaccine.

Q By the end of this year?

THE PRESIDENT: We think we're going to have a vaccine by the end of this year. And we're pushing very hard. You know, we're building supply lines. Now, we don't even have the final vaccine. Johnson & Johnson -- if you look at -- Johnson & Johnson is doing it. We have -- many companies are, I think, close because I meet with the heads of them and I find it a very interesting subject because it's so important.

But I think we'll have a vaccine by the end of the year. We're also pushing it. Look, we're doing things at the FDA that's never happened before. We're getting approval so fast. Like, as

an example, with Gilead on the new remdesivir, that's going to be -- that's -- that's a game changer because it's a 31 percent step. It's a step. It's a 31 percent step, and then they'll be at 50 percent.

Like AIDS, what's happened with AIDS: We had AIDS; it was a scourge all over the world. It was -- you were dead. It was a death certificate. And then, all of a sudden, they came up with some -- and now we have -- we will be AIDS-free within eight years. We started 10 years. Should have started in the previous administration; they did nothing. It started --

Q So, Mr. President, you --

THE PRESIDENT: -- at my administration. Ten years and now it's at eight.

Q -- the FDA has approved this, remdesivir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And he's asking how do you get it. Are you going to use the Defense Production Act to get it produced?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he got it. I'll tell you, Danny got it, fortunately. And Danny is -- Danny gave it credit for saving his life.

We are putting the full power and might behind this drug. With that being said, it's a very hard drug. There are others that are much easier to make. It takes a little period of time to make it. The company is a great company. Done incredible work over the years. They are pushing absolutely as fast. You know, this isn't something like let's build machines or let's -- this is a very delicate balance. But we're pushing very, very hard on remdesivir.

Q So our next question is from a teacher in Chesterfield, Virginia.

VIEWER: Hi, President Trump. My name is Kristin Murray. I'm an algebra teacher in Virginia. We appreciate you and support you and all you're doing.

I would like to see what your ideas are for getting us teachers back into our classrooms. We don't want to be virtual teaching. We want to be in the classrooms with our students. So what's your ideas for getting us back in our classrooms and getting the doors open?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I --

Q Before you answer that, Mr. President, just one second.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, please.

Q A lot of questions tonight, not only from teachers but also the other side: from students talking about COVID-19. Real quick, put them together here. Rebecca Johnson.

Q Hi, I'm Rebecca and I live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I'm going to be a freshman in high school next year, and I worry that coronavirus is going to come back. How will I feel safe going back to school if a second wave hits?

THE PRESIDENT: So when you go back -- and you have one problem that is a bigger problem, and that's teachers over 60 or 65 years old -- the teachers. Because I think that Kristin or Rebecca are going to be in great shape, and they may wear masks for a while and they may be separated further than what they're used to. And I think they're going to be in great shape.

But we have to get our schools back. This virtual teaching is wonderful, and you know, frankly, it's taken a very positive step. I mean, I could say -- I've had now, essentially, board meetings and meetings with governors and other people with -- you know, using -- they call it "tele." Right? "Tele." And it's not bad, but there's nothing like having a meeting. I still think you're never going to replace that.

No, they're going to go back. We have to have our students go back to school. My biggest thing -- because I really feel the students are in great shape. They're going to be all of the things we have to do. All of the things.

But I do worry about teachers at a certain age. Rebecca is young and she's going to be fine. Students are going to be fine. But I really think that -- you know, if you take a look, Kristin is going to be fine. But if you have a teacher that's 65 or 70 years old and has diabetes, that one, I think, they're going to have to sit it out for a little while --

Q But, Mr. President, overall --

THE PRESIDENT: -- unless we come up with the vaccine sooner.

Q -- are you going to urge the nation's universities and schools to go back in September?

THE PRESIDENT: I am. I want them to go back. We have to get our country back. Yeah. I don't want to do this forever. I watched a very good governor, former -- former governor of Indiana preceding -- he preceded Mike Pence. Good governor. And he's the head of Purdue. It's a great school. And I saw him the other day. He wants to go back. He's going back. Purdue -- big school, fantastic. They're going back.

We have to go back. We have to go back. And whatever it is -- I

would say, with the exception of teachers at a certain age, maybe they should wait until this thing passes. It will pass. You know, it's going to pass. And a lot of people say, "We have to get the vaccine." Well, certainly we do, and we have to get therapeutics. I'd rather have, right now, therapeutics that make people better. That's where remdesivir is -- is really good.

Q You did talk a lot about hydroxychloroquine for a while.

THE PRESIDENT: I do. And I still do.

Q And there were some studies that came out that questioned the cardiac tie --

THE PRESIDENT: No, look --

Q -- but you stopped talking about it.

THE PRESIDENT: One study. One study. But there was studies that came out that say it's very good too.

And I'll tell you what: I've had three calls in the last three days, four days, of people that took it, and they're giving it credit for saving their lives. And other state -- you know, other countries are using it, and they're -- they're going -- they're bragging about it. You look at their numbers.

Here's -- here's what we've been reduced to in this country: The Democrats, the radical left, whatever you want, would rather see people -- I'm going to be very nice. I'm not going to say "die." I'm going to say would rather see people not get well because they think I'm going to get credit if, you know, hydroxychloroquine works. And I don't want the cre- -- I don't care about it. I have nothing to do with it, by the way. Everyone said I own the company. I've nothing to do with hydroxychloroquine, other than, if it worked, it would be

great. It would be so good for our na- -- because it would save people.

But, you know, we've had some very good -- you look at -- there are certain countries that swear by it. They have a much lower number. You know the countries I'm talking about.

Q But you're putting your real chips on the vaccine being fast.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think we're going to have a vaccine by the end of the year. Now, the doctors would say, "Well, you shouldn't say that." I'll say what I think. I've met with the heads of the big companies. These are great companies. Yeah, I think we're going to have a vaccine much sooner rather than later. I think it will be -- I think that will be done. I would rather have, frankly, therapeutic, meaning something to make people better. If not a cure, at least a therapeutic.

And, you know, that -- look, we started the other day with Gilead. I really think so. But we're going to have other things, and it could be that hydroxy is going to be -- we don't lose anything with hydroxy. It's been out there. Bret, it's been out there for so many years. Then they start doing the false reports: It's making peo- -- it's -- it's been used for numerous things for many years. People aren't dying from it. But they would rather --

Q Obviously, doctors are involved there and they --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, they don't want to see a good result, and that's very sad.

Q Let me ask -- there are some questions that deal with looking back. Leslie is one of them. Leslie Caulfield from New Jersey has our next question for the President.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay.

VIEWER: President Trump, it's been widely reported that the threat of the coronavirus was included in your daily intelligence briefings for weeks prior to the first confirmed case in the U.S. Can you please explain to us why you did not act sooner to prepare this country for this pandemic?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, I love the question, actually, because what I did is I -- way early, I closed our country to China. Nancy Pelosi was, a month later, saying, "It's going to pass." Everybody -- even Tony Fauci was saying, "It's going to pass, not going to be a big deal." Schumer was talking about all sorts of things. This is long after I closed the country.

They called me a racist. They said "xenophobic." Biden said, "He was xenophobic." Biden has now written a letter of apology because I did the right thing. I saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

Okay. She's asking me the question about intelligence. I have the head of the intelligence agencies here today. And here's the exact thing. And we have it; it's going to be released tomorrow or the next day, but I released it today.

On January 23rd, I was told that there could be a virus coming in, but it was of no really import. In other words, it wasn't, "Oh, we've going to do something. We got to do something." It was a brief conversation, and it was only on January 23rd. Shortly thereafter, I closed down the country to China. And we had 20 people, 21 people in the room. I was the only one that wanted to close it down. Very good people in the room, very well meaning.

But take a look. On, I think it was, February 26, Nancy Pelosi

is, "Let's dance in the streets of Chinatown" to show that it's not going to hurt us. In other words, I'm not blaming her for it, but nobody thought this was going to happen. But on January -- it's such an important question to me because they think that months earlier we were told about this and we should have done something about it.

China didn't even know for a period of time. It got out. China should have stopped it, but China -- they didn't know and they wouldn't let us in. We wanted to go into China. They didn't want us to go in because they didn't want to have us see it. Maybe they were worried about competence. Maybe they were worried about something else.

But the question is good, and here's the final answer: The intelligence agencies told me on the 23rd. Shortly thereafter, I closed down the country, but I didn't do it because of what they said. Because they said it very matter of factly it was not a big deal. And the intelligence agencies, which have now -- now, because before they weren't -- which are now very competently run with some great people and some great people coming. The intelligence agencies will tell you that tomorrow.

Q So when you did stop travel in from China --

THE PRESIDENT: I did.

Q -- about 40,000 people came back to this country.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q You said --

THE PRESIDENT: They were American citizens, by the way.

Q But you said they were tested? Who tested them and where?

THE PRESIDENT: They were tested. Well, the different states. They were tested. They were quarantined when they were sick. And they came back -- I spoke with Ron DeSantis two days ago. He called me, he said, "You know, the 40,000 people that came back, the ones that went to Florida," he said, "we put them through the grill. We had people quarantined. We had people tested." You could ask the governor. You know, there's one example, but other governors did the same thing if they were doing their job.

But I had to let them come back. I actually said, "Maybe we could keep them there for a while." These are American citizens. I had to let them come back, Martha. So we had 40,000 people. Now, when the Democrats said it, "He said he closed the border, but he let 40,000," they don't say they were American citizens. I did the right thing. But when they came back, they were tested. Some were tested, probably, not as good as they could have been. I can tell you, Florida tested the people very, very well, and look how low the numbers are in Florida. They've done a great job.

Q When we come back -- thank you, Mr. President -- more of your questions, specifically from small-business owners, many of whom say, despite the historic effort by the government to help, they feel like they've fallen through the cracks, some of them. You'll hear from them next.

(Commercial break begins.)

(Commercial break ends.)

Q Welcome back to our Fox News Virtual Town Hall at the Lincoln Memorial here in Washington, D.C, bringing your questions and concerns about COVID-19.

And opening up straight to President Trump: Mr. President, carved

on the wall behind me is Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address, and I quote, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, let us bind up the nations wounds." Words, you know, meant to heal a nation devastated by a civil war.

We obviously live in a divided time as well. You know that well. Your choice, even, of this hallowed place for this virtual town hall is creating controversy, criticism. What do you say to people who say this is not the right venue for this?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, I didn't know that it was creating criticism, and I did say this would be nice, but I thought it was your choice, not ours. And I -- I had not heard. What can you criticize? It's -- I don't think it's ever been done, what we're doing tonight here. And I think it's great for the American people to see. This is a great work of art. Aside from the fact that that was a great man, this a great work of art. That's one of the greatest sculptures, one of the greatest statues, to me, anywhere in the world. And you can go to Italy, you can go anywhere. That's, to me, one of the greats. And I didn't know there was controversy. Why is there controversy?

Q Some from Capitol Hill sent a letter that it's not the right place, not the right site. But as far as bringing America together, do you think you're doing that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we're winning very big, and then we had a horrible thing happened. We're winning bigger than we've ever won before, Bret. And I think that winning, ultimately, is going to bring this country together.

I'm shocked that, during a crisis, it would be so partisan. You know, when you see all these committees, seven or eight committees who haven't even started, and they have all these committees looking for trouble -- just looking for trouble. Every enemy I have is put on a Democrat committee. And

I was surprised. You know, they did the impeachment hoax. It was a total hoax over a phone call that was a perfect call. And we had tremendous -- when you look at the House, I think it was 196 to nothing -- the Republicans. There was great unity. In the Senate, the same thing.

With all of that unity we have, in one sense we have great unity; in another sense, I think they're going to come along. I mean, you know, I certainly hope so.

But the main thing I have to do is bring our country back, and I want to get it back to where it was or maybe beyond where it was. You know, we have tremendous stimulus -- all the money we've been talking about so far tonight. I think next year is going to be a phenomenal economic year. We can never forget all the people that have died, the souls that have been lost in this horrible thing that shouldn't -- shouldn't have happened. It just shouldn't have happened. It's such a horrible thing. And there's a lot -- a lot going on about finding out the answer to that, because this is something that should never have happened. It's tragic.

Q But we want to ask you a little bit more about China --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- in just a moment, but I -- you mentioned winning. And there's a race to win on the vaccine between countries in the world.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q So pushing this vaccine development in order to get it to go faster leads to human trials, people volunteering --

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q -- to basically be injected with COVID-19.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q Are you concerned about the ethics or the risk of that, in that push?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because they're volunteers. They know what they're getting into. They're, in many cases, very good people. They want to help the process.

Look, a vaccine has never gone like it's gone now. We're so far ahead of any vaccine ever in history. You know, these things would take 2, 4, 5, 6 years, 10 years. I think we're going to have a vaccine. I'm telling you, by the end of the year, we -- I think we're going to have a vaccine.

Q You think another country could beat us?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm -- I'm going to really say something that is not like me, and it's not like the two of you. I know you, and it's not like you. I don't care. I just want to get a vaccine that works. I really don't care. If it's another country, I'll take my hat off to them. We have to come up with a vaccine. We're working with other countries. We're working with Australia, we're working with the UK. I spoke with, the other day, your Prime Minister of UK. Right? He's -- Boris. He's a -- he's a victim of what happened. He thought it was over. He thought it was over. It was vicious. And he made it. He's a great guy and he made it. But he had firsthand experience. The ultimate firsthand experience.

Q Mr. President, our next questioner is Dina Rubio. She's the co-manager of a restaurant down in West Palm Beach, Florida. You know well. Here's her question.

VIEWER: We're facing a shortage of supplies due to the closure of chicken, pork, and beef plants. Prices are going up, and the restaurant industry is finding even more obstacles to stay afloat. My question is: How can we manage to keep working with very slim profit margins, to begin with, and absorb the shortage price increase at this point? And even when we do open our dining rooms, we will be having limited seating available.

THE PRESIDENT: Right. So the restaurant business is a tough business to start off with. Not an easy business. We're doing a number of things. Number one, the supply chain is going to be in great shape. I did the production -- Defense Production Act. We did things. The problem with the supply chain is you have people that have gotten sick with the COVID-19. You've had the people, and they've gotten sick.

They're getting better, and they're all getting better. And you can't make them work. I don't want them to work, frankly, if they're not feeling right. But we did something the other day, which you read about, which was a great shock to the system in a positive way. We have tremendous -- we have tremendous supply. We have tremendous demand. We have to get it from supply to the people, to the restaurants. And we're doing that, really, very well.

Two days ago, I signed this. It's coming along really good. They'll have. Now, the bigger problem is what's going to happen with the restaurant. So we're not going to have any chain problem. The bigger problem is what are you going to do with a restaurant, which was, you know, a nice little business, but all of a sudden, they have half the number of seats, if they go. Eventually, we're going to have all those seats back. You're going to have all those seats. I want to sit next to people. I don't want to have all this spread out. Like even the way we're doing, we're doing this -- we're doing this

interview tonight. Look how far away you are. Look how far away you are. You know, normally we'd be sitting together and we'd have a nice interview. Of course, in this particular location, this isn't so bad.

But, no, we have to get our -- our life back. We have to get our country back. We have to get the world back. We want to have -- if we have a stadium in Alabama that holds 110,000 people against LSU -- I went there -- we want to have 110,000. We don't want to have 25,000 people or 40,000 people, and that'll happen.

Maybe it's going to be a vaccine, or maybe it's going to be that this virus will pass. It will go. Will it come back? It might. It could. Some people say yes, but it will pass.

Q I want to go back to the meat processing plants because there is some controversy surrounding that. Danny Lemos, who you saw before, who had the remdesivir --

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q -- who said it helped him survive, his father worked in one of those in Nebraska in the meat plants. And some people there say that there are -- you know, they have plastic between them, but they're too close together. A lot of immigrants working there who are concerned, but they can't turn down a paycheck to go back there.

So they're -- you know, the Smithfield plant in Crete wanted to shut down for two weeks, and then the executive order changed that. So there is some pushback on that decision by you. What do you say to those people?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the companies really wanted it. And the employees have to want to work. Now, if they don't want to work, that's one thing, but they are working. And they need the

money. And the companies are doing -- they're great companies. You know, these have been -- these are the biggest companies in the world in terms of delivery and in terms of all of the things they do to get it from, literally, the ranch or the farm into the hands of the consuming public.

But I think it's all working out. You know, the numbers are heading in the right direction. The numbers -- look, the biggest thing we can do to solve every problem is get rid of the plague. I call it "the plague." If we get rid of the plague, all these problems go away very quickly.

Q But some of those meat processing areas are hotspots right now.

THE PRESIDENT: They're hotspots. And they're moving them, and they did put up plastic, but now they're going to move them, in some cases, further away. And certain plants don't have any problem at all. You know, you have plants with no problem at all. Then you have some where it was a hotspot. Those people are tending to get better very quickly. I think, you know, Danny is an example. I hope his father is going to be okay too.

But it's all working out. It's all working out. It's horrible that we have to go through it, but it's all working out.

Q Our next question is from Carol MacNeil, a retired teacher in Bluffton, South Carolina.

VIEWER: A family member who lives in a very exclusive and expensive assisted living center in the Boston area was recently diagnosed with coronavirus. What will be done, both in the short term and in the long term, to protect the vulnerable in nursing homes, senior housing, and assisted living centers?

THE PRESIDENT: So the nursing home problem, that's your ground

zero. It really is ground zero. We first heard about it -- I did -- in Washington, when so many people were -- the State of Washington, where so many people died in a single nursing home. And you realized immediately there's a vulnerability there.

What we're doing is legislation immediately as to how many people can be in. Some people made some terrible mistakes. They were putting other people into empty areas and nursing homes that were sick, and that affected the people in the nursing homes. Because the one thing about this disease that everybody has learned very easily and very quickly is the way it's so contagious. It is the most contagious thing people have seen.

So, in 1917, we had a horrible -- in that case, it was the flu, right? You remember, the Spanish flu. I've -- so much has been written about it. Now, of course, it's the hottest -- everybody that writes a book about the Spanish flu, 1917 -- it killed between 100 and -- I guess, 50 to 100 million people. It probably ended the First World War because the soldiers were all getting sick. It was the worst the world has ever seen, that we know of.

We have something that's different. It's not as powerful, but it's far more contagious.

Q But with regard to the nursing homes, one of the questions that came to my mind when I watched the Comfort leaving Manhattan and the Javits Center: Why were these people next to each other like this in nursing homes when we had all this excess capacity and beds? Why weren't they sent there?

THE PRESIDENT: So, on that one, you have to ask the governor and -- in the case, the governors. Because all I can do is provide the space. They're running their state, as you understand. And that's the way it should be. They run their state through mayors

and through this and that. You know, bring it down local and bring it down to a point.

But we provided 2,900 beds in the convention center. On top of that, we brought in the Comfort. They did a phenomenal job. And the Comfort wasn't meant for the COVID-19. The Comfort was meant for people that had car accidents and everything else. And we found out there were no accidents because nobody was driving.

Q Because nobody was driving.

THE PRESIDENT: We had very few accidents.

But it wasn't meant for that. What we did is we converted it to that, but, still, they didn't use it much. And I think the numbers now are getting better. We just moved the Comfort. We're going to move it someplace else, probably, perhaps for some other kind of problem. But we had the Comfort there, and we built in the -- in the Javits Center. We built over 2,000 beds. And, by the way, built in like five days by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Army Corps of Engineers have done one of the greatest jobs anyone has ever seen, including the fact that we happen to be building a wall on the southern border that's now up to 172 miles.

Q Quickly: How concerned are you about hospitals that are not dealing with COVID-19, or primarily not, and they're letting people go? They're closing.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. We have to get elective surgery, it's called. And we have to let them come back. It's okay with us. Again, that's up to the governors. You have some hospitals where they have almost no COVID, and they have the hospital -- essentially, you can't go and do elective surgery, meaning a

surgery -- well, in some cases, it's cancer, where they -- they're waiting long. That's not a good thing to be waiting long.

So it's such a -- they have to get back. They have to let these hospitals -- because the hospitals are legitimately -- you know, you'd think they're making a lot of money. They're losing a fortune.

They have to let those hospitals reopen and get back to elective surgery. And there are many hospitals right now that could be doing that. The gov- -- that's up to the governors; that's not up to me.

Q Well, when we come back -- thank you, Mr. President -- more viewer questions for the President. Plus, we will be joined by Vice President Mike Pence and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin here at Fox News Virtual Town Hall in Washington, D.C. A great backdrop here -- the Lincoln Memorial.

(Commercial break begins.)

(Commercial break ends.)

Q Let's get right to our virtual town hall questions for President Trump. Back again.

Q Our next question for the President comes from Clearwater, Florida. Here it is.

VIEWER: Thank you for taking our question, Mr. President. I'm Mary Rose.

VIEWER: And I'm Mark. And we own Rosemark Grips. We're a small business in Florida that makes golf putter grips. We do not qualify for the Payroll Protection Program because we do all the

work ourselves. We don't have any payroll employees. We're wondering if there's something in the works that will help us out as we have numerous bills that still need to be paid and do not qualify for current programs that are out there.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I love your business. And both -- I can speak for Bret -- we could both use a nice putter grip, and that would be nice. But I don't know about you, Bret -- I haven't played golf in a long time.

Q I haven't played much.

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't played too much lately. But I will say this: What we have to do is get -- get it open. I see New Jersey is opening up their golf courses. Florida is now opening up their golf courses. Parks are opening. Beaches are opening. At some point, we have to open our country. And people are going to be safe. We've learned a lot. We've learned about the tremendous contagion. But we have no choice. We have to -- we can't stay closed as a country. We're not going to have a country left.

Q But Mark and Mary Rose are saying they fell through the cracks. We got a lot of questions like this --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Yeah.

Q -- that either the bank didn't give it to them or they didn't qualify. And is there -- what are you telling them?

THE PRESIDENT: I understand. And all we could do in that case is we have to bring back -- we have to bring back the business. Now, all of that is opening. And, you know, their business is golf, which is a nice business. And we're opening up that whole golf sector -- the sports sector.

We're -- I wish I could help them; I'd even help them personally, because you know what? It's not a big business, but for them it's a big -- it's a big thing. And they probably do a fantastic job. I can see they have such great spirit.

What we do is we loan the money to small businesses, but not necessarily business -- and, you know, it's an unusual circumstance where they're each their own employee. I think what I'm going to do is I'm going to take a look at that. Maybe there is something we can do.

Q Because all of the stimulus in the world really can't solve the problem of demand in the country, right?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. The greatest thing --

Q I mean, how do you stimulate demand?

THE PRESIDENT: The greatest thing we can do is get rid of the virus, because then everything comes back together. Then every -- you don't need stimulus once that's happening. Now, what is happening is the stim- -- you know, we're talking about 3 trillion, not just 2 trillion. Three trillion. It could even go to six. And we're going to have a tremendous year next year because of what we're doing and laying the seeds. You know, we're talking 30 million jobs that we've saved. Thirty million jobs. That's unheard of. In addition, we saved the airlines. We saved others.

You know, one thing happened on Friday that was very big. Boeing, a great company; then they had the problem that people know -- a different problem. And then they end up with this, where their sales are cut so badly because of this, which is, by the way, also happening in Europe, as you know, with their competitor. No airplanes. They floated a bond issue. Borrowed money very, very successfully at a good rate on Friday. That's a

big step.

The markets are there. The markets are open. I believe it was \$30 billion. So the markets are there. That's a big step. We didn't have to do anything with Boeing. They went out to the markets, and they were able to borrow a lot of money. And it's going to be a great company again.

But we've done that with the airlines. The airlines, Bret, were having the best year they've ever had -- ever, in their history. And then we had to -- we had to turn off the airlines. We had to turn off everything. And we did the right thing, but we never want to have to do it again.

Q Let's go to Carolyn Perkins. She's a retired nurse and an elementary school guidance counselor. And here is her comment/question.

VIEWER: President Trump, my husband and I thank you, your family, and your staff for your great dedication to our country. We pray for you every day. The question I have is about your manner of presentation. Why do you use descriptive words that could be classified as bullying? And why do you not directly answer the questions asked by the press but instead speak of past successes and generally ramble?

The USA needs you. Please let go of those behaviors that are turning people away from you. Please hold on to your wonderful attributes that make you our great leader and let go of other characteristics that do not serve you.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q She's a school teacher.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I like that question. I'm not sure, but I think I like that question. I appreciate it. I appreciate the

prayers, too, very much.

Look, I am greeted with a hostile press the likes of which no president has ever seen. The closest would be that gentleman right up there. They always said Lincoln -- nobody got treated worse than Lincoln. I believe I am treated worse. You're there. You see those press conferences. They come at me with questions that are disgraceful. To be honest, disgraceful. Their manner of presentation and their words.

And I feel that if I was kind to them, I'd be -- I'd be walked off the stage. I mean, they come at you with the most horrible, horrendous, biased questions. And you see it. Ninety-four or ninety-five percent of the press is hostile. And yet, if you look in Florida today, we had hundreds and hundreds of boats going up and down the Intracoastal: "Trump. Trump." We have tremendous support.

But the media is -- they might as well be in the Democrat Party. And why? I don't know. We fixed our military. We fixed the vet. You know, if you look at the VA -- you take a look at what's going on with our vets: They have Choice now, and we have Accountability. We're able to get rid of people that don't treat our vets well. They've -- they've been trying to do that for 44 years. And because of civil service in the unions, you couldn't do it.

The biggest thing is Choice. We've -- we have done -- it's Choice, where if a vet can't see a doctor quickly, they go outside, they get a doctor, they get fixed up, we pay the bill, instead of waiting for five weeks, seven weeks. Look at how well these things are running.

We've rebuilt our military. We've done -- we had the greatest tax cut -- biggest tax cut in history. All of the things we've done, and yet we have a very hostile press. And you understand

that. Maybe you're not going to say it or admit it, and maybe you shouldn't. But nobody has ever seen anything like this. So I really appreciate the question. And I -- I very much appreciate the sentiment behind the question. But I'm standing up there, and instead of asking me a normal question -- the level of anger and hatred. I'll look at them and I'll say, "What's your problem? What is your problem?"

You know, I believe we've done more than any president in the history of our country in the first three years, three and a half years. I really believe that. When you look -- even if you look -- Space Force. Space Force. Also take a look at terrorism. Al Baghdadi, we killed him. Soleimani, we killed him. We killed the worst terrorists in the world. We got rid of ISIS for -- you know, we took over 100 percent of the caliphate. When I took it over, the caliphate was all over the place. Obama had failed.

Q But do you think the election will come down to a referendum on how you handled this crisis?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but it's going to be a factor.

Q Do you think it's bigger than that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think the election is going to come down to -- I hope it does because we've done a great job. We had no ventilators. We had no testing. We had nothing. I had -- I inherited empty -- empty -- no ammunition. Our military was bad. We've rebuilt our military -- \$1.5 trillion. We have the best military, by far, in the world. It's rebuilt. It's either all new or the equipment is coming in, which is great.

But you know what? Also, medically: We had empty cupboards. The cupboards -- I say, the cupboards were empty. We have an incredible testing. We have the best testing system, right now, in the world. We also make all the ventilators.

I spent the weekend at Camp David speaking to -- and a prior couple of days -- speaking to heads of other countries that are desperate from -- for ventilators. And we now have so many ventilators. You know, a month ago, that's all they were talking about was ventilators. The team of people that did this job was incredible. It was probably the biggest mobilization since World War Two.

Q Mr. President, the governors credit you for the ventilators across the board. You mentioned the Democrats and leaving the cupboards bare from the previous administration.

You're not surprised to hear that the former Vice President, Joe Biden, pushes back against that. He tweeted just the other day: "We left a playbook. He ignored it. We created an office to prepare for pandemics. He gutted it. We had CDC officials in China to detect and contain the outbreaks. He pulled them out. Trump can try and shift blame all he wants, but the fact is his actions left us unprepared."

Your response to that?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, Joe Biden didn't write that. That was written from a young man that got very good grades, at a very good school. That was not written by him, I promise you that. Joe Biden, just so you know, when I closed our borders to China, I did the China ban. I didn't want to do that. I did something that nobody wanted to do. Joe Biden said, "He's xenophobic. He's a racist." They called me racist, and I saved hundreds of thousands of lives. And he actually apologized with a letter on a Friday night saying, "He made the right move." It wasn't well played by the press, but he said I made the right move.

No, if we would have listened to Joe Biden -- look how badly they did on swine flu, the H1N1, which he calls the opposite. H1 --

it's H1N1, swine flu. Look how badly they did on that. Look how badly they've done on so many other things.

I mean, the place -- our military was a mess. Our -- just about everything was a mess. Look at what they did in the Middle East, what's gone on in the Middle East. And in all fairness on the Middle East, I look at the previous administration for getting us in because that was the single worst decision made in this country's history. The single worst -- getting into the Middle East.

Just so you understand, we've spent \$8 trillion in the Middle East. What do we have for it? What do we have for it? And things are moving very nicely in the other direction.

Q Our next question for the President comes from Rob in Ohio.

VIEWER: Hello. I'm Rob from Columbus, Ohio. The coronavirus is disproportionately affecting communities of color. I wanted to know what your administration will do to address this.

THE PRESIDENT: So, we are working on that very hard. And you're right, 100 percent, that if you look at African American -- by the way, Asian American also and Hispanic American --they're very much more affected. People are not 100 percent sure. It could be because it's a certain segment that does work together -- restaurants and different jobs, which are affected a lot. But we're coming out with a report in two weeks on it, and I want to get to the bottom of it too because it's a totally disproportional effect. It really is. It's pretty amazing, actually.

Q Next question is from Tripp Grebe. He's a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and here is his question for you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Good.

VIEWER: Mr. President, if you're elected to a second term, what's your plan to be more fiscally responsible to either reduce or eliminate the deficit in response to increased federal spending for the coronavirus stimulus packages?

THE PRESIDENT: So we have billions of dollars coming in right now from other countries. We have money coming in. People are paying now for military protection. People are paying for other things.

As you know, I'm putting taxes on other countries where they've taken advantage of us -- especially, by the way, China. China never gave 10 cents to our country. They ripped off our country for many, many -- and I've told this to President Xi directly, in a nice manner and in a not-so-nice manner. I get along with him. Should have done something different on this.

But we made an incredible trade deal. We have tens of billions of dollars pouring in. President Obama and Joe Biden didn't do anything. China just had a field day with our country. And then you look at his son walking out with a billion and a half dollars. Give me a break on that.

And I can go back to President Bush, and I can go back before President Bush too. China ripped this country off for many, many decades, and I stopped it. Then, of course, you had this horror show coming in: the -- the plague. It came in. So now it's a different story.

But we've taken in billions. And what have I done with it? I've given some of the monies -- because they were targeted by China -- to the farmers and to the ranchers: \$12 billion dollars two years ago, \$16 billion last year, and we have a lot this year. And we, by the way, have many times those numbers leftover

from all the money we're making from China. That never happened before.

Q But you have \$25 trillion in debt, as of today --

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q -- and there's more on the burner --

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q -- that's possibly coming down the pipe.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q What's the number that's too much when you get to --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to cut -- no, we're going to cut back very substantially. Plus, we're going to have great growth. This country is going to grow like crazy as soon as we get it going, and we're going to start making our products here.

Hey, Bret, you've known me for a long time. I've been talking about this for a long time. It's one of the reasons -- I would say border security, the military, and trade. These are the three primary reasons I got elected. This is a very big thing for me.

I made a deal -- Japan is now paying us \$40 billion. They weren't paying us. They weren't doing anything. They were selling us -- they were selling us cars. We wouldn't do anything to tax them, but we couldn't sell cars in Japan. Japan -- we did a deal for \$40 billion -- \$40 billion a year.

Look at South Korea. We did the deal in South Korea. Mexico, Canada -- USMCA. The NATO -- the -- the NAFTA deal was so

horrible. It was so horrible.

But I said a word just now: NATO. My biggest fan in the whole world is the Secretary General of NATO, Stoltenberg. Great man. Great gentleman. He said nobody has ever done, for NATO, what I've done. We got \$150 billion. The money that they're paying -- other countries, they weren't paying. We were paying for 100 percent of NATO. And now, other countries are putting up.

I went to them, I said, "Listen, you're going to either pay, or we're not going to be..." -- why would we be protecting all of these countries? Twenty-eight countries total. Why would we be protecting? "You're not even paying your bills. You're delinquent." Well, they're putting up \$150 billion a year, and it's going up to 400 billion, and no other president has ever done anything like that.

Q I just want to -- we have to take a break, but I just want to ask you quickly: There's a lot of people who say: Why you talk about making it here in America? Why are all of the antibiotics made in China? Can you give me a date by which we will be self-sufficient in antibiotics in this country? And what kind of incentive would you give manufacturers of pharmaceuticals to make sure that we are not dependent on China anymore for this?

THE PRESIDENT: So the reason it took place is because other people that sat in this chair -- maybe not right here, but this a beautiful place -- because they were foolish. You could even say because they were stupid, because they allowed this to happen.

And it's not only China. You take a look at Ireland; they make our drugs. Everybody makes our drugs, except us. And we've already done it. We're coming out with things. Numbers -- you're seeing numbers of -- of innovations that we've made in the past, and things are being announced already. But we're bringing

that whole supply chain back. Nobody has to tell me to do it. I've been talking about that for years.

Now, the one that you see -- you don't see -- you see it with cars, you see it with other things. People never looked at medicine, but it's always been about medicine because we have at least 94, 95 percent of our medicines are made --

Q Which makes it important to do the vaccine here.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's an incredible thing. They're American companies -- well, I'd like to be able to do it here. I don't want to do it in China -- that, I can tell you. But I think we're going to do it here. And if we do it someplace else -- look, we have to get a vaccine. Whoever gets it, I'm going to -- I'm going to be their best fan. And I want it -- I need the vaccine. We need -- this country needs the vaccine. And you're going to have it by the end of the year. I -- I firmly believe it. I may be wrong.

Q When will we get that 94 percent of antibiotics made in this country? Do you have a target date for that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will have it done within two years. You know, it doesn't go that quickly. And, frankly, you put me in a very bad negotiating position by asking me this question. You know, we're talking about this, and now I'm supposed to call up my guys.

I mean, you put me in a very bad negotiating position. And I -- I'm not blaming you. That's your -- that's your job. But, you know, you're taking my cards away, because I don't want to be talking this way. I've done a lot, but it gets exposed when you answer. I assume this show is a big show. Right? It's going to do very well tonight. But you do take away a lot of my cards when you're answering -- asking me a question like that. You

understand that.

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Here's the bottom line: I met with the drug companies six months ago. I said, "You're going to start making the drugs here. You're going to start making them here." And they do it for two reasons: a cost reason. But it's no longer so much cost, because we can do things here for the same price and, in some cases, less. And then you don't have the transportation problems.

We're taking care of our -- look, another reason I got elected -- and some people don't like the sound of it, and other countries don't like it, but I said, "I'm sorry. It's called America First, and we're all about America First." That's what we're about. These other -- the other people that sat in this position, they would subsidize other countries that weren't -- that don't even like us. That don't even like us. This is all about America first.

Q Mr. President, thank you. When we return, Vice President Mike Pence and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin join the President here at the Lincoln Memorial to answer more of your questions on our virtual town hall. We'll be right back.

(Commercial break begins.)

(Commercial break ends.)

Q We're back here at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. for our virtual town hall with President Trump, joined now by Vice President Mike Pence and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin. Let's get back to our questions. Gentlemen, thank you for being here. Mr. Secretary, Mr. Vice President.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: You bet. Good to see you.

Q Boy, what a beautiful shot as night falls over the Lincoln Memorial here in Washington, D.C. Welcome to all of you. Great to have you here.

Let's go to our next questioner, Kylie Patterson from Baltimore. She is the Director of Economic Inclusion at Johns Hopkins University.

VIEWER: President Trump, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of Americans have lost their jobs. How will you respond to the joblessness, while also ensuring that our infrastructure is better than ever? Have you considered investing in the infrastructure -- in our highways, our railways, our airports and bridges -- as a way to create jobs for America?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Mr. President, that's to you, but you can obviously phone a friend here if you'd like to.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I will do that, and I'd love to have both speak about it. But infrastructure is very important. It's also important to the Democrats, by the way. That's something we actually do get along. I want to see a payroll tax cut on both sides, a very strong one, because that's going to really put people to work.

But infrastructure is so important. Our country, our roads are -- excuse me, they're going to hell. We can't get infrastructure approved. Now we have a time -- we have a period of time when we can get infrastructure done by both parties, and we're looking at that.

In addition, as you know, they want bailouts for the states --

the Democrats. And, really, it's a number of states that, frankly, have not been managed well by Democrats over a long period of time. So we have to be very careful about that. Very careful.

But we will be doing infrastructure. And I told Steve, just today, we're not doing anything unless we get a payroll tax cut. That is so important to the success of our country and to the following year, because I think that the following year has a chance to be one of our best years. That'll be tremendous.

Q Do you all believe that that is how you stimulate demand -- is that payroll tax cut? I mean, where do you look at that in the big picture?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, the President has been very clear on that, and he's spoken about a payroll tax cut over the years.

But I would also say to that viewer that the immediate way we deal with joblessness is by opening up America again. The guidelines that the President produced that now we see some 41 states produced plans for a phased, responsible reopening of our economy -- it's going to create jobs in the immediate.

And I just think where we are today, despite the heartbreaking losses of more than 67,000 Americans -- where we are today is still a tribute to our healthcare workers, to the sacrifices that American families and businesses have made over the last few months. And if we continue to practice that social distancing and those mitigation efforts as we go through a phased reopening, we'll create jobs today. And with the President's vision for infrastructure, a payroll tax cut, I have no doubt that the second half of this year we're going to see an American comeback. And next year, I agree with the President. I think we're going to have one of the best years in the history of our economy,

Q Mr. Secretary, we had questions earlier about people feeling like they fell through the cracks, wondering, you know, how they're going to factor in if they didn't get the PPP loan. What are you looking at for the next thing?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, let me just first comment before we say the next thing. Let me just emphasize what we've done. And the President was very clear: Keeping Americans at work, putting them back to work, protecting American business was our number one priority in an unprecedented way. We now have \$3 trillion that we're putting into the economy. That's just beginning. So for those Americans who haven't received their money yet, they will over the next few weeks.

Last week alone, we did \$2.1 million of small-business loans, averaging \$85,000 or less. We've already sent an enormous number: over 120 million direct deposits and checks. The President created enhanced unemployment.

So the President has been very clear, in an unprecedented way, for us to support the economy. And in the next round, we will go back and work with Congress, just as we have before, to make sure we protect American business and American workers and to stimulate the economy going forward.

Q So let's go to our next question for you all from Phil Tulkoff. He's the president of Tulkoff Food Products, which is a family company. Been in business for over 90 years. They have got four locations -- South Carolina, Georgia, Oregon, and Tennessee. And here is Phil's question.

VIEWER: For my firm, the current tariffs add up to almost \$60,000 in monthly additional costs for my operations. Lifting these tariffs would help us speed the recovery for many of us by allowing those funds to be used to hire workers, invest in

equipment, and recoup some of the cash we've spent to weather the current economic situation. Would you consider permanently or even temporarily reducing or eliminating those tariffs?

THE PRESIDENT: So, Phil, we're looking at the different things, but you have to remember, I've taken those tariffs and given a lot of them to the farmers, and farmers that would have been really forced out of business by China when they were targeted. Because China never had to target us because China was ripping our country off.

We were losing \$500 billion a year to China for years. And 300 billion, 200 billion, 544 billion -- 544 billion a few years ago. And -- and what I'm doing is -- and what I've done is taken a lot of money out of China, and I've given it back to Phil and other people, because I've given it back to the -- not all of it, because we've had -- we had so much. So much money came in from China. But we gave, as I said, 12 billion two years ago; 16 billion; and this year, we have 19 billion that we're distributing to the farmers. Nobody has ever done that. No president has ever done that.

Q But Phil is obviously bringing in supplies from China that he's getting -- he's paying tariffs on. Would you encourage him to try to find --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he is.

Q -- other countries to buy those things from?

THE PRESIDENT: He is. But you know what they're also getting? They're getting big payments. The farmers are getting big payments. And, by the way, they are the most incredible people. They don't even want the payments. You know what they say to me? Some -- something that almost no other group -- and I can say practically no other group. They want a level playing

field.

We had a meeting with them, with Mike, and they came in and I said, "We're going to give you this." They said, "Sir, honestly, we don't want anything. We just want a level playing field." Because for 18 years -- really, it's longer than that -- they've been taken advantage of not only by China, by everybody, including Canada, including many, many countries that you wouldn't even think.

So the farmers now, with the new USMCA and all of the other things -- and as far as Phil, I understand it. But we're giving billions and billions of that money to the farmers, and have a lot of money that goes back into the Treasury. And Steve is the proud recipient, from the standpoint of the Treasury.

Q But are you considering new tariffs on China as sort of a punishment for their handling of the virus?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's the ultimate punishment, I will tell you that. I don't like --

Q You had experts look at --

THE PRESIDENT: Again, I don't like to tell you what I -- because, you know, we're all playing a very complicated game of chess or poker. Name whatever you want to name, but it's not checkers -- that, I can tell you. We have a very complicated game going.

Our country was being ripped off by every nation in the world. And now we have made unbelievable strides. Unfortunately, then we get hit by this whole situation. But we have done so well. We have taken in so much money.

Going before the virus, China had the worst year they had in 67 years. That's a reason. And I'm not happy about that, but what it does is it says they were taking us for a ride, like nobody in history --

Q Right, but to Phil's point, is that Americans --

THE PRESIDENT: -- has ever done any -- at any time.

Q He's saying Americans feel it. Experts said just your mention of that helped drive the markets down Thursday and Friday.

THE PRESIDENT: Uh --

Q But I'm just wondering if you're really seriously thinking about it.

THE PRESIDENT: Look, tariffs, at a minimum, are the greatest negotiating tool that we have ever devised that were never used for negotiation. President Xi only made the deal with us. They -- they're going to buy 250 billion. Now, we're going to have to see what's going on because of what happened. This was done, you know, months before the -- the virus. But we're getting -- going to buy \$250 billion worth of our product. Two hundred and fifty billion. They didn't buy two cents. They didn't want to buy from us. They took advantage of our country.

Now they have to buy, and if they don't buy, we'll terminate the deal. Very simple. But by using the tariffs, that's the only reason. The one thing that he said: "We must get rid of tariffs." I say, we're not going to get rid of tariffs. You got to treat our country with respect. You've been ripping off our country for many years. The World Trade Organization has ripped off this country. That's when China became an economic power.

And, by the way, you have World Trade and you have World Health. The World Health Organization has been a disaster. Everything they said was wrong, and they're China-centric. All they do is they agree with China, whatever China wants to do.

So our country -- perhaps foolishly, in retrospect -- has been paying \$450 million a year to the World Health Organization. And China has been paying \$38 million a year, but they were more political than all of our leaders previous. So we'll see what I do with that. I'm going to have to make a decision on that.

But we're not happy because what they did -- what World Health did, they missed every single call. Who would want to put up with it?

Q There's a question to that.

Q Yeah, let's -- let's go to Moise (ph). Can we pull up Moise right now?

Q He's from Crawford, I think. Yeah.

VIEWER: Mr. President, I have a question for you: Is there enough evidence that China misled the global community by this coronavirus? If it's so, how should the global community respond?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't think there's any question about it. We wanted to go in. They didn't want us to go in early. Very early. You'll see that, because things are coming out that are pretty compelling now. So I don't think there's any question.

Don't forget, China tried to blame it first on some of our soldiers that turned out to not go too far. And I really got

very upset with that. That was not right. And then they tried to blame it on Europe. I said, "How did Europe get involved all of a sudden?" You know, Italy suffered probably more than anybody per capita. But Italy, Spain. France now is on an additional lockdown. They've got tremendous problems. All of Europe. It's been a disaster.

And, you know, when I put a ban on, those people went, for the most part, not here. And I'm not happy about this. It's terrible because it's life, whether it's here or Europe. But we put a ban on, very early, on China coming in. They went to Europe. Most of those people went to Europe. That's why Italy was so badly affected. And you -- you just see what they're going through. China tried to blame Europe for this.

No --

Q You told John Roberts the other day --

THE PRESIDENT: -- it came from China.

Q -- that you saw evidence that gave you a high confidence that the virus came from the Wuhan lab.

THE PRESIDENT: We're going to be given --

Q Not that it was created there, perhaps, but that it came from there.

THE PRESIDENT: At the right time, we're going to be given --

Q Can you illuminate any more about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we're going to be given a very strong report as to exactly what we think happened, and I think it'll be very conclusive.

Q Is there any suggestion that it was anything nefarious or that it was just a mistake?

THE PRESIDENT: So I think they made -- personally, I think they made a horrible mistake and they didn't want to admit it. We wanted to go in. They didn't want us there. Even World Health wanted to go in. They were admitted, but much later -- you know, not immediately. And my opinion is they made a mistake. They tried to cover it. They tried to put it out. It's like a fire. You know, it's really like trying to put out a fire. They couldn't put out the fire.

What they really treated the world badly on: They stopped people going into China, but they didn't stop people going into the USA and all over the world. So you could fly out of Wuhan, where the primary problem was, all of the problems, essentially. Also where the lab is. But you could fly out of Wuhan and you could go to different parts of the world, but you couldn't go to Beijing, and you couldn't go to any place in China. So what's that all about?

In other words, they knew they had a problem. I think they were embarrassed by the problem. Very embarrassed. And the -- you know, the case could be made. They said, "Hey, look, this is going to have a huge impact on China, and we might as well let the rest of the world. Because the last people they want -- we've had a great year against China, prior to the virus coming.

And I told you, 67 or so years, the worst economy they've had. Worse they've -- almost on record that they've ever had because of my negotiations and because I taxed them on the product that they brought in. And, by the way, they paid for that tax. It wasn't our people. They paid for that tax. They devalued their currency.

But here's the thing: They allowed this to go into our country. They allowed it to go into other countries all over the --

Q Does it change how you feel about President Xi? Does it change your relationship with him?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, I finished a trade deal that everybody said would be impossible to get. And not only a trade deal; it was a great deal for this country. But that was done months before the virus came.

I'm not going to say anything. I had a very good relationship. He's a strong man, he's a tough man, but I have a very good relationship with him. But this should never have happened. This should never have happened. This virus should not have spread all over the world. They should have put it out. They should have let us and other people in other countries go in and put it out, because people knew it was happening.

Q We have another question about the situation, getting people back to work in the U.S. Air travel, 95 percent down from a year ago, according to the TSA. Our next question coming from an aircraft technician in Texas.

VIEWER: Hi, I'm Joe from Arlington, Texas. I work for a major airline. How can we ensure the health and safety of our passengers? And, Mr. President, what advice will you give future presidents to prevent this from happening to our country again?

THE PRESIDENT: I love that second question. I just love it.

But you probably -- your airline was probably saved by us. Because Steve and all of the people we have -- we, you know, chose the smartest people on Wall Street to help us. Who else is better than these people? That's what they do.

And, by the way, they're working for a very tiny fee. Because I said, "I don't want to pay them a lot of money for doing this." We're giving them money to save the airlines. I'm not looking to make them rich. They're rich enough. So, I said, "We're going to get the best people. Pay them some costs, but pay them very little." I hope you kept doing that, Steve. Right?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: I did, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I hope. I'm going to check you. Anyway.

But we have the smartest people. We saved the airlines. We saved the airlines with 50 -- 25 and 25 billion dollars. So, it's \$50 billion, which is a very small price to pay. They were having the best -- the best year ever.

As far as your question to the future, we have to bring our product back home. We have to make our product in this country. We can't be hostage, because that's what we are. We can't be hostage to other countries -- China, in particular, but also to other countries. We can't ever let that happen again.

Q Mr. Vice President, there is that balance. You know, people are afraid to get on a plane, if they can eventually, and balancing that fear of getting people back to work or dealing with that fear.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, the President brought the airlines in very early on, and we want to commend all of our great airlines for continuing to operate where people needed to do essential travel.

But to your point, Bret, 95 percent reduction in the number of passengers. And it's one of the reasons why we're providing

financial assistance to those airlines. And I'd just say to that hardworking American: that we're going to bring it back. And the best thing we can do for airlines, the best thing we can do for all American businesses is, as the President often says, is put the coronavirus in the past. And the good news is that we're doing that.

We -- we're watching the trends literally every day, county by county, all across the country. In the hotspots, we're seeing stabilization and declines. Hospitalizations are going down. We've even seen, over the last five days, the death rate has gone down. And again, one life lost is too many.

I just had a friend who lost her mom in Kentucky, and she grieved that she couldn't be there to hold her hand when she went home to be with the Lord.

But the fact that we are seeing declines again, it's a tribute to the American people. And on the President's behalf and our whole team's behalf, I just want to urge the American people, as we continue to take important steps toward reopening our economy, getting people able to travel and enjoy the great benefits of this country and do business around America, we're going to do it in the way the President described in that phased approach, where we take careful measures to do it in a safe and responsible way.

But I'm absolutely convinced that, by early summer, we could -- we could have this economy beginning to move again. And with all the tremendous advances we're making in medicine and what we've learned in this healthcare, we'll get this economy roaring and bring America all the way back.

Q I want to get to the next viewer, but I also want to ask you, Secretary, a quick question. Some of these states that have, you know, unfunded pension debt -- right? -- we're throwing trillions of dollars at this effort to renew the country, renew

the economy -- should they get money if they have not taken good care of their finances before this happened?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, we're not looking to bail out states that were poorly managed. What we did do in the CARES Act, there was \$150 billion that was allocated to the states for coronavirus expenses. One of the things the President just instructed me to do -- and we sent out guidance on Friday -- that states can use the money for policemen, firemen, first responders, without limits. So we can make sure that none of those people who have been fighting the frontlines in any way are impacted by the states having lower revenues.

But the President is very clear: We're looking to help states, but we're not bailing out states' finances.

Q Carlia Alderman from Merritt Island, Florida, wants to know this. Take a listen.

VIEWER: Hi, Mr. President. My husband and I both work at our local church, and I think a lot of us churchgoers are just wondering when we might be able to get back to an in-person church service. Do you have any idea when this might be?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope it's going to be very soon, because I'm seeing things that I don't like seeing. I see some churches -- they are literally staying in their car with the window closed. I guess it comes out through the radio, the service. And they were getting arrested, and they're sitting in a car, and the cars are even far away. And they say, "Close your windows." So it has to come in electronically, and I'm saying, "Why can't they do that?"

Or they'll go in a field, some field, and they'll be -- they'll have a good minister, pastor, or could be a rabbi, could be a person of faith, and what happens is, in some places -- not in

all places -- I would say in most places they really sympathize. But I do.

And I've been listening to services over the last four or five weeks. Some very, very good people. And everybody knows who I've been listening to. And we go different person. Last week it was Cardinal Dolan at St Patrick's Cathedral, a place I'm very familiar with. But we've had pastors and ministers.

I will say this: It's wonderful to watch people over a laptop, but it's not like being at a church. And we have to get our people back to churches, and we're going to start doing it soon.

Q The Attorney General sent a memo directing U.S. attorneys to be on the lookout for health restrictions that could interfere with constitutional rights. There are a lot of people who cheered that because, you know, they do want to go back to church, and as you're talking about. But there are others who fear he might be encouraging people to do things that might be unsafe at the time when some states are going up.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. No, he's not -- well, there's not too many states that I know of that are going up. Almost everybody is headed in the right direction. I was with a man who got hit very, very hard in many ways over the last little while: Phil Murphy from New Jersey. People don't realize that's the single-most dense state. And who would think that? But New Jersey is very dense. It's the Manhattan overflow, the New York overflow.

And those numbers are now even coming -- because there's a very -- I mean, not his fault. He's doing a really good job as governor. I'll say it. He's a Democrat, and I'll say it. And he's been through a lot, even himself, physically. You know, he just went through a very big problem, as people know. I think he's done a really good job. And even those numbers are coming down. New Jersey was really hit hard.

No, I think most of the numbers are coming down. We're on the right side of it, but we want to keep it that way, but we also want to get back to work. The people want to get back to work. You know, I've seen it more and more -- people are saying that also causes death. It causes drug addiction, it causes suicides. It's a lot of death caused by that. There's no win here. Just so we all understand, there is no win. This is not a situation where there's a win.

But the job that this country has done, the people of this country -- it's incredible what they've -- how they've endured, how they've suffered. That's why we are, in terms of deaths -- it's a tremendous number. One is too many, right? I say it all the time. But in terms of death, Bret, we're at the lower level -- the lowest level predicted, and we might not even hit that. It may be lower than that. And sadly, that's all we can do.

Q We're going to take a quick break, and our virtual town hall will continue right after this. Stay with us.

(Commercial break begins.)

(Commercial break ends.)

Q Welcome back, everybody, to our Fox News Virtual Town Hall, live here at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Secretary -- Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin are with us this evening. And we're going to do a lightning round of questions. Some short answers and some short questions, as well.

But I want to start with you, President Trump. We're six months away from the election today. A different world than when we were all together in Scranton.

THE PRESIDENT: Very different. Right.

Q What kind of GDP, what kind of employment number do you think you're going to need to get the support of the American people in November?

THE PRESIDENT: Our country was sailing. I would tell people -- I would say, you know, "Can this continue?" We were doing the greatest ever. The greatest economy in the history of any country. Blowing away everybody, including China. And then we had to close it. And my ambition is very quickly to get us back to where we were. And I think we can do that very, very quickly. Not if a Democrat comes in and raises taxes. They want to raise everybody's taxes. We're doing the opposite. And the payroll tax cut is very important for getting people back to work.

What I want to do is: Number one, we're getting rid of the virus. We have to do it. We're working with the governors. We're getting rid of the virus. But we've got to put our country back to work. All those people out there that are protesting, they're -- they're right. They want to go back to work. We want to go back to work quickly but safely. And that's what's happening.

And then, next year, I think we're going to have a great economic year. We're going to get our jobs back. And I'll go a step further: We have a transition third quarter. We're going to have a very good fourth quarter. We're going to have a great next year.

Q So, we're six months to the day. When is the next Trump rally? And will you wear a mask?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. I mean, everybody wants the

rallies. The rallies -- we never had an empty seat, from the time I came down the escalator with a person that became our great First Lady -- who people really love, and they love her at those rallies too. And she loves the people of this country.

We have to -- they are longing for the rallies. I get it all the time.

Q Mask or no mask, if you do it?

THE PRESIDENT: But you can't have a rally -- I don't think we can have a rally with an empty stadium, with nobody in there. In other words, you know, you may be able to pull it off for baseball or football or boxing or basketball. You can't pull off a rally with 100 percent -- it wouldn't work out too well. So, hopefully, we'll be able to do rallies in the last couple of months. I mean, I would hope that within maybe the last couple of months we'll be able to do rallies in various states.

Q Mr. Vice President, you went to the Mayo Clinic. You didn't wear a mask. Your critics jumped on you for that. Then you went to GM. You did wear a mask. Was that a concession to the critics, or are you sending mixed signals there?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, from early on, the CDC has made it clear that you wear a mask to prevent you from conveying the coronavirus to other people. And since the President and I are in the unique positions we're in, we're tested often. I didn't think --

Q We should point out that we're tested as well. That's why we're here without a mask as well.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's right. Well, I didn't think it was necessary. But I should've worn the mask at the Mayo Clinic. And I wore it when I visited the ventilator plant in

Indiana. And I think it's a -- it really is a statement about the American people, the way people have been willing to step forward, practice social distancing, wear masks in settings where they can't do that.

And I just have to tell you that I couldn't be more grateful to see the way the American people responded. First, the President called for "15 Days to Slow the Spread," and then "30 Days to Slow the Spread." And this was a great hardship on families and on businesses large and small. But the American people did it. It's made an immense difference. I believe it's saved thousands of lives. And as we go forward, as we continue to practice those principles, all of us together, I know we'll get through this.

Q So, you were asked to speak at the West Point graduation. There's been some pushback on that. Tammy Duckworth, a veteran, said it would be reckless.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they're a Democrat. A Democrat.

Q So, are you going to do it? And do you think that it's worth the risk for those families and cadets?

THE PRESIDENT: There's no risk. Are you ready? They wanted me to speak. I didn't want to speak. I -- you know, I love West Point. I grew up near it. My school -- and you know where I went to high school was right near West Point. New York Military Academy. So it was a mini West Point. Very mini.

But West Point is this incredible thing, incredible place. I love it. I know it well because, you know, I spent a lot of time at West Point. They wanted me to come and speak. Then they changed the date. I believe it's June 13th. And it's my honor to speak, but I didn't want to necessarily do it. What they're doing is they're coming back a little bit early. They're going to be

fully tested. There's -- they're going to be very, very spread apart.

I said, "I want their families to be there." You know, Mike made the commencement address. I did it last year at --

Q Air Force.

THE PRESIDENT: -- the Air Force Academy. Mike did it this year. There were no parents in a big stadium, and they were very spread apart, and it was fine. But they asked me to do it, and I agreed. The generals asked me, would I please do it. You know, I'm the President of the United States. They wanted to have it. The cadets all wanted it.

Q They would love to have you there.

Mr. President, last thing: What do you tell your kids and grandkids about COVID-19, about this time? What do you tell them?

THE PRESIDENT: I sat down with my son. I sat down with my grandchildren. I said, "A terrible thing has happened. It's a thing that we've never experienced." I said, "I guess, you could go back, over 100 years, and you could go to 1917 and we experienced it, but Europe experienced it much worse. It could have been 100 million people died." But I said, "Something has happened, but we're going to be strong, and we're going to get out of it, and our country is going to be bigger and better and stronger than ever before."

Q President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary Mnuchin, thank you very much for your time. It's a real honor to be here tonight.

Q Thank you all. Great to have you with us. An honor to have

all of you all here tonight.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It's good to be with you.

THE PRESIDENT: My honor. Thank you.

Q And thank you for our viewers at home for watching. I'll be back here on Fox tomorrow, 6:00 p.m. Eastern for a "Special Report."

Q And I will see you tomorrow night at 7 o'clock Eastern with "The Story." Goodnight, everybody.

END

8:55 P.M. EDT

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Subject: In town pool report #7a more Trump q&a

From: Liz Goodwin <liz.goodwin@globe.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 5:40 PM
Subject: In town pool report #7a more Trump q&a

The president took questions for 38 minutes.

Trump asked if he's seen intelligence indicating with a high degree of confidence that the virus originated from a Wuhan Lab. "Yes I have," he says.

But later says "there's a lot of theories." "We're going to see where it is, we're going to see where it comes from."

Asked how he feels confident it came from the Wuhan lab, Trump says: "I'm not allowed to tell you that."

Is he demanding inspection of the lab? "So far I think China is trying to somewhat transparent with us."

On Kim jong un: "Well I understand what's going on...I just hope everything is going to be fine" says he can't talk about his condition now

On aid for states: "The democrats have come to us and they'd like to do a phase 4" bill with bailouts for states. .. "They happen to be democratic states" it's California, NY and Illinois. "the republican states are doing very well. Maybe the democrats should have brought this up earlier"

"I think we want to take a little bit of a pause but if we do that we have to get something for it."

Trump says he hasn't decided on whether he's wearing a mask for his Arizona trip next week. "I have no problem wearing a mask."

--

Liz Goodwin

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Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT
TV Corr & Crew: NBC
Print: Washington Times
Radio: VOA

EDT

11:00AM **In-House Pool Call Time**

2:00PM **THE PRESIDENT participates in a Governors' Video
Teleconference on COVID-19 Response and Economic Revival**

Situation Room

Closed Press

4:00PM **THE PRESIDENT meets with industry executives on COVID-19
response**

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

###

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Subject: In-town #13 — Trump on southern border, gather called for EO event

From: Thomas Howell <thowell@washingtontimes.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:35 PM

Subject: In-town #13 — Trump on southern border, gather called for EO event

"We're setting records on the border in terms of low numbers, very few people are getting in and when they are we will be taking them immediately out," Trump said.

"We're using emergency powers," he said.

"Mexico is having a very, very hard time, as you know, with COVID, especially along the border, Tijuana and various places along the border," Trump said.

"Fortunately we have brand-new wall along there, and the wall is saving us," Trump said.

Plans to have 400 miles of border wall by end of the year, and eyes 500 miles by early next year

Tom Howell Jr.
White House correspondent
The Washington Times
240.305.8592 (mobile)

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Subject: In Town Pool Report #17 - End of East Room Event

From: Hunter Walker <hunter.walker@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:20 PM

Subject: In Town Pool Report #17 - End of East Room Event

Trump next took questions from the press. He began by noting your pooler had apologized for incorrectly stating South Korea has done more tests per capita than the US earlier today. The US passed South Korea earlier this month. Trump said it was "very nice" of the pooler to correct and apologize. Your pooler noted we regret the error.

The president was asked if there would be additional direct payments to people.

"I like the idea of payroll tax cuts," he said.

Trump then said he assumed the "next question" would be about aid to states.

"The problem with the states is we're not looking to recover 25 years of bad management," Trump said.

Trump said we could "talk about" money for states if it's "covid related" but he'd want to see things "including sanctuary city adjustments."

Trump then said he would be signing the executive order on food supply liabilities in the "next hour or so."

The president then talked about testing. He said the country is "really doing a great job on testing" and "hasn't been given the kind of credit that it deserves." He noted that "last month it was about ventilators."

"I notice the testing is starting to die down because we now have the best testing in the world," said Trump.

Trump was then asked about reports Mitch McConnell doesn't want to fund infrastructure through a corona stimulus.

"He likes infrastructure. We all do. ... We want to do infrastructure," Trump said.

Trump then criticized money spent in the Middle East and suggested that had beeb wasted while potholes are not repaired.

The president was asked if he'd spoken to any families who lost loved ones and whether he'd been touched by any particular stories.

"I know many stories ... I've spoken to three, maybe four families," Trump said.

The president said he'd lost multiple personal friends.

"It's a bad death. ... It's a bad thing. ... It grips on to some people," he said.

Trump noted young people seem to fare better and expressed some support for reopening schools.

"Computer learning is wonderful .. but it's not the same thing as being in a classroom," said Trump.

As he concluded, Trump pointed to Michael from the coffee shop.

"This guy right here is the biggesr star in the room," Trump said. "I vote for you."

Michael stood, bowed, and waved. He urged the president to visit the coffee shop in Annapolis.

"Be careful that could happen," Trump said, adding, "He's stolen the show."

As Trump was leaving Michael and the shop owner went up to him. Michael again asked him to visit. Trump said, "I may do that." He suggested the press would vilify him if he doesn't visit.

"Get it ready," Trump said of the store.

The president left the East Room at about 4:08 pm.

--

Hunter Walker

White House Correspondent

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Subject: Pool Report #3 — Kudlow gaggle

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@washblade.com>

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 11:25 AM

Subject: Pool Report #3 — Kudlow gaggle

Larry Kudlow held a gaggle after a TV appearance. Your pooler missed the first part, but was told nothing substantive was missed.

Listen: https://otter.ai/s/hwz5ufOIS9GITPT_g_QhOQ

A main topic at the beginning was Kudlow arguing businesses shouldn't be held liable if a customer later tests positive for COVID-19.

"I don't think there should be a lawsuit. I think we should help them now. We may help them with assistance if they go to a hospital or provider, government, federal, state, local to pay for it. It's not a lawsuit. That's my point. It's not a lawsuit."

Kudlow acknowledged the states could ensure that, but added, "some of it can be done through executive order or regulatory changes. Some of it might require legislation. We're looking at it right now. We're looking at all the options."

On federal bailout for states vs. McConnell idea of bankruptcy:

"I think what Senator McConnell says is very important because he's raising an issue — we spent a lot of money," but ultimately "I'm not saying one way or the other."

Kudlow added he'd like to see "some incentives for growth," which could consist of low tax rates, payroll tax cut, 100 percent deductions for business expenses.

In response to final Q on whether the immigration ban will help the economy:

"I'll get a pass on that. The president believes a lot of unemployed Americans will be helped, but I got to go."

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House Reporter

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Subject: Memorandum on Providing Continued Federal Support for Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Facilitate Economic Recovery



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2020

April 28, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBJECT: Providing Continued Federal Support for
Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and
to Facilitate Economic Recovery

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. On March 13, 2020, I declared a national emergency recognizing the threat that COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 ("the virus"), and the virus 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)). Considering the profound and unique public health risks posed by the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, the need for close cooperation and mutual assistance between the Federal Government and the States is greater than at any time in recent history. This need remains as the United States continues to battle the public health threat posed by the virus, while transitioning to a period of increased economic activity and recovery in those areas of the Nation where the threat posed by the virus has been sufficiently mitigated. To provide maximum support to the Governor of the State of North Dakota as he makes decisions about the responses required to address local conditions in his jurisdiction with respect to combatting the threat posed by the virus and, where appropriate, facilitating its economic recovery, I am taking the actions set forth in sections 2, 3, and 4 of this memorandum:

Sec. 2. One Hundred Percent Federal Cost Share. To maximize assistance to the Governor of the State of North Dakota 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 North Dakota undertakes using its 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 Governor of the State of North Dakota 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 State and local emergency assistance efforts under the Stafford Act.

Sec. 4. Termination and Extension. The 100 percent Federal cost share for the State of North Dakota's use of National Guard forces authorized pursuant to this memorandum shall extend to, and shall be available for orders of any length authorizing duty through, May 31, 2020.

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

###

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Subject: In Town Pool Report #7 - More From Oval

From: Hunter Walker <hunter.walker@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:04 PM

Subject: In Town Pool Report #7 - More From Oval

President Trump just said he would be criticized by the press no matter how many tests were given. He suggested press would say "you should have tested 325 million people 37 times."

DeSantis said he was in touch closely with Jared Kushner about his states needs. Kushner is behind the press with Mark Meadows.

The president was just asked about the food supply chain. He said he will be signing an executive order today to address "liability problems" in the food supply.

Trump is now being asking if he was "warned" about the threat from coronavirus in January and February.

"Probably a lot more than the Democrats because a month later Nancy Pelosi was saying let's dance in the streets of Chinatown," Trump said.

Trump is now touting his "ban on China."

When asked if he was "getting warnings" in the PDB Trump said "I would have to check" the dates.

"Whether it was luck, talent, or something else, we saved many thousands of lives," said Trump.

Jon Karl is now noting 40,000 people still came in from China, mostly American citizens. He is asking if more steps should have been taken to monitor them.

DeSantis piped in and said "that was very much in Florida." He said the state viewed it as a "China deal" at the time though eventually he blamed New York for bringing it to Florida.

--

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White House Correspondent
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Subject: Remarks by President Trump in a Meeting with Industry Executives on COVID-19 Response



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
IN A MEETING WITH INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES
ON COVID-19 RESPONSE

Cabinet Room

4:08 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you very much. And I'm honored to be joined by representatives of many great American retail companies, some of the greatest companies anywhere in the world. And we're talking today about different things, and -- including distribution and medical diagnostics, et cetera. You'll see in a second, they're going to say hello.

Forty-five days ago, many of you joined me in the Rose Garden to launch a new partnership with the private sector to dramatically increase and accelerate America's capacity to test for the coronavirus. We've made such strides, like it wouldn't even be - - you wouldn't even believe it.

We just had a call with the governors, and I guess they were just about all on the call, and everybody was very happy. And the testing is going really well, and we're beating -- we're doing more than anybody else. Probably some of you were on that call -- even though you weren't supposed to be, but I'm sure you were. And the testing itself is going very well. No complaints.

Since then, what we've achieved is really nothing short of amazing. The United States now holds the world record for testing and by a lot. We've conducted more than 5.4 million tests -- more than any other country anywhere in the world. And we're actually growing it very rapidly. You probably heard those numbers just came out.

After encouraging governors for several weeks to leverage unused testing capacity in their states, last week we provided contact information for specific labs where they could find additional testing and capacity. Within 48 hours, the number of tests performed across the country began to skyrocket.

Early in April, the United States averaged approximately 150,000 tests per day. That's up very, very substantially from a couple of weeks before. And the 150,000 a day has gone to way over 200,000 tests per day since Wednesday. This includes a 122 percent testing increase in Michigan, 124 percent increase in Maryland, and many other locations are right in that vicinity and some are a little bit higher than that.

To provide further guidance and support to the states, today we are releasing our blueprint for state testing plans and rapid response programs. Together, we're accelerating testing for Americans at retail locations across the country, and especially in our African American and Hispanic communities. We're going very, very strong in those communities.

There are currently 73 retail sites -- testing sites in 25 states in those areas -- in those specific areas, and we're increasing it very substantially. A lot of -- a lot of progress has been made for African American testing, Hispanic American testing, and Asian American testing.

So I look forward to hearing from each of these incredible business people who have worked so strongly with us right from the beginning. I -- think of it: It was only 45 days ago that we got together and so much progress has been made.

And I thought maybe we'd go around the room and they'd say just a couple of words. And then we're having a news conference in the Rose Garden, because we have a lot of these folks are going to be joining us and they'll say something out there. They've got a big gift to our nation and to the people from some of the companies, and I appreciate it.

Maybe we'll start off with a very small company -- a very small, little retailing company known as Walmart, headed by a great guy.

Doug, please.

MR. MCMILLON: Doug McMillon with Walmart. Nice to see you all.

MR. MERLO: Larry Merlo, CVS Health.

MR. RUSCKOWSKI: Steve Rusckowski, Quest Diagnostics.

MR. ASHWORTH: Richard Ashworth, Walgreens.

MR. CASPER: Marc Casper, Thermo Fisher Scientific.

MR. SCHECHTER: Adam Schechter, LabCorp.

MR. MCMULLEN: Rodney McMullen, Kroger.

MR. NIMS: John Nims, U.S. Cotton.

MS. DONIGAN: Heyward Donigan, Rite Aid.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. And we know this gentleman, right? (Laughter.) So tremendous progress is made and we'll be talking to you in a little while out at the news conference.

Mike, would you have anything to say?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, just a word of thanks, Mr. President. It's remarkable to think: You speak about 45 days ago, when we brought many of these retailers together with these remarkable commercial labs, and we built on a public-private partnership that you forged early in the coronavirus epidemic.

Mr. President, when we first sat down, at your direction, with these great commercial labs on March the 4th, our country had conducted roughly 25,000 coronavirus tests. Today, that number is 5.4 million. And with the support of companies like CVS Health and Walmart, Walgreens, Target and others, we're now scaling that, working with governors as they implement their testing plans.

And it really is what you said early on, Mr. President: This is a whole-of-America approach. You brought all of America's best together -- our retailers brought together, our commercial laboratories -- and the results speak for themselves.

As we heard on the call with the governors today, governors are rapidly expanding testing across the states as they move toward a phased and a responsible reopening of their state and this nation's economy.

So I'm just -- I'm glad to be back with this group, Mr. President. I know how grateful you are for the collaboration around this table. And I look forward to hearing how we can continue to build even more momentum in the progress that we're making as a nation, working with these great retailers and working with these extraordinary commercial labs that have done so much for America in such a short period of time.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mike. We'll see you outside at the news conference. Thank you very much.

END

4:15 P.M. EDT

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Subject: In-town pool #1

From: David Boyer <dboyer@washingtontimes.com>

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:58 AM

Subject: In-town pool #1

Greetings from a quiet White House. As you probably noticed from the updated guidance, the 5 p.m. coronavirus task force briefing has been canceled.

The president's 4 p.m. meeting with industry executives in the Cabinet room will be opened to the restricted in-house pool.

--

Dave Boyer

White House correspondent

The Washington Times

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Subject: Pool Report #6 - Remarks in Oval Office

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@washblade.com>

Date: April 24, 2020 at 12:25:38 PM EDT

Subject: Pool Report #6 - Remarks in Oval Office

Pool escorted into the Oval Office at 12:10.

Listen: >https://otter.ai/s/hwz5ufOIS9GITPT_g_QhOQ<

POTUS was seated at his desk. Among the officials behind him were VPOTUS, Munchin and head of SBA Jovita Carranza. Also present are Reps. Liz Cheney, Kevin McCarthy and Steve Scalise as well as Sen. John Cornyn. No McConnell.

Reading from remarks, POTUS promotes HR 266 as means to grant economic relief:

“Great for small businesses, great for the workers”

POTUS makes a point will “extend relief to thousands of African-American and Hispanic American business owners.”

POTUS also touts task force work on COVID-19:

“We’re making thousands and thousands of ventilators.”

Says excess of ventilators allows for donation to other countries.

Asks VPOTUS about tests. VPOTUS says 5.1 million. POTUS says more than other countries.

VPOTUS adds it was 80,000 tests a month ago.

POTUS says Honduras president said country in “quagmire” over testing, asked for help.

POTUS also talks work on border wall:

“A country has to have to have borders, and you don’t have borders if you have people

pouring in by the tens of thousands.”

VPOTUS delivers marks:

Says administration now encouraging hospitals to hold elective surgeries

“We’re encouraging states around the country to restart elective surgery wherever possible even on a county by county basis.”

POTUS asks Scalise what was vote on bill.

Scalise informs him number. POTUS asks about Senate. When told it was unanimous, POTUS predicts Dems will criticize him for signing bill.

Scalise touts bill, estimates it will save 30 million people from going on unemployment.

McCarthy commends POTUS and Americans in remarks. Cornyn also commends POTUS, followed by Cheney.

More to come...

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House Reporter

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing |
April 27, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2020

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

Rose Garden

5:38 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Today I'd like to provide you with an update in our war against the coronavirus. Thanks to our comprehensive strategy and extraordinary devotion to our citizens -- we've had such tremendous support all over -- we continue to see encouraging signs of progress.

Cases in New York area, New Orleans, Detroit, Boston, and Houston are declining. Denver, Seattle, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Nashville, Indianapolis, and St. Louis are all stable and declining. All parts of the country are either in good shape, getting better. In all cases, getting better. And we're

seeing very little that we're going to look at as a superseding hotspot. Things are moving along. Really, a horrible situation that we've been confronted with, but they're moving along.

As we express our gratitude for these hard-fought gains, however, we continue to mourn with thousands of families across the country whose loved ones have been stolen from us by the invisible enemy. We grieve by their side as one family -- this great American family. And we do grieve.

We also stand in solidarity with the thousands of Americans who are ill and waging a brave fight against the virus. We're doing everything in our power to heal the sick and to gradually re-open our nation, and to safely get our people back to work. They want to get back to work, and they want to get back to work soon. There's a hunger for getting our country back, and it's happening, and it's happening faster than people would think.

Ensuring the health of our economy is vital to ensuring the health of our nation. These goals work in tandem. They work side by side.

It's clear that our aggressive strategy to slow the spread has been working and is saving countless lives. For those who are infected, we have taken unprecedented action to ensure they have the highest level of care anywhere in the world. The federal government has built more than 11,000 extra beds, shipped or delivered hundreds of millions of pieces of personal protective equipment, as you know -- in fact, some of the people here are going to be talking about it; some of our greatest executives -- some of the greatest anywhere in the world -- and distributed over 10,000 ventilators.

And we now have, in a very short period of time -- many have been delivered, and hundreds of thousands are being built. And frankly, every governor has more ventilators right now than they

know what to do with. They're actually shipping them to different locations, and we're shipping some to our allies and others throughout the world, because we have ventilators like -- the job that they've done in getting this very complex piece of equipment built is actually incredible. You don't hear about ventilators anymore except in a positive way.

We've launched the most ambitious testing effort, likewise, on Earth. The United States has now conducted more than 5.4 million tests -- nearly double the number tested in any other country. More than twice as much as any other country. Think of that.

Moments ago, I came from a meeting with some of our nation's largest retailers, including Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, and Kroger. We're joined by leaders of those great companies. And we also have with us the leaders from the world's top medical diagnostics companies and suppliers: Thermo Fisher, LabCorp, Quest, U.S. Cotton, and the American Clinical Laboratory Association. These are great -- great companies.

These private-sector leaders, along with others such as Roche, Abbott, Becton Dickinson, Hologic, and Cephe-- Cepheid, have been exceptional partners in an unprecedented drive to expand the states' capabilities and our country's capabilities. The job they've done has been incredible. The testing that's been developed and being developed right now has been truly an amazing thing.

I want to thank Abbott Laboratories for the job they've done. I want to thank Roche. And in particular, those two have really stepped forward. Abbott with a five-minute test that people can take, and in five minutes they know what the -- what the answer is.

I'd like to ask, if I could, the executives of these great

companies -- and they are -- they have really helped us a lot over the last 45-day period. We're talking about a 45-day period when many of us met. And since then, what Walmart and the others have done has been nothing short of amazing.

So I just want to ask them to come forward and say a few words about their company. Plus, they're going to make a big contribution to our country.

Please. Come forward, please. Thank you.

MR. RUSCKOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you for -- all of you for being here today. And what we'd like to talk about is the progress we've made.

The last time we were here was March 13th, and we've made tremendous progress. And none of that progress could be made without the 47,000 people at Quest Diagnostics that are working around the clock, working up the test and running the test and delivering the results that we need.

As far as results, we've made tremendous progress. We are currently, at Quest Diagnostics, testing about 50,000 tests per day. We've been pushed by the task force to bring up that number by the end of May. We'll have 100,000 tests per day -- about 3 million tests -- and these are the molecular tests that we do today.

We have also brought up serological testing. We started that this past week, and by the end of May, we'll be close to 250,000 a day, about 7,000 a month. So you put those two numbers together, and it's about 10 million tests by the end of May that we'll be doing at Quest Diagnostics.

We're doing that also in a quicker way. Turnaround times were somewhat of an issue in the early days. We've reduced that to

one to two days. Our turnaround time for people in beds -- hospital beds -- is less than 24 hours. And we're doing that in the same way we've done it with the FDA and with CLIA, delivering the quality that you all expect. And convenience will improve, as well, with convenient solutions that we'll be able to swab individuals more easily and also deliver to consumer -- the ability to have consumers choose a test online with a telehealth provider.

So with that, I'd like to offer my colleague the podium as well.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

MR. SCHECHTER: Mr. President, thank you very much for your leadership and for having us all here today. Our scientists and our lab technicians are working day and night in order to do as many tests as we possibly can for the American public and to turn those tests around as quickly as possible.

Just 45 days ago, we said we could do several thousand tests a day. We can now do 60,000 tests a day, and we're continuing to expand that capacity every single day.

In addition, our scientists are working to make testing more convenient and easier. We have the swabs now that are much smaller than the original ones that we originally launched with, but we also have the Pixel by LabCorp at-home test. That test, right now, is for healthcare workers on the frontline and first responders, but we will be rolling that out much more broadly over the coming weeks, and we're going to roll it out with absolutely no upfront cost for the individual consumers.

At the same time, we are building our capacity for serology testing, and we can currently do about 50,000 today, and we'll be able to do several hundred thousand per day by the middle of May. And we're going to be working with the retailers -- our

colleagues that are here today -- to help them as they expand their testing capabilities across the entire country.

And lastly, Mr. President, we have a rather large drug development business, and we will continue to work with our colleagues in the pharmaceutical and the biotech -- biotechnology industry to ensure we do everything we possibly can to enroll clinical trials fast so that we can get new treatments and potential vaccines.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Please, go ahead. Please.

MR. CASPER: Mr. President, thank you and thank -- and thank the administration for all of the collaboration to enable Thermo Fisher Scientific to be able to produce the test kits that companies like LabCorp and Quest and the public health labs around the world run.

We met our original commitments of producing 5 million kits a week, and we're up to scaling that to double that in the coming weeks in terms of supporting testing around the world.

I'd like to thank my 75,000 colleagues around the world for their tireless effort to make that a reality and supporting all of -- all of our customers to have the testing necessary to get America back to work.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Great job.

MR. NIMS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm John Nims with U.S. Cotton, and we are the company that is going to produce the swabs to be used in these testing kits. We have about 1,200 people in our company. And in our Cleveland operation, they have pivoted

from, as you've said, the Q-tip-style swab to a swab that's going to have a plastic stick with a polyester tip so that they can be assembled into these kits.

Our Cleveland team has done a wonderful job with this, and I'm very -- they're very excited to be able to help in this effort.

So thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Great job.

MR. MERLO: Mr. President, thank you. I'm Larry Merlo with CVS Health. And it was just over a month ago that we opened up our first drive-through test site. And since that time, we have opened large-scale testing facilities across five states in partnership with the administration and working with the governors of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Georgia, and Michigan.

And these sites are enabling us to test approximately 1,000 individuals a day with real-time results. We now have a capacity to test about 35,000 individuals each week. And this afternoon, we announced plans to expand that capacity even further.

Beginning in May, we will install testing capabilities in up to 1,000 CVS pharmacies. We'll be using our drive-throughs and our parking lots with swab testing. So again, you'll see that coming online, you know, in May.

And we also recognize the fact that the virus is disproportionately affecting our minority communities. So we're working in partnership with organizations like the National Medical Association to bring testing and care into the traditionally underserved communities.

We're also beginning to implement mobile capabilities with which

to do that. And as businesses are restarting their workforce, we'll also be looking to assist them, you know, as they begin to come back to a normal operation.

And finally, as my other colleagues, I just want to thank my CVS colleagues. They have done a phenomenal job in terms of helping people in many different ways all across communities in the country. And they're part of this army of healthcare professionals and, you know, front-store and, you know, first-line supervisors and workers that are doing terrific things to bring our country together. And, for that, we owe them a huge amount of gratitude.

Thank you.

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

MR. ASHWORTH: Thank you, Mr. President. Appreciate the invitation to be here today. And it was just 45 days ago when we were here. I'm Richard Ashworth. I oversee Walgreens in the U.S. And I just want to start off -- Larry, like you -- thanking the over 200,000 Walgreen team members who are in stores every day all across America, taking care of our patients and our customers -- you know, giving them essential daily needs; the prescriptions, obviously, that they need; and even COVID testing while we're here.

We also announced today we'll be expanding our testing capabilities across all states, including Puerto Rico. We'll be able to triple the volume that we do now, in partnership with our lab partners, and we're excited to be able to do that.

We're really excited with the public-private partnership that we have here, because that's what's enabling us to do this, and we look forward to working with the additional states to get these sites up and running as fast as possible.

As a pharmacist, I just want to say one quick thing: I'm really proud to be part of this profession. And not just Walgreens pharmacists and pharmacy employees, but all of them, across grocery -- mass, independents. You're really doing what you should be doing and what you went to school for: to help patients, counseling them on their medicines, and helping them understand the problems that we're facing.

You know, pharmacy is right here in it with everyone, together in the community, and we look forward to being part of the testing like we are now; serology, whatever that might look like in the future; and eventually treatment when the vaccine does come.

So thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity.

THE PRESIDENT: Great job. Thank you very much.

MR. ASHWORTH: Thank you.

MR. MCMULLEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. Vice President. We appreciate all you're doing to get America back to work and doing it safely.

I represent Kroger, and my name is Rodney McMullen, and I am so proud of our nearly half a million associates that are doing everything, every day, to keep customers safe and our associates safe.

And one of the things that we were able to do is provide the basic practices we're doing. We call it "blueprint." And it's the things that all of us can learn from on how to get America back working.

We also announced earlier today, continuing to accelerate our practice on testing. We are actively engaged in six

states. Next -- in the next couple of weeks, we'll take that to 12 states, and the number of tests that we do continues to grow faster than that.

Together, we will win. Together, we will solve this problem and move on. America is always great. Thank you again.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you.

MR. MCMILLON: Thank you, Mr. President. My name is Doug McMillon. I'm a Walmart associate. And I too would like to start by thanking our associates for everything that they're doing in our stores, Sam's Clubs, distribution centers, and in our e-commerce fulfillment centers. They've been inspiring and continue to have a can-do attitude and step up. It's much appreciated.

We started 45 days ago, as did everyone else, and we've been operating sites for a while now. We're now up to 20 sites across 11 states. By the end of next week, we'll be to 45, and by the end of the May -- end of May, we'll be at 100.

We also -- a few weeks ago, Vice President Pence and I were in a distribution center in Virginia -- a food distribution center. He was kind enough to come and thank our associates for us there, which is much appreciated.

And the President and Vice President were speaking on the phone about surgical gowns, and the President asked if we could put in an order for millions of surgical gowns. And we don't normally buy those, so I wasn't sure if we were going to be able to do that. But I'd like to thank our apparel team, and McKesson in particular, for partnering with us. We've been able to, in the month of April, secure an additional two and a half million surgical gowns. And by the end of May, we'll have an additional 6 million available to help.

So thank you for the opportunity to serve and for being here.

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

MS. DONIGAN: Thank you, Mr. President, and thanks to the team for getting this great operation up and running for the benefit of the country. I'm Heyward Donigan with Rite Aid. And we are currently operating 40 percent of the current test sites in 25 locations across eight states.

And we had the -- I had the opportunity, as I was driving up, to stop at our Richmond location and see the testing in action and thank the associates -- whether it be security or pharmacy front end, everybody who's helping with this great effort and all of the customers that appreciate this so much. It was really amazing to see.

And I want to thank my 50,000 associates also for keeping these retail locations up and running during these really, really tough times. It's been quite amazing. And we too are going to expand our testing, and we're doing about 1,500 a day.

Thanks.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

So thank you all very much. It's incredible what we've done together over a short period of time. I want to thank our Vice President for the task force and the work. Every day, it gets better.

And we had a fantastic goal with the governors today, and I would say that they are as -- as thrilled as they can be, considering that the fact is that there has been so much unnecessary death in this country. It could have been stopped and it could have been

stopped short, but somebody a long time ago, it seems, decided not to do it that way. And the whole world is suffering because of it -- 184 countries at least.

But I want to thank all of these great businessmen and women for the job they've done. They have been fantastic with us, working with us. And, as you know, for several weeks, my administration has encouraged the governors to leverage unused testing capacity in states. Very few understood that we have tremendous capacity.

Then, one week ago, we provided each governor with a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of the labs where they could find additional testing capacity in their states. Within 48 hours, the number of tests performed across the country began to absolutely skyrocket.

On Saturday alone, more than 200,000 test results were reported, which is a gigantic number -- bigger than any country anywhere in the world for a much longer period of time; a number that is an increase earlier in the month when we tested roughly less than 100,000 a day. So we much more than doubled it, and that will be doubling again very shortly.

We are continuing to rapidly expand our capacity and confident that we have enough testing to begin reopening. And the reopening process -- we want to get our country open. And the testing is not going to be a problem at all. In fact, it's going to be one of the great assets that we have.

Today we're releasing additional guidance on testing to inform the states as they develop their plans for a phased and very safe reopening. Our blueprint describes how states should unlock their full capacity, expand the number of testing platforms, establish monitoring systems to detect local outbreaks, and conduct contact tracing. We have it all.

Other countries are calling to find out what are we doing and how do you do it. And we're helping them. We're dealing with a lot of countries, helping them on testing, just like we did on the ventilators.

I directed our Medicare program to make it easier for seniors to get the testing that they need. And the pharmacies -- as you know, we are allowing pharmacies now to do testing. And we have other testing locations that we're going to be allowing also, but having pharmacies get involved in testing is a very big deal. We're also asking governors to do the same in their Medicaid program. So they're going to be able and authorized to do the same in Medicaid. So it's a big -- that's a big deal.

So we're deploying the full power and strength of the federal government to help states, cities -- to help local government get this horrible plague over with and over with fast. There's tremendous energy in our country right now. There's energy like people haven't seen in a long time -- a spirit that they have not seen. And we're doing very well -- very well -- considering what happened to us and considering if you look at what happened to others.

This is something that the world has not seen for a long, long time. You can probably go back to 1917, where it was a terrible period of time. You all know what happened in 1917. That's over 100 years ago.

With that, I'd like to introduce, if I might -- Dr. Birx, if you could come up. And then, Admiral, you'll come up. And between the two of you, you'll explain the entire process and how much progress we've made and where we're going.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. President. So the blueprint lays out the roles and responsibilities to enhance our partnership between the private sector and the public sector, bringing together state and local governments with the federal government to ensure that we can accomplish and achieve our core principles and objectives.

If we can have the first slide. The core elements of the testing plan include both three elements: robust diagnostic testing plans developed in partnerships with state -- and I just really want to thank the governors and the health officials, both at the state and local levels who have been working with us day and night to work through these issues, and also all the laboratory directors in many of those states, as well as the American Society for Microbiology, who have been working with us to ensure that the plans were efficient and effective.

Within the robust diagnostic testing plans, it was really unlocking the full capacity of the state: increasing the number of testing platforms -- we now have multiple tests for different platforms; increasing the ability to collect samples; increasing testing and laboratory supplies; and ensuring that we work together to make sure that every client receives the test that they need.

This is added with timely monitoring systems. And what do I mean by that? Systems where we bring together the ability to not only diagnose the symptomatic, but proactively and interactively work with individuals that we know are at higher risk. We've worked with states to look at where the outbreaks have occurred when they're not in the large metros, and we see that it occurs very often in places of close settings, among our Native Americans and among our long-term care facilities. So an active monitoring program that's active, integrated, and innovative.

And then combining this with the third element, which is the rapid response program, relying on CDC to be working with state

and local governments to ensure that every symptomatic case -- and, critically, the asymptomatic cases -- are quickly tracked and traced to ensure that we can not only control this epidemic, but predict outbreaks before they expand.

And then, finally, the plan includes an approach of using science and technology to develop even newer platforms, more efficient testing, really ensuring that the antibody tests that are utilized and recommended by both FDA and CDC have high quality and predicting both exposure to the virus and antibody development.

And then, finally, working on innovative tests that could be high throughput and point-of-care -- an antigen-based test or a point-of-care expanded nucleic acid test.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Very good. Thank you. Good job.

Admiral, please.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Ambassador Birx. If I could have the next slide, please.

I want to spend just a couple minutes about telling -- going over where we've been, but more importantly where we're going. I think we all can understand how we can group this into three distinct phases.

First is our launch phase, when we were really engaging the emerging epidemic and the types of things we need to do. For example, mobilize the private sector to develop tests and have EUAs. And I think you know, over the past two months, the FDA has issued 67 emergency use authorizations, which is far outpacing anything that has been done or could ever have been

imagined. Galvanizing the research community and the commercial labs -- the reason why we're here with ACLA labs, having done about 3 million tests, is because of that day when it was galvanized by the President and the Vice President.

We also set models in the community. Those first community-based testing sites that were federally supported and, really, under the direction of the U.S. Public Health Service -- people who had been in Japan, testing people on the Diamond Princess, to assure that it would be done right and it would be done safely for everyone involved.

Then we moved to, really, scaling. That phase was very, very important because we knew we needed to be at an immense scale to enter the third phase about supporting opening again. This again -- for example, a lot of my life is about swabs. It was enhancing the production capability of a small company in Maine, called Puritan, that you'll hear a whole lot more about that has -- that is, sort of, the swab provider for the country -- but also, because of the FDA actions and the actions of scientific community, being able to broaden the types to spun polyester, so U.S. Cotton can now come in and start delivering, within the next couple of weeks, 3 million swabs per week of a different type.

It also did things like expanding the community-based testing sites. Whereas we started small with the commercial partners, you see today, right now, we have 73 of these 2.0 sites going to 110. And very importantly, this demonstrated the model. And 68 percent of those sites are in communities of moderate or high social vulnerability. And 22 percent are in the highest social vulnerability communities so that we can make sure that testing gets where it needs to be. You've just heard that that could be expanded to thousands of sites.

And finally, stage three, which is very exciting: coordinating with governors to support testing plans and rapid response

programs. Over the past week, a multidisciplinary team from the White House, HHS, FDA, FEMA has met virtually with multidisciplinary teams from every state, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to understand what their testing aspirations are and to make sure that we can meet those demands. We're going to have another round of those calls this week.

But as we talked about earlier today, we will be able to supply every state with the -- with the supplies and the tests that they need. That will dramatically increase the number of tests we've done to this point. And just to give you an idea, the supplies that we will be providing to states -- the minimum that we're supplying to states is approximately double, in that month, than the Republic of Korea has performed in the four months to now accumulated -- to give you an idea of the amount of testing that we're going to be -- going to be doing.

So I'm very exciting right now, as we complete this ecosystem with the large reference labs -- the LabCorp and Quest providing the very high-throughput, large-scale testing; the galvanizing of the hospitals and academic labs that Dr. Birx has done, by a machine to machine, understanding and promoting that with the governors; and, of course, using point-of-care testing when and where that's very important to stop outbreaks or in remote areas, like in the Indian Health Service or in Alaska.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Great job. Thanks, Brett.

Okay. So with that, we're here to answer some questions, and Mike is up here also. So, we'll answer.

Steve, please go ahead.

Q Sir, as the governors grapple with when and how to open their states, what's the best advice from you on what they should do -- how quickly, how slowly?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we want them to do it. We recommend that they do it as quickly as possible, but safely. We want everyone to be safe. And I think you're seeing that. You're seeing a lot of governors get out and they want to open it up. Many are thinking about their school system. Not a long way to go in the school system right now for this season, for this year, but I think you'll see a lot of schools open up even if it's for a very short period of time. I think it would be a good thing.

Because, as you see, in terms of what this vicious virus goes after, young people seem to do very well. Young people seem to do very well.

So I know that there are some governors that aren't necessarily ready to open up their states, but they may be ready to open up their school systems. We'll see. But that's their choice. But the word is "safety." Okay? Rapid, but safety.

Yeah, please. Go ahead, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I have a question for you regarding one of the members of your Coronavirus Task Force, and that's Secretary of HHS Alex Azar.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q On January the 28th, he was in the briefing room. And in the briefing room, he told reporters that, for the individual American, the virus should not be an impact on their day-to-day life. Three months later, more than 55,000 of our fellow Americans have now lost their lives. Mr. President, why is he still your top health advisor? Why is he still serving as the

HHS Secretary?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it's a very unfair question because you have many great professionals, some of them you have great respect for, and you have many people in the other party -- you mention Alex Azar, but you have many people in the other party that have said the same thing and with even more confidence. So a lot of people didn't get that right.

I was -- I was very fortunate, whether it was through luck or whatever, that we closed the border. We put a ban on China -- other than our citizens coming in. We had our citizens -- you can't keep out American citizens. You know, "Gee, you can't come back into your country." That's a little tough to do.

But we put a ban on China that was very fortunate. But I could tell you that Nancy Pelosi was dancing in the streets in Chinatown. She wanted to go, "Let's go out and party." That was late into February. So you don't mention that, but you could mention that.

Go ahead. Any other? Please, go ahead.

Q It's April, Mr. President. He has not been in a briefing, Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, please. Stand up.

Q -- since April the 3rd. Does that show confidence in him?

THE PRESIDENT: You -- you should have no complaints.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Yesterday, you retweeted someone who alleged that Democrats have quoted -- quote, inflate --

inflated "the mortality rate[s]" of the coronavirus "by underreporting the infection rate[s]." Do you believe that's true -- that there is some sort of conspiracy theory regarding the number of infections states are reporting?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can only say what we're doing. We're reporting very accurately. If you look at other countries, other countries are not. I mean, you can look at China. You can look at numerous countries where I don't think those are right numbers.

I can only say what we're doing. It's very important to us to do very accurate reporting, and that's what we're doing.

Jon, go ahead. Please.

Q (Inaudible) by retweeting that, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Please.

Q Mr. President, I wanted to ask you about the Payment Protection Plan -- the PPP plan -- to help small businesses.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q There have been a lot of concerns today with the website just not working. In fact, I heard from the American Bankers Association, saying that they are deeply frustrated, and until it's fixed, American banks will not be able to help struggling small businesses. Do you know -- can you give us an update?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I just came out and I hadn't heard. I heard there was a glitch. We'll find out whether or not that's so. Certainly it did work out very well for the original amount of money. This is the second amount. And I'll find out about that. We'll find -- we're relying on the banks to go out and do

an accurate job.

Yeah, please. In the back.

Q Thank you.

Q And will you list all the companies that get aid, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I wouldn't mind doing that. I don't know what the legal status of something like that -- I would like to do that, as far as I'm concerned. I'm not involved in that process, but I would certainly like to have it listed. I'd have to find out if there's a legal problem. But if there isn't, I would do it gladly.

Please.

Q Mr. President, Charlie Spiering from Breitbart News. And a majority of polls show that Americans blame China for the spread of the coronavirus, and yet they're taking advantage of the crisis to make the world more dependent on their supply chains. How do you get -- how do you hold China accountable and how do you keep our country -- how do you incentivize our businesses?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Charlie, there are a lot of ways you can hold them accountable. We're doing very serious investigations, as you probably know. And we are not happy with China. We are not happy with that whole situation because we believe it could have been stopped at the source, it could have been stopped quickly, and it wouldn't have spread all over the world. And we think that should have happened. So we'll let you know at the appropriate time, but we are doing serious investigations.

Q How do you keep American businesses from relying on China

for their supply chains? How do you -- how do you fix that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we've already discussed that, and especially having to do with medical supplies and others -- and others. If you look prior to this virus, the deficit was coming way down under my administration because I put massive tariffs on China. We took in tens of billions of dollars. Gave some of it to the farmers who were unfairly targeted by China. Nobody has ever done that before. We never took in 10 cents from China.

Now, all of a sudden, I think you know very well, we've taken in tens of billions of dollars. I helped the farmers by giving them, two years ago, \$12 billion -- all coming from China -- and we had plenty leftover too. And then the following year, \$16 billion. And this year, we're also going to help our farmers. But nobody has ever done a thing like that. Because they were targeted unfairly by China.

So we're doing a very strong investigation, and we'll let you know what the result of that is. We should be able to get the answers too.

Go ahead. Please.

Q Mr. President, as you talk about potentially reopening up America again, as we see in the slides behind you, what data are you going to look at in the future to see if restrictions need to be re-imposed?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we're looking very much and reliant very much on the local areas, the governors. And that's been the way it has been for me, maybe not for everybody. But for me, that's the way it's been at the beginning and from the beginning.

The governors -- some of them -- are doing an extraordinary job. Not all of them, but some of them. And I think all of them

maybe hasn't have a chance to do that. Some will be a little bit different. The areas are much different. Manhattan is much different than Montana. You have a lot of different circumstances, but -- and obviously, if you look at the virus, it hits some areas. Hasn't hit very much other areas, not even at all. Almost not at all.

But the entire country has been infected. West Virginia -- as an example, I spoke to Jim Justice, the governor of West Virginia, and they were along before anything hit and they had numerous deaths, even in West Virginia. And they were really the last one to be hit.

So we're dealing with the governors. We had a really great call today, as I told you. Very, very solid. These are -- these were not complaining people. These were people that were -- they had everything they needed. They had their ventilators. They have their testing. They see their testing is growing. They're growing their testing. We're helping them. We're getting them what they need. And that was a group -- I wish -- I mean, I'm sure some of you were on the line, even though supposed to be. And I think you know what the result you weren't of that call was.

Please, go ahead.

Q Could you talk about the supply chains, sir?

Q Following up on Charlie's question on making China -- holding them responsible -- Germany sent a bill to China for 130 billion dollars in -- excuse me, 130 billion euros for the damages caused by the coronavirus. Would your administration look at doing the same?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we can do something much easier than that. We have ways of doing things a lot easier than that. But

Germany is looking at things and we're looking at things. And we're talking about a lot more money than Germany is talking about.

Yeah, please go ahead.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't determined the final amount yet.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: It's very substantial. If you take a look at the world -- I mean, this is worldwide damage. This is damage to the U.S., but this is damage to the world.

Yeah, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Attorney General William Barr directed federal prosecutors to watch out for state and local officials that might be violating the Constitution by some of their stay-at-home orders. What's the strategy there? Will the federal government sue local authorities or give the governors --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you'd have to ask Attorney General Barr, but I think he wants to see -- like everybody, he wants to see people get back and wants to see people get back to work. He doesn't want people to be held up when there's no reason for doing it. In some cases, perhaps it's too strict. He wants to make sure people have their rights and they maintain their rights, very importantly.

So a lot of people would agree with him. But you'd actually have to ask that question specifically, from a legal standpoint, to Attorney General Barr.

Q Do you support the federal government suing state officials?

THE PRESIDENT: It would depend on the state. It would depend on the circumstances of the state. I mean, some states are, you know, perhaps a little early, and some states are a little bit late. And the Attorney General -- I read that and I saw that -- and, frankly, the Attorney General doesn't want to have rights taken away. Because, you know, there are some people, they're not allowed to open up a store or -- you know, they're going to lose their livelihood.

And, by the way, that causes death also, between all of the things that happen. And this has been a big study. You know, the fact that people aren't allowed to have their freedom causes a tremendous amount of problems, including death. So that's what he's talking about.

Please, in the back.

Q Maryland and other states -- Governor Larry Hogan specifically said they've seen a spike in people using disinfectant after your comments last week. I know you said they were sarcastic, but do you take any --

THE PRESIDENT: I can't imagine why. I can't imagine why. Yeah.

Q Do you yeah take any responsibility if someone were to die?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't. No, I can't imagine -- I can't imagine that.

Yeah, go ahead, please.

Q Mr. President, Dr. Anthony Fauci says that we need to increase testing by -- double it at least, and so does the Rockefeller Foundation. When are we going to be doubling

testing?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that -- it doesn't really matter what they say there -- and we just left him; we just had a meeting --but -- because we're going to have much more than double it very soon.

Now, there are big believers in testing, and then there are some governors that don't feel as strongly about it at all. You understand that. They feel much differently about it.

But we're going with maximum testing, because it's something we're very capable of doing. But we'll be much more than doubled.

You know, Mike, I'd like you to answer that. We're going to be much higher than doubled on testing very shortly.

Mike, please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. I hope the American people looking on today are as proud as the President and I are of the incredible public and private partnership that you heard from today. It was two months ago that we had done less than 10,000 tests for the coronavirus in the United States. But because the President brought together these incredible commercial labs, brought together the best-known retailers in America, now, Mr. President, we have 5.4 million tests. And as you said earlier today, we've -- we've done more than 200,000 tests in a single day.

And as we met with governors today, I sense the enthusiasm among governors for the way that testing is scaling all across the country. And we assured them on the call today that we're going to continue to directly partner with them to make sure that all of the resources you heard about today continue to be expanded.

But I want to ask, Admiral Giroir, who is literally working day in and day out with the governors, to describe some of the numbers for exactly where we will be. We're north of 5 million tests done now. It is -- it is remarkable to think of the pace of acceleration.

But, Admiral, maybe you could speak about exactly when we will reach the point that some of the experts say that they think we need to be at, whether that be 300,000 tests a day or 500,000 tests a day.

But what's remarkable to me as a layperson, Mr. President, is because of this partnership you've forged, we're -- we're almost there. And we'll be there very, very soon for the American people.

But everyone who is as anxious to see America reopen, as this President and our entire administration are, should know that the three-phased approach that the President outlined 10 days ago, we believe -- and I believe, increasingly, governors understand around America -- that we have a sufficient amount of testing today for every state that qualifies to enter phase one to begin to reopen their economies.

And, Mr. President, with your permission, I'll just ask Admiral Giroir to give some specific numbers about -- about how quick -- for all that we've done, how much more quickly you'll see an expansion of testing because of the partnership that you witnessed again here today.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Thank you, Mr. President and Mr. Vice President. The number of tests that need to be done depends on the state level. You understand that places where there's high virus circulating will need many, many more tests. Places that do not have high virus circulating may need less tests.

But let's just assume Dr. Fauci was talking about a 4 million-per-month number, which was, sort of a week ago, where we -- where we are. So, we will -- according to the governors' plans for next month, we will easily double that 4 million number. We will have over 20 million swabs that we're going to send out. We will have over 15 million tubes of media. We have all the tests matched, machine to machine, in a focused area. We've gone state by state, and understand that.

And this is not even including what you just heard: the 5 million-per-month test by LabCorp and Quest, or the point-of-care tests by Abbott, or all the other tests that are out there.

So, in May, we are going to be doing more testing in this country. And people talk about South Korea a lot. The state -- the states with the least amount of testing will double the overall cumulative number, per capita, that South Korea has done in four months -- to give you that understanding.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, Jon.

Q Yeah. I'm just wondering -- this sounds incredibly promising -- Walgreens, CVS with the drive-through tests, the diagnostic (inaudible). But we sat here in the Rose Garden, back on March 13, and these companies were here, some other companies were here. By my count, only 69 drive-through test sites have been set up by the companies that were here.

I'm wondering if you -- and, of course, Mr. Vice President, back in early March, you said we'd be at 4 million tests by the following week. We're just now got there in the last few days.

So what have you learned about what went wrong, you know, a month and a half -- or over the last month and a half or two months? And what's going to go right, now? What lessons have you learned from the mistakes over the last, you know, month and

a half or so?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Jon, I appreciate the question, but it represents a misunderstanding on your part and the -- and frankly, the -- a lot of people in the public's part about the difference between having a test versus the ability to actually process the test.

I mean, the truth was, when the President tapped me to lead the White House Coronavirus Task Force two months ago, we saw the production of lots of test kits going into the marketplace.

But as the President has said many times, what he understood early on was the old system would never be able to process the tests at the massive volume that we would need in the midst of an epidemic. And that's why the President brought together these extraordinary commercial labs that you've heard from today. Literally, sat them down in the Roosevelt Room and said, "We need you to turn all of your energies loose on doing the kind of high-speed testing that would be necessary for us to reach the numbers we're at today."

And so there was no disconnect at all. There were -- there were lots of test kits out there, Admiral, and frankly, there still are today. There are literally millions of tests that could be run in the old-style, slow laboratory that are still conducting tests today, whether it be at the CDC or at state laboratories.

But what the President brought about with this public-private partnership, has brought us to the point where we've done 5.4 million tests to date. And literally, you just heard that, by next month, it could -- we could be doing as many as 2 million tests a week all across the country to give the American people confidence that we can reopen and get our economy moving again.

Q So when you said 4 million tests, seven weeks ago, you were

just talking about tests being sent out, not actually being -- being completed? I'm a little confused.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Jon, I think -- precisely correct. That in my first week on this job, we were informed that HHS -- I believe IDT was the vendor, Admiral Giroir -- that had distributed a million, was distributing another 4 million. And we believe they did.

But again, those were tests that, frankly, but for the President's leadership, we'd still be waiting on those tests to be done in many cases, because they were tests that were designed to be run in the old laboratory model. But early on, at the President's direction, we brought in these incredible commercial labs. We partnered with these extraordinary retailers. And now we stand here today, literally -- one day last week: more than 200,000 tests in a single day. About the time that we were making those comments, we -- we'd done less than 25,000 tests in the entire country.

But we've met this moment with American ingenuity, with the incredible companies that are represented here. And we couldn't be more proud.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's very important to know -- and this you can get from any other country, I think, if they're being honest -- not only do we have the most testing in the world by far, but we have, by far, the best testing.

OAN, please. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, thank you. I'd like to switch gears and talk about General Flynn. There are reports circulating now that he may well be fully exonerated this week. If that were -- if that were the case, is there any reason why you would not bring him back into the administration?

THE PRESIDENT: I will only say this: I think that General Flynn is a wonderful man. He had a wonderful career. And it was a disgrace what happened to General Flynn. Let's see what happens now. But what happened to General Flynn should never happen again in our country. What happened to other people should never happen again in our country. What happened to your President of the United States should never again be allowed to happen.

Go ahead, please.

Q Mr. President, thank you. Today, one of your top economic advisors, Kevin Hassett -- he said that the U.S. is likely to experience a 20 to 30 percent decline in the GDP in the second quarter, the worst since the Great Depression. Do you agree with that assessment?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. But I can tell you the third and the fourth quarter, in particular, are going to be, I think, spectacular. We were talking about it with the executives. I think we're going to have a phenomenal third quarter. Nobody, you know, except one country, can be held accountable for what happened. Nobody is blaming anybody here. We're looking at a group of people that should have stopped it at the source.

But -- so what happens in second, happens in second. What we are doing is -- I think we're going to have -- you're going to see a big rise in the third, but you're going to see an -- an incredible fourth quarter, and you're going to have an incredible next year.

I think you're going to have a recovery. Look, I built -- they were just telling me inside, and it's fact -- I built the greatest economy -- with the help of 325 million people, I built the greatest economy in the history of the world. And one day, because of something that should have never been allowed to

happen, we had to close our country, we had to close our economy.

I built it. We had the best employment numbers and the best unemployment numbers for Hispanic American, for African American, for Asian American, for everybody -- best stock market numbers. And, by the way, the stock market was up very substantially today and people are seeing a lot of good things. A lot of very smart people investing in the stock market right now. It's at 24,000 -- approximately 24,000.

And if you would've said, with a tragedy that this country had to endure and go through, with all of the death and the people that died and were so badly hurt by what happened, and you can only say God bless them -- but if you would've said that our country would be in the position we're in now -- we're ready to move forward.

We'll never forget loved ones. We'll never forget these great people that sacrifice for a reason of incompetence or something else other than incompetence. What happened at a point where they could have protected the whole world -- not just us, the whole world.

But we had the greatest economy ever in the history of our world, and I had to turn it off in order to get to a point where we are today. And now we're making a comeback. And I think we're going to have, economically -- from an economic standpoint, next year -- an unbelievable year. And I think that you're going to see a fantastic fourth quarter, and the third quarter will start to build. But the second quarter, obviously, you're going to have GDP lack of growth.

I'm looking at the head of Walmart. What a job Walmart has done in going through something. I mean, they were -- they were doing yeoman's work, including getting us millions of -- of, really,

very, very protective outfits. And -- and -- I mean, the job that Doug and Walmart did was incredible. Millions of outfits. And those are high quality. I've seen them. Those a high quality. That's what we need.

So people have stepped up to the plate. I think we're going to have a really good -- I think it's good to start building. I think it's going to build fast. I think it'll be a tremendous, tremendous comeback.

And, you know, so I say I built the greatest economy -- with all of the people that helped me and all of the people in this country, we built the greatest economy the world has ever seen. And we're going to do it again. And it's not going to be that long. Okay?

Yes, please. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, opening up the country, how long will you keep up the travel restrictions for Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're looking at that, and it depends on how long it's taken Europe to heal. Italy is starting to make a comeback. I'm very happy to see that, with my friend, the Prime Minister. He's -- it's tragic what went on in Italy and Spain and France and Germany, frankly, and every -- every country over there. It's tragic. But we'll be looking at what's happening in Europe. And certainly, we want to do that and they want to do it too. They want to do it very badly.

Yeah.

Q Do you have any update on Kim Jong Un's health?

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

Q Have you gotten any update on Kim Jong Un's health? Has he responded to your letter from March?

THE PRESIDENT: On Kim Jong Un? I can't tell you exactly. Yes, I do have a very good idea, but I can't talk about it now. I just wish him well. I've had a very good relationship with Kim Jong Un.

If I weren't President, you'd be in war. You would've been in war with Korea. You would have been in war with North Korea if I wasn't President -- that, I can tell you. He expected that -- that, I can tell you.

I -- I hope he's fine. I do know how he's doing, relatively speaking. We will see. You'll probably be hearing in the not-too-distant future.

All right. One or two more. Go ahead, please.

Q Is he alive? Are -- are you confirming he's alive?

Q Mr. President, I want to ask you a question about the 2020 election.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Your likely Democratic opponent, Joe Biden, recently suggested that you were considering changing the date of the election, that you might try something like that. That's my first question.

The second question is --

THE PRESIDENT: I never even thought of changing the date of the election. Why would I do that? November 3rd. It's a good number. No, I look forward to that election.

And that was just made-up propaganda -- not by him, but by some of the many people that are working, writing little statements. I see all the time: "Statement made..." You say, "So, statement made per Joe Biden." Sleepy Joe. He didn't make those statements, but somebody did. But they said he made it. No, let him know I -- I'm not thinking about it at all. Not at all.

Go ahead. In the back, please. Please.

Q The bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee came out with the fourth installment of its report. It concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 elections and there was not political bias. Do you accept its conclusions?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know. I haven't seen the report. I haven't seen the report.

Yeah, please. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, nice to see you. I think you have a good relationship with North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un. But last Saturday, Senator Graham -- he mentioned in the Fox News -- he interviewed. He said --

THE PRESIDENT: He didn't say anything last Saturday.

Q -- that Kim Jong Un --

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody -- nobody knows where he is, so he obviously couldn't have said it. If you have a -- this is breaking news.

Q Yes --

THE PRESIDENT: That Kim Jong Un made a statement on Saturday, I

don't think so.

Q Yeah, but the --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, go ahead. Let's do -- let's do one more. Please, in the back.

Q If an American President loses more Americans over the course of six weeks than died in the entirety of the Vietnam War, does he deserve to be reelected?

THE PRESIDENT: So, yeah, we've lost a lot of people. But if you look at what original projections were -- 2.2 million -- we're probably heading to 60,000, 70,000. It's far too many. One person is too many for this.

And I think we've made a lot of really good decisions. The big decision was closing the border or doing the ban -- people coming in from China -- obviously, other than American citizens, which had to come in. Can't say, "You can't come in. You can't come back to your country."

I think we've made a lot of good decisions. I think that Mike Pence and the task force have done a fantastic job.

I think that everybody working on the ventilators -- you see what we've done there -- have done unbelievable. The press doesn't talk about ventilators anymore. They just don't want to talk about them and that's okay. But the reason they don't want to talk -- that was a subject that nobody would get off of. They don't want to talk about them.

We're in the same position on testing. We are lapping the world on testing. And the world is coming to us. As I said, they're coming to us, saying, "What are you doing? How do you do it?" And we're helping them.

So, no, I think we've done a great job. And one person -- I will say this: One person is too many.

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you.

END

6:33 P.M. EDT

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Subject: UPDATED DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2020

**UPDATED DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020**

UPDATES: The 5PM press briefing has been canceled.

The 4PM meeting with industry executives will be covered by the Restricted In-House Pool.

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT
TV Corr & Crew: NBC
Print: Washington Times
Radio: VOA

EDT

11:00AM **In-House Pool Call Time**

2:00PM **THE PRESIDENT participates in a Governors' Video
Teleconference on COVID-19 Response and Economic Revival**

Situation Room

Closed Press

4:00PM **THE PRESIDENT meets with industry executives on COVID-19
response**

Cabinet Room

Restricted In-House Pool

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Subject: President Donald J. Trump Is Ensuring States Have The Testing Capacity Needed To Safely Open Up America Again



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2020

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP IS ENSURING STATES HAVE THE TESTING CAPACITY NEEDED TO SAFELY OPEN UP AMERICA AGAIN

“Together, we will rebuild this land that we love, we will reclaim the magnificent destiny that we share, and we will carry our Nation forward to new heights of greatness and glory.” – President Donald J. Trump

SAFELY OPENING UP AMERICA AGAIN: President Donald J. Trump and his Administration are taking steps to ensure States have the testing system required to reopen our Nation.

- President Trump is releasing his Administration’s blueprint for State testing plans and rapid response programs.
 - This follows the release of President Trump’s Opening Up America Again guidelines on April 16, 2020.
- The blueprint describes the roles and responsibilities, as well as core objectives, for the robust State testing plans and rapid response programs needed by States to safely reopen.
- To meet the country’s testing needs, the blueprint describes a partnership between Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector.
- As we continue to gradually open up our Nation, testing will be crucial to give the American people the confidence they need to resume their economic, social, and religious lives.

- This roadmap will help States maximize testing capacity and protect the health and safety of their people as we begin to reopen and beyond.

HISTORIC TESTING REGIME: The Trump Administration has successfully scaled a robust testing regime that is able to meet the massive needs of a nationwide pandemic.

- President Trump and his Administration have responded to the coronavirus threat by scaling up the largest testing system anywhere in the world.
- Starting from scratch, the Trump Administration has performed more than 5.4 million tests in less than 45 days – far more than any other nation.
 - In hotspots, we are testing more Americans per capita than most other major countries.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued 70 emergency authorizations for new tests, including 8 for serological tests.
- Federal agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), have surged millions of new tests and supplies to hospitals, the Indian Health Service, and other testing locations across the Nation.

COMBATING THE INVISIBLE ENEMY: President Trump has worked tirelessly to mobilize the vast resources of our Nation in order to fight the coronavirus outbreak.

- Early on, the President implemented travel restrictions against China and strengthened screening at our Nation’s airports, limiting the spread of the virus here in America.
- Through his leadership, President Trump has led the largest public and private sector industrial mobilization since World War II.
 - As a result, America has been able to surge supplies of critical medical equipment to ensure that no American who has needed a ventilator must go without one.
- The President has delivered massive economic relief to American businesses, workers, and families, keeping our economy afloat during this critical time.

- Because of the success of the Trump Administration's response, in partnership with State, local, and tribal governments, the spread of the outbreak has been significantly smaller than initial predictions and countless lives have been saved.

###

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing |
April 24, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 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 24, 2020

5:39 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, everyone. Thank you. We continue to see evidence that our aggressive strategy is working and working at a very high level. Nationwide, the percent of tests that come back positive has declined very significantly.

Last week, roughly 38 percent of the tests in New York were positive. This week, that number is down to 28 percent. New cases in New York are down 50 percent compared to a week ago. And fatalities are down 40 percent over the same period. In Louisiana, the rate of positive test result had

declined from 25 percent down to 15 percent in the last seven days alone.

Eighteen states now show a decline in a number of positive tests in the last seven days. So, over the last seven days, there's been very, very significant progress.

Half of all Americans live in states that have now taken steps to open their economies. Just yesterday, Governors Gavin Newsom, California; Tim Walz of Minnesota; and Bill Lee of Tennessee announced additional plans to restart certain sectors.

We ask every American to maintain vigilance and hygiene, social distancing and voluntary use of face coverings. We're opening our country. It's very exciting to see. We have a lot of talent involved, from governors down to people that just stand there and help you with the doors. There's been tremendous talent involved and tremendous spirit from our country. The country is a great place, and it's going to be greater than ever before. I really believe that. I think there's going to be a tremendous upward shift.

I spoke with Tim Cook, today, of Apple. And they have a good sense of the market, and he feels it's going to be a "V." The "V" is sharply upward later on as we actually get it fully open.

Today, I signed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, providing \$320 billion to keep American workers on the payroll. Thirty billion dollars of the Paycheck Protection funds will be reserved for small financial institutions, including those that serve minority and distressed communities, extending vital relief to thousands of African American and Hispanic American small-business owners and their employees.

The bill also delivers \$75 billion for hospitals -- so badly

needed for hospitals; they've taken a very big hit -- and medical providers. In areas less affected by the virus, hospitals and doctors should work with their state and local health officials on ways to safely resume elective medical treatments and care.

Under the CARES Act, we're sending back payments to millions of American workers. More than 80 million Americans have already received their payment: \$3,400 for a typical family of four. Three thousand four hundred dollars. That's great. And you deserve it.

The CARES Act requires that the federal government send out a notice of what benefits Americans are receiving. To fulfill the requirement, the Treasury Department is mailing a letter to me. It will include the amount, their economic impact payment, how it will arrived -- direct deposit, check, or prepaid debit card -- as well as a message to the nation, letting each American know that we are getting through this challenge together as one American family. And that's what's been happening.

The whole world is watching us. You have 184 countries out there that have been hit, and now it's probably higher than that. But they're all watching us. They're all watching and they're calling, and they respect what we're doing, so much.

I spoke with the leaders of numerous countries today. They're asking if we can send them ventilators, and I'm agreeing to do it. We have tremendous capacity -- now, over-capacity of ventilators. We're filling up stockpiles for our states and for ourselves. The federal government has over 10,000 ventilators, and we could have a lot more if we wanted to do that. But we're helping Mexico, Honduras, Indonesia, France. We're sending to France. We're sending to Spain. We're sending to Italy. And we'll probably be sending to Germany, should they need them.

Over the last three years, we built the strongest economy and the

most successful country the world has ever seen. Greatest economy the world has ever seen. Nobody has ever done anything like what we were able to do.

And we will rebuild that economy. Our economy in the not-too-distant future, I really believe, with all that we've learned and all that we've done, will be just as strong and maybe stronger than ever before -- even stronger than it was just two months ago.

Some interesting note is that the FDA approved the first at-home COVID-19 test kit. It just got approved. And Dr. Stephen -- where is Stephen? Stephen Hahn. Stephen? -- is going to say a couple of words about that and some other things.

I want to thank Stephen. The FDA has been incredible. They've been approving not only this, but they've been approving many things at a pace that's never happened before. And they're being very safe about it, as Stephen told me. He's told me -- told me very strongly. But at the same time, they're approving things at record numbers, in a record -- at a record rate. And it's really been helpful.

Many tests are going on -- many vaccine tests and tests of every different kind. And things are happening. Just like this event, things are happening very rapidly. And I'd like to have Stephen tell you a little bit about it.

Thank you very much. Stephen, please.

DR. HAHN: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the opportunity to tell you about what's happening at the FDA. We have a team of more than 18,000 employees, including 10,000 scientists, doctors, pharmacists, and nurses, and they've been working around the clock because, as you probably know, many of the medical products that are being used for the COVID-19

outbreak are, in fact, regulated by FDA. The staff have been hard at work authorizing tests and other medical products.

As part of these efforts to support diagnostic test development during this global pandemic, the President has asked us, and under his leadership, to actually cut down as many barriers as we possibly could to get medical products into the medical community, and we have done that, of course recognizing the urgency of the situation.

I do want to emphasize what the President said, that -- is that we are very much paying attention to safety and with respect to test validity and reliability of those tests.

And I think it's really important to understand how far we've come in just a few short months. The academic community, which I come from; the private sector; the government -- we've come together to develop diagnostics for a completely new infectious disease.

And it's really important -- we've heard from many test developers, both in academia and in the manufacturing world: This normally takes years to develop. You've heard Dr. Birx talk about the fact that HIV tests has taken many, many years to develop. This has happened in weeks and months. We've been laser focused on working with both industry and academia to actually make this happen.

To date, under our emergency use authorization approach, we've quickly reviewed and authorized 63 tests, both diagnostic, as well as serologic -- that is the antibody test. We've had several point-of-care tests, and that's important because those can be done in the emergency room or in a doctor's office, et cetera, and much more convenient for the patient.

And this week, as the President said, we authorized the first at-

home test by a company called LabCorp. This is a test where, under certain circumstances, with a doctor's supervision, a test can be mailed to a patient and the patient can perform the self-swab and then mail it back and get the results after that time -- all under the guidance of a licensed physician.

And we're not just letting up with these 63 tests we've approved. We are working with more than 400 test developers who are pursuing authorization for their diagnostics under our current policies. And under our regulatory approach, which is quite flexible, many other tests are becoming available.

We are -- we have heard, and have reported to us, 220 labs around the country have begun patient testing using their own validated tests. This has allowed us to increase, significantly, tests around the country.

I updated you earlier this week on serologic tests -- these antibody tests that are used to detect natural immunity -- and the FDA's approach to help make these tests available. While these are just one part of our larger response effort, they can play a role in helping move our economy forward by helping healthcare professionals identify those who have immunity to the COVID-19.

And just finally, when it comes to therapeutics, we are leaving no stone unturned in finding treatments for COVID-19. You do know that we don't have any approved currently therapeutics for COVID-19, but we are actively involved with both the academic and the commercial and private sector to find those. Seventy-two trials of therapeutics are underway in the United States under FDA oversight and 211 are in the planning stages, so we expect to see more. This includes convalescent plasma, as well as antiviral therapies.

Work continues on vaccines. And two firms have announced that

the FDA has authorized their trials to go forward, one of which we've mentioned here before.

And finally, in response to the President's and Task Force's request, we've stood up the Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program. We are leaving no stone unturned, as I said, and we're working around the clock to develop these therapeutics for the American people.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Q Dr. Hahn, a question about antibody tests, please?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, Doc. Would you like to maybe --

Q It's a quick question --

DR. HAHN: Okay.

Q -- and it's timely, because just about an hour ago, a Subcommittee with Oversight released some findings that the FDA doesn't have any review of the antibody tests that are on the market. There are no guidelines to tell which ones should be out there, and there's no way to test their accuracy. They're quite worried that these are junk tests on the market because they weren't reviewed before they were approved. Is that true?

DR. HAHN: So, under our policy, we provide a flexibility. What we've told manufacturers is that, in order to market in the U.S., they have to validate their tests, they have to tell us that they validated their tests, and then, in the package insert, they have to let people know -- end users, labs, et cetera -- that those tests were not authorized by FDA.

We've authorized four. As I mentioned, more are in the pipeline. And these tests that have come in without any information to us, but have been self-validated -- as I mentioned at the podium a couple days ago, we are working with the National Cancer Institute, as well as CDC, to perform our own validation of the tests that that have been sent to us.

So we'll provide as much information as we possibly can. And there is transparency on our website about those tests, and also the tests that we have authorized.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mike, please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. From early in this effort, President Trump has called forth a whole-of-government response to the coronavirus epidemic in America. And by that, the President made clear, when he asked me to lead the White House Coronavirus Task Force, not merely a whole-of-the-federal government but a full partnership with state and local governments across the country. And today we renewed that with our latest conference call with governors all across America.

We met with them today, specifically to speak about the progress that our governors are making expanding testing across the country. And we were pleased to hear about the extraordinary and rapid progress that governors are making.

At the -- at the outset of the call, where we had more than 50 of our nation's governors, we, of course, had Pete Gaynor of FEMA report on progress: more than 35,000 National Guard stood up, 5,000 active-duty military deployed in 10 states. And we were also pleased to report that FEMA, HHS, and the private sector have coordinated the delivery of shipments to states around the country, including nearly 67 million N95 masks, 105 million

surgical masks, surgical gowns, shields, gloves, more than 10,000 ventilators, and more than 8,000 federal field medical station beds.

Beyond the report that we provided to the governors, we assured them that, at the President's direction, this is one team, one mission. And we made it clear to the governors that we know we're all in this together. And the partnership that we have forged together really begins with mitigation efforts. It moves to making sure our healthcare workers have the support they need, but also testing is in the forefront of all of our minds.

We're working -- working to make it possible for every governor to access the existing capacity to enable our states to be able to reopen responsibly under the phased approach that the President unveiled one week ago.

A little bit of context: You may recall that, one month ago, all of the testing that had been done in America -- 80,000 Americans had been tested. But as of this morning, 5.1 million Americans have been tested for the coronavirus.

A quick reminder to our fellow Americans, and this was something from our scientists today at the task force, and we reminded governors of this as well: that as testing increases dramatically across the country, cases will increase as well. But people should not be discouraged by those numbers. We are looking at very positive trends in hospitalization, in emergency room entrances. And we continue to see, as we've said at this podium every day over the last several weeks -- we continue to see positive progress not just on the West Coast, but even where the coronavirus epidemic has most deeply impacted in areas of the Greater New York City area, New Orleans, Detroit, and elsewhere.

On our nearly two-hour phone call today with those governors, we heard of the progress governors were making in implementing the

resources that we've been working to provide them: not just the medical equipment, but also, as you recall, that map, a week ago, that showed where all of the equipment is all across the country in all 50 states.

Governor Cuomo joined us for the call today. He spoke favorably of his meeting here at the White House, Mr. President, and his recognition that testing is a partnership between the federal and state governments. As Governor Cuomo said today, he understood that the federal government works with national manufacturing and supply chain, and the governors deal with the labs to expand and implement testing at the state level.

Governor Cuomo also explained how he's using his licensing authority as a governor to stand up the more than 300 labs that can do coronavirus testing in the state of New York. And we congratulated him for his leadership in that and urged other governors to use their authority similarly.

In Tennessee, Governor Bill Lee told us that he's deployed the National Guard to stand up more than 20 drive-through test sites. They're testing 10,000 people a day and have already tested more than 130,000 people in Tennessee, and they expect to surge another 15,000 people in testing sites this weekend in Tennessee.

Massachusetts is an area we're continuing to watch very closely as cases have not yet stabilized. And Governor Charlie Baker, after he thanked us, Mr. President, for the Army Corps of Engineers deployment of four field hospitals, he described how they have rapidly expanded testing all across Massachusetts. We commended him for that. In the beginning of March, he said they had just one testing site in the state of Massachusetts. And now, thanks to Governor Charlie Baker's team, they have more than 30 testing sites.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz reflected on the call today about the partnership he's forged with the Mayo Clinic, the University of Minnesota, and state health department. They're actually collaborating to perform 20,000 molecular tests and 15,000 antibody tests per day. And I'm looking forward to traveling to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota on Tuesday of next week to learn firsthand from the governor about their efforts across the state to expand testing.

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds gave us an update, Mr. President, on her progress. She's literally tripling testing capacity in her state through a partnership with the private sector, with the University of Iowa and Iowa State University. She also launched the TestIowa.com website, which actually creates an access point for people to fill out a questionnaire about whether or not their symptoms or circumstances would justify a test. She said, in the first 72 hours, 150,000 people went to the test site to receive an assessment. And Iowa is now testing 4,500 people a day in their state.

In Indiana, I spoke also today with Governor Eric Holcomb. They've tested 72,000 Hoosiers to date. They're adding drive-through sites. They'll have 10 drive-through sites established by the state of Indiana before the end of the weekend. And as other governors have done, Governor Holcomb, last week, opened up half of their elective surgery sites and hospitals across the state. And they'll be opening up the balance of their elective surgery sites next week.

In Maryland, another area that we're watching very closely, Governor Larry Hogan expressed appreciation for federal support, as he's continuing to scale testing. He had been in touch with the National Institute of Health, which is opening up its laboratories for Maryland to do testing. And we were also able to confirm to him that Walter Reed Hospital's laboratory capacity is available to Maryland.

And in Utah, Mr. President, Governor Gary Herbert told us that he actually diverted 1,200 state employees to do contact tracing in their state. In the last 36 hours, 23,000 residents have also signed up for what they're calling their "Healthy Together" app. And they have 50 different testing locations across Utah and have tested 82,000 people in the state already.

Other state examples, Mr. President, were -- were just as inspiring.

Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey has forged a partnership with Rutgers University. Working closely with the FDA, they've authorized a saliva-based test that is being deployed just at that site that's expanding their ability to track what continues to be a very challenging environment in New Jersey.

And Governor Mike Parson of Missouri, Mr. President, also told us how they'd worked with Google Marketplace to create an online portal for more than 200 companies in Missouri who have repurposed their manufacturing lines to create medical supplies to meet their need within the state.

And in Connecticut, Governor Ned Lamont spoke about positive trend lines in Connecticut, which has been really at the center of the outbreak in the Greater New York area. But he also said they were hoping to double testing over the next week.

Mr. President, that's just a sampling of what we heard today. And I know it's an encouragement to you, and I trust it's an encouragement to people all across the country that, at your direction, we are implementing a testing strategy that is supported at the federal level but it is deployed and managed at the state level.

And we want to express our appreciation to every governor across

the country that are -- that are standing up all of those labs that are available, that are working with us and our supply chain personnel to make sure that the reagents and the swabs and the equipment is there to be able to process the tests.

And we're going to continue to increase testing dramatically in the weeks ahead. So we want to thank our governors for the progress that we're making on testing and for their role in -- in urging their citizens to practice the kind of mitigation and social distancing efforts that are really making real progress.

We're one team, one mission, and that's to save lives. And because of all the efforts that have been made at the state level, the strong guidance that's come from the federal level, and because of the amazing healthcare workers across this country and our first responders, but mostly, I believe, because of the cooperation of millions of Americans who've put the guidance into practice, their cooperation and their prayers have set us on a path where we are slowing the spread; we are protecting our most vulnerable.

And I truly do believe the day will soon come when we will heal our land, and we'll be able to reopen America and put this great nation back to work.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

END

6:01 P.M. EDT

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Subject: In-town pool reports 1/Macron readout

From: "Gearan, Anne" <Anne.Gearan@washpost.com>
Date: April 26, 2020 at 3:05:59 PM EDT
Subject: In-town pool reports 1/Macron readout

Judd Deere passes this along:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Emmanuel Macron of France. President Trump and President Macron discussed positive developments in combating the coronavirus pandemic and progress toward reopening world economies. The two leaders expressed hope to convene the P5 soon and discuss the UN response to the pandemic. President Trump and President Macron agreed on the need to reform the World Health Organization. The two leaders also discussed critical regional and bilateral issues.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 4/28/2020 4:23:14 PM
To: Flahive, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=570655c122f24177ba6e9ac768a6f731-James.Flahi]
CC: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: RE: FDA's Response to (b) (5)

Jim,

Thank you for the outreach. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

James

From: Flahive, James <James.Flahive@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: FDA's Response to (b) (5)

Hi James,

(b) (5)

Jim

From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:06 PM
To: Flahive, James <James.Flahive@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: FDA's Response to (b) (5)

(b) (5)

On Apr 23, 2020, at 6:04 PM, Flahive, James <James.Flahive@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

Hi James,

(b) (5)

Thanks,
Jim

From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:11 PM
To: Flahive, James <James.Flahive@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: FDA's Response to (b) (5)

James,

(b) (5)

James Williams

From: Flahive, James <James.Flahive@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 5:01 PM
To: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov
Cc: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: FDA's Response to (b) (5)

Good afternoon, James,

Keagan asked me to send you information about

(b) (5)

Please let me know if there is additional information we can provide.

Thanks,
Jim Flahive

(b) (5)

April 07, 2020

Contact: National Media Affairs Office

Phone Number: (202) 307-7977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEA takes additional steps to allow increased production of controlled substances used in COVID-19 care

WASHINGTON – The Drug Enforcement Administration announced today that it is increasing Aggregate Production Quotas available to pharmaceutical manufacturers for the production of controlled substance medications that are in high demand due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. DEA will also approve increases in imports of medications necessary for patients on ventilators.

“DEA is committed to ensuring an adequate and uninterrupted supply of critical medications during this public health emergency,” said Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon. “This will ensure that manufacturers can increase production of these important drugs, should the need arise.”

Aggregate Production Quotas for the schedule II controlled substances increased today represent the total amount necessary to meet the country’s medical, scientific, research and industrial needs, lawful export requirements, and for the establishment and maintenance of reserve stocks. DEA has issued a final order to increase the 2020 APQ by 15 percent for certain substances needed for the treatment of COVID-19, including fentanyl, morphine, hydromorphone, codeine, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and certain controlled substance intermediates which are essential to their production. DEA will also increase the APQ for methadone to ensure that opioid treatment programs have sufficient supplies to treat patients suffering from opioid use disorder.

In addition, DEA is increasing the authorized amounts of certain schedule III and IV controlled substances that may be imported into the United States, including ketamine, diazepam, midazolam, lorazepam, and phenobarbital, which are also necessary to treat patients on ventilators.

These increases apply to controlled substances identified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as impacted by COVID-19. After the health emergency recedes, DEA will reevaluate demand and adjust APQ levels as needed.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, DEA has been implementing measures aimed at improving access and reducing barriers to controlled substances for patients in need. DEA continues to work closely with its federal partners, DEA registrants, and their respective associations to monitor the supply of controlled substances and medications in the United States. Last week, DEA issued a temporary exception to its regulations so that manufacturers can increase their inventory of schedule II controlled substances, which will help to ensure that production and distribution are not interrupted. In addition, DEA proactively reached out to manufacturers and has been expediting individual requests for quota to meet production needs.

James Flahive, JD

Senior Advisor, Office of the Chief of Staff

Office of the Commissioner

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Desk: 301-796-9293 | Cell: (b) (6)(b) (6)

james.flahive@fda.hhs.gov

<image001.png>

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/24/2020 3:52:39 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Pool Report #20 - NASA meeting info

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@washblade.com>

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 3:43 PM

Subject: Pool Report #20 - NASA meeting info

From the White House:

Today, President Donald J. Trump will meet with NASA leadership to review the incredible ways NASA has answered the President's call for a whole-of-Government response to combatting COVID-19. Administrator Bridenstine will present the President samples of equipment produced using NASA technology, including a VITAL ventilator, AMBUstat, and an oxygen hood, to demonstrate the practical benefits NASA provides Americans both on Earth and beyond.

The ventilator, called VITAL (Ventilator Intervention Technology Accessible Locally), was developed by engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California to free up the nation's limited supply of traditional ventilators so they may be used on patients with the most severe COVID-19 symptoms. It is intentionally designed to use fewer parts that are not used in existing designs in order to not compete with the current ventilator supply chain, and is thereby cheaper to produce and more reliable due to the reduction in part count and complexity.

NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center partnered with Antelope Valley Hospital, the City of Lancaster, Virgin Galactic, The Spaceship Company (TSC), and Antelope Valley College to develop oxygen helmets, 500 of which will be produced this week, for use in the Los Angeles area. The device functions like a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine to force oxygen into a patient's lungs, and safely filters the air from the patient's exhales to protect the health care workers around them.

Working with private industry, NASA's Glenn Research Center guided the development and production of the AMBUstat, a small, portable and economical device that decontaminates spaces like ambulances, in under an hour, at a fraction of the cost as compared to existing systems. Additional research is being

done to ensure the maximum effectiveness of this device against COVID-19 in other areas like locker rooms, classrooms or even dining rooms.

The following individuals are expected to attend:

The White House

President Donald J. Trump

Vice President Mike Pence

Trump Administration

Administrator Jim Bridenstine, *NASA*

Dave Gallagher, *Associate Director, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory*

Bettina Inclán, *Associate Administrator for Communications, NASA*

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House Reporter

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Pool Report #4 - Indonesia call

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@washblade.com>

Date: April 24, 2020 at 12:01:13 PM EDT

Subject: Pool Report #4 - Indonesia call

From Judd Deere:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo of Indonesia. President Trump expressed his strong support for the people of Indonesia and discussed ways the United States could assist Indonesia’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both leaders agreed to work together to defeat the pandemic and restore global economic strength. The two leaders also discussed the United States-Indonesia Strategic Partnership and reaffirmed the shared commitment to strengthening the bilateral relationship across their nations’ long-standing economic, cultural, and security ties.

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House Reporter

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: UPDATED DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2020

**UPDATED DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020**

UPDATE: The President holds a news conference at 5PM.

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT
TV Corr & Crew: NBC
Print: Washington Times
Radio: VOA

EDT

11:00AM **In-House Pool Call Time**

2:00PM **THE PRESIDENT participates in a Governors' Video
Teleconference on COVID-19 Response and Economic Revival**

Situation Room

Closed Press

4:00PM **THE PRESIDENT meets with industry executives on COVID-19
response**

Cabinet Room

Restricted In-House Pool

5:00PM

THE PRESIDENT holds a news conference

Rose Garden

On Camera

###

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/28/2020 2:49:18 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-town pool #7 — Briefing ended at 2:43 p.m.

From: Thomas Howell
<thowell@washingtontimes.com>
Date: May 28, 2020 at 2:47:24 PM EDT
Subject: In-town pool #7 — Briefing ended at 2:43 p.m.

Press secretary said the hope is to do EO about social media policy later this afternoon

Among the topics addressed:

George Floyd's death in Minn. and review by AG Barr

Twitter's policies

100,000 U.S. deaths from the coronavirus

Fact-checking of President Trump and the media

Trump's review of the George Floyd video

The potential for voter fraud on mail-in

ballots, when mail-in voting is justified

Press secretary said she will ask when

President Trump will complete his annual physical

The use of hydroxychloroquine in relation to COVID-19

Tom Howell Jr.

White House correspondent

The Washington Times

(b) (6)(b) (6) (mobile)

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Subject: Pool Report #19 - NASA officials in Cabinet room

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@washblade.com>
Date: April 24, 2020 at 3:40:41 PM EDT
Subject: Pool Report #19 - NASA officials in Cabinet room

Pool escorted into Cabinet Room at 3:35 pm, where POTUS, NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine and other officials were standing before the table.

Bridenstine now discussing new technology he says scientists have been developing amid COVID-19 epidemic.

“The question is what are you doing rocket scientists when they stay at home. Well, what they do is they build amazing things.”

More to come...

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House Reporter

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/23/2020 2:34:22 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Pool Report 4 - Readout of call with President of Kenya

From: "LUCHEY, CATHERINE" <catherine.lucey@wsj.com>
Date: April 23, 2020 at 2:31:35 PM EDT
Subject: Pool Report 4 - Readout of call with President of Kenya

From the White House:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. President Trump expressed his strong support for the people of Kenya and offered additional assistance for the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The two leaders agreed to remain in close communication as both nations continue to battle the pandemic together.

--

Catherine Lucey

WHITE HOUSE REPORTER



E: catherine.lucey@wsj.com | **T:** @catherine_lucey
A: 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036



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Subject: Pool Report #18 - El Salvador call

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@washblade.com>

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 3:34 PM

Subject: Pool Report #18 - El Salvador call

From Judd Deere:

“Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador regarding their ongoing efforts to confront the COVID-19 pandemic and protect the health and safety of their respective citizens. President Trump affirmed his support for the Government of El Salvador, offered resources to help support El Salvadorians suffering from COVID-19, and expressed a shared commitment to achieving sustained economic growth in El Salvador. President Trump thanked President Bukele for his cooperation on the repatriation of El Salvadorian nationals from the United States and Mexico during the pandemic, as well as their joint efforts to address the primary drivers of irregular migration to the United States. President Bukele extended his gratitude for the release of United States aid to the region.”

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House Reporter

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In Town Pool Report #11- Nigeria Call

From: Hunter Walker <hunter.walker@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 2:00 PM

Subject: In Town Pool Report #11- Nigeria Call

The White House just passed along the following statement:

"Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria to discuss efforts by both nations to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. President Trump affirmed the strong support of the United States for the people of Nigeria and offered additional support for the nation's response efforts. The two leaders agreed that the United States and Nigeria would stand together in the fight to defeat the virus."

--

Hunter Walker

White House Correspondent

Yahoo News

Twitter: [@hunterw](https://twitter.com/hunterw)

Secure Tip Line: hunterwalker@protonmail.com

PGP Key: 981B E252 F634 8BC7 EA03 2604 7125 B643 0EA5 F135

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/24/2020 9:44:49 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Pool Report #29

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@washblade.com>

Date: April 24, 2020 at 9:33:06 PM EDT

Subject: Pool Report #29

From Hogan Gidley:

**READOUT FROM WHITE HOUSE OPPORTUNITY AND REVITALIZATION COUNCIL
CONFERENCE CALL**

Today, the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council held its first meeting after President Trump directed them to refocus efforts on underserved communities who have been adversely impacted medically and economically by COVID-19.

The Council, led by Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Ben Carson, is uniquely familiar with these communities having spent the last 3 years working with local leaders, private industry, and state officials to bring prosperity to forgotten neighborhoods across America. Under President Trump's leadership, America witnessed a historic level of African American and Hispanic unemployment, unprecedented economic growth, and steady rising wages.

The Council discussed various ways to improve the lives of our most vulnerable communities as they face this crisis. The members emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to recovery, prioritizing both the health and economic stability of historically underserved communities as part of the prescription. They discussed CARES Act implementation and how they can continue to utilize public-private partnerships to bring all available resources to the table. The Council concluded the call with an agreement to continue empowering and enabling Americans living in underserved communities, to ensure they are part of the great American economic revival.

QUOTES:

“Over the past three years, the Council has developed relationships with mayors and governors, paved inroads with community leaders, and breathed new life into these long struggling communities. Even in the face of this invisible enemy, we are going to expand and continue our work to bring prosperity and promise to our most vulnerable,” said Secretary Carson.

“The crisis created by this pandemic has hit underserved communities hard, and it’s critically important that entrepreneurs and small businesses in these communities remain viable as we navigate this extraordinary time,” said SBA Administrator Carranza. “Preliminary data has shown a concerning pattern that underrepresented minorities are developing COVID-19 infection more frequently and dying disproportionately compared to majority populations. The dedication of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council to supporting underserved communities impacted by COVID-19 will become a key vehicle of transformation for the individuals and communities who have been hardest hit by the pandemic and its widespread economic effect,” said U.S. Surgeon General Jerome M. Adams.

Council Participants:

Ben Carson, Secretary of United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Alex Azar, Secretary of United States Department of Health and Human Services

Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of United States Department of the Treasury

Dan Brouillette, Secretary of United States Department of Energy

David Bernhardt, Secretary of United States Department of the Interior

Wilbur Ross, Secretary of United States Department of Commerce

Betsy DeVos, Secretary of United States Department of Education

Andrew Wheeler, Administrator of United States Environmental Protection Agency

Jovita Carranza, Administrator of United States Small Business Administration

Jeffrey Rosen, Deputy Attorney General of United States Department of Justice

Patrick Pizzella, Deputy Secretary of United States Department of Labor

Jerome Adams, Surgeon General of the United States, United States Department of Health and Human Services

Kellyanne Conway, Assistant to the President and Senior Counselor

Brooke Rollins, Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives

Ja’Ron Smith, Deputy Assistant to the President & Deputy Director of the White House Office of American Innovation

Scott Turner, Executive Director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization

Council, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
READOUT FROM WHITE HOUSE OPPORTUNITY AND REVITALIZATION COUNCIL
CONFERENCE CALL WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS

Members of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council hosted a bipartisan group of nearly 2,500 African American leaders on a briefing call to outline President Trump and the Administration's comprehensive strategy to revitalize distressed communities impacted by COVID-19. The discussion covered SBA CARES Act disaster assistance and the effect of the COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations within the community. Through additional resources, guidance, and regulatory flexibilities, the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council said it will continue to work hand-in-hand with African American leaders to ensure that no American is left behind.

Council Participants:

Ben Carson, Secretary of United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Jovita Carranza, Administrator of the United States Small Business Administration

Jerome Adams, Surgeon General of the United States, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Ja'Ron Smith, Deputy Assistant to the President & Deputy Director of the White House Office of American Innovation

Scott Turner, Executive Director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Nicole Frazier, Special Assistant to the President, Director of Strategic Partnerships and African American Outreach, Office of Public Liaison

READOUT FROM WHITE HOUSE OPPORTUNITY AND REVITALIZATION COUNCIL
CONFERENCE CALL WITH MAYORS:

Members of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council hosted a bipartisan group of nearly 350 of the Nation's Mayors on a briefing call to discuss the important partnership between Federal, State, and Local leaders on COVID-19 coordination and response. The Council shared President Trump and the Administration's comprehensive strategy to revitalize distressed communities impacted by COVID-19 and it conveyed how, through additional resources, guidance, and regulatory flexibilities, the Council will continue to work hand-in-hand with State and local leaders to ensure that no American is left behind.

Council Participants:

Ben Carson, Secretary of United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
Jerome Adams, Surgeon General of the United States, United States Department of
Health and Human Services

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House Reporter

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Subject: In-town pool 7

From: David Boyer <dboyer@washingtontimes.com>

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:26 PM

Subject: In-town pool 7

Please check transcript against video:

The president: "Forty-five days ago, many of you joined me in the Rose Garden to launch a new partnership with the private sector to dramatically increase and accelerate America's capacity to test for the coronavirus. We made such strides like you wouldn't even believe it. We just had a call with the governors. And I guess they were just about all on the call, and everybody was very happy, and the testing is going really well."

"Since then, what we've achieved is really nothing short of amazing, the United States now holds the world record for testing and by a lot. We've conducted more than 5.4 million tests, more than any other country anywhere in the world."

"Today we're releasing our blueprint for state testing plans and rapid response programs, together we're accelerating testing for Americans and retail locations across the country, and especially in our African American and Hispanic communities, we're going very very strong in those communities. There are currently 73 retail sites testing sites in 25 states in those specific areas, and we're increasing it very substantially. A lot of progress has been made for African American testing, Hispanic American testing and Asian American testing. So I look forward to hearing from each of these incredible business people who have worked so strongly with us right from the beginning."

We're awaiting a list of attendees from the White House, including the

heads of Walgreens, Rite-Aid, and CVS. Seema Verma was also in the room.

Dave Boyer

The Washington Times

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Subject: Photos of the Week



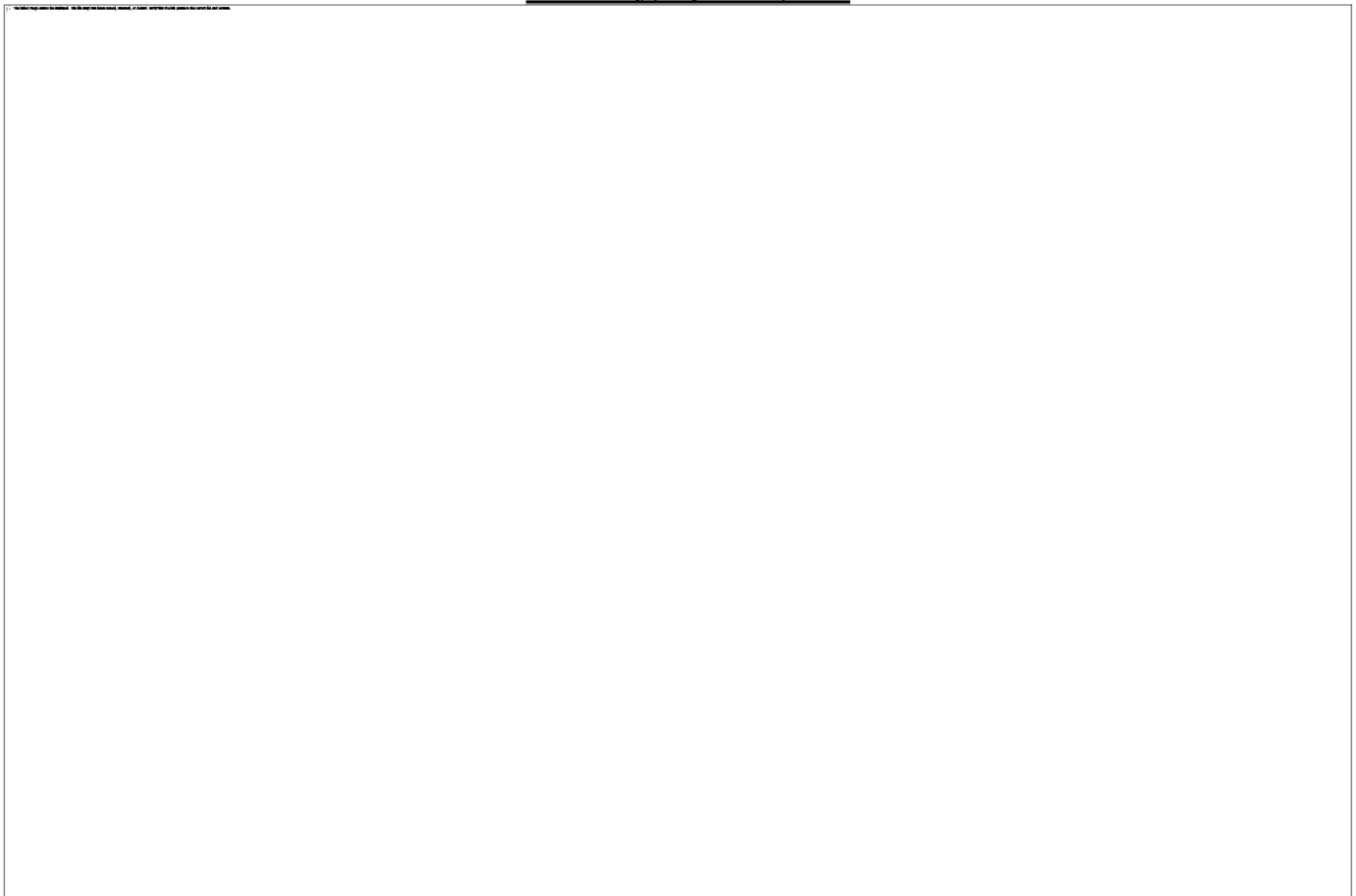
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2020

Photos of the Week

Saturday, April 18, 2020



President Donald J. Trump, joined by White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx

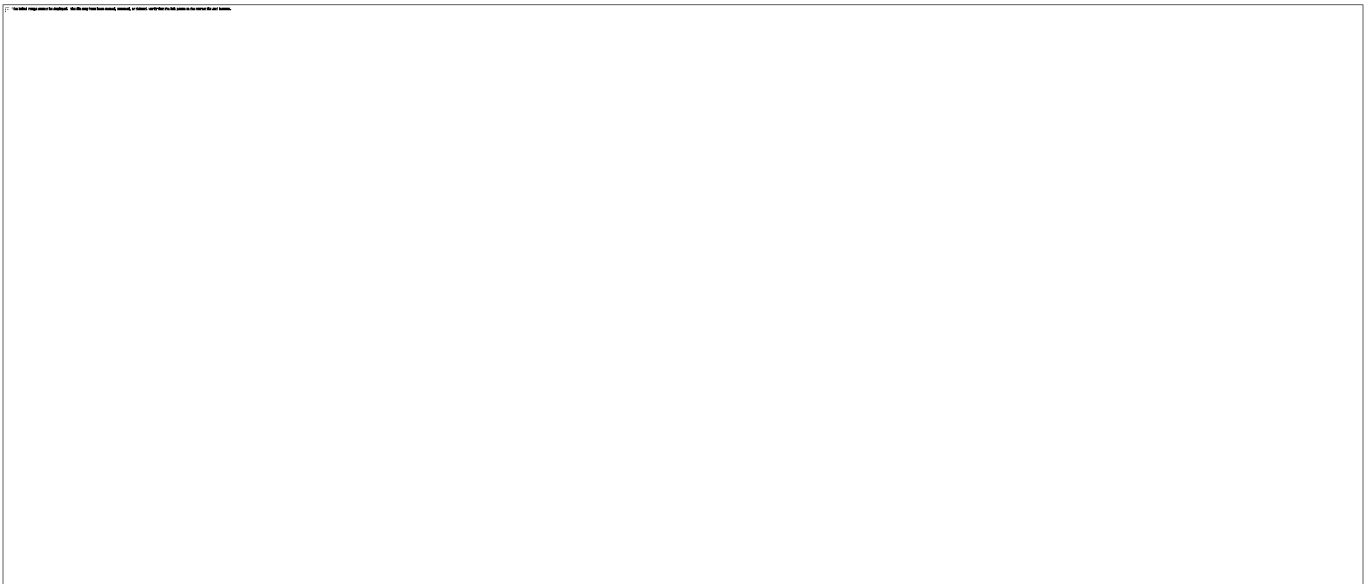
and White House senior advisors, delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Saturday, April 18, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump points to a chart as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Saturday, April 18, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

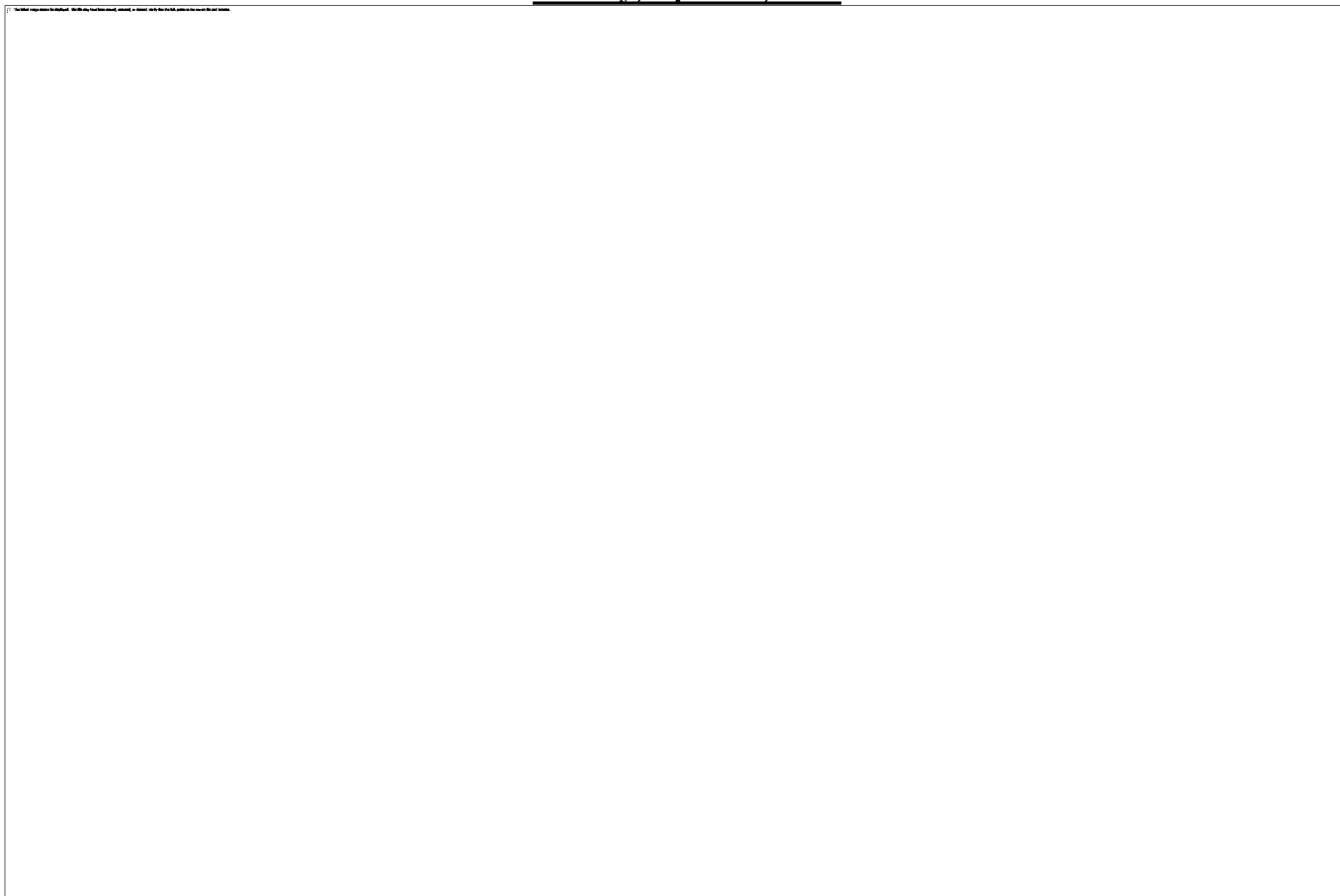


Vice President Mike Pence participates in the graduation ceremony for the class of 2020 at the United States Air Force Academy Saturday, April 18, 2020, in Colorado Springs, Colo. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks during the graduation ceremony for the class of 2020 at the United States Air Force Academy Saturday, April 18, 2020, in Colorado Springs, Colo. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

Sunday, April 19, 2020



President Donald J. Trump displays test swabs during a coronavirus update briefing Sunday, April 19, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence watch a video clip of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo during a coronavirus update briefing Sunday, April 19, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

Monday, April 20, 2020



Vice President Mike Pence participates in a video teleconference with Governors to discuss a partnership to prepare, mitigate and respond to the coronavirus pandemic Monday, April 20, 2020, at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Headquarters in Washington, D.C. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



Vice President Mike Pence, joined by Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator (FEMA) Peter T. Gaynor and White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx, speaks with staff members at the FEMA Headquarters Monday, April 20, 2020, in Washington, D.C. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump and Assistant Secretary for Health Adm. Brett Giroir listen as Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 20, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

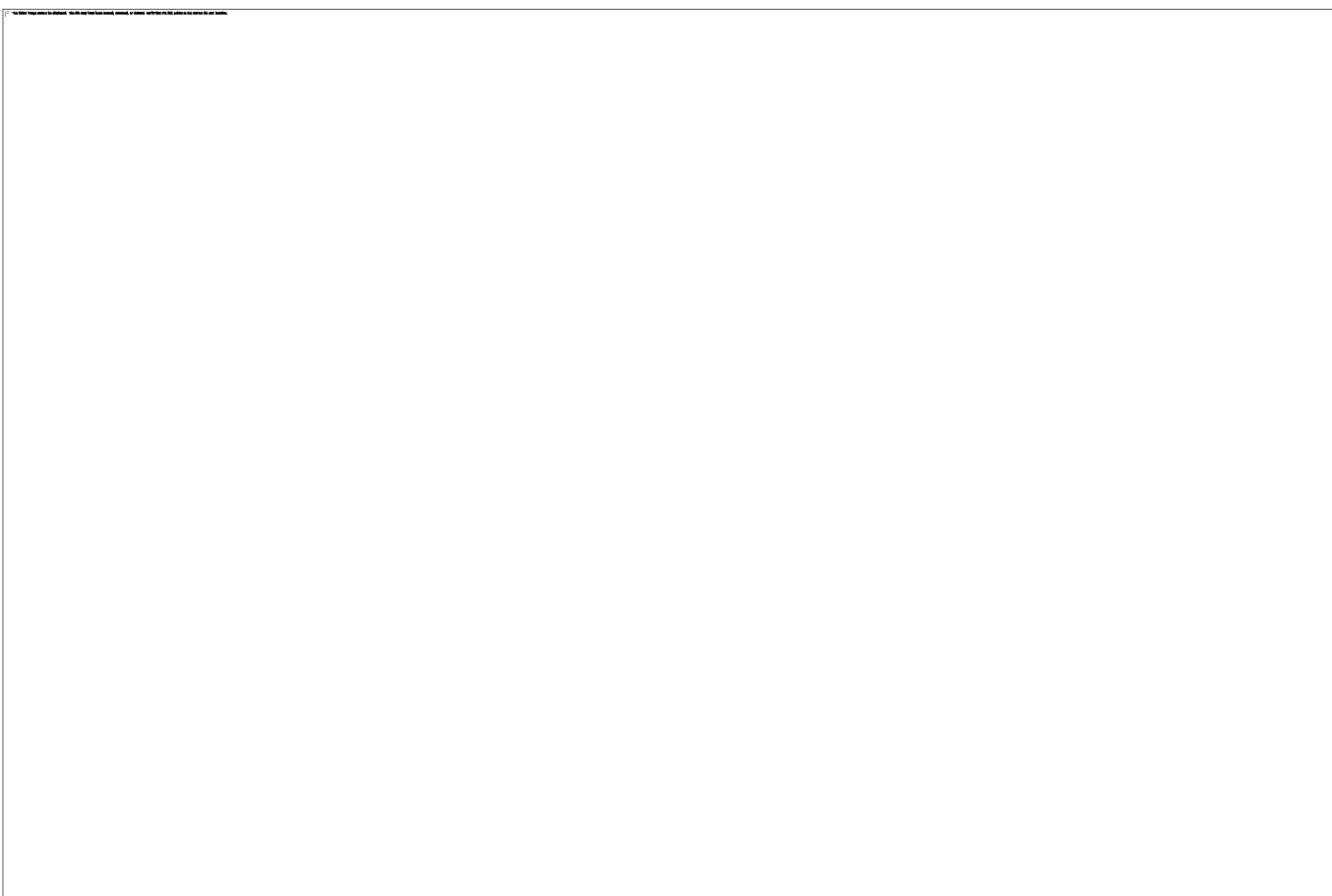


President Donald J. Trump displays a listing of nationwide testing locations as he delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 20, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force listen as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 20, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo Andrea Hanks)

Tuesday, April 21, 2020



President Donald J. Trump listens as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Tuesday, April 21, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump listens as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Tuesday, April 21, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



Commissioner of Food and Drugs Dr. Stephen Hahn delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Tuesday, April 21, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks to GE employees during a walking tour of the GE Healthcare manufacturing facility which has been producing ventilators during the coronavirus pandemic Tuesday, April 21, 2020, in Madison, Wisc. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

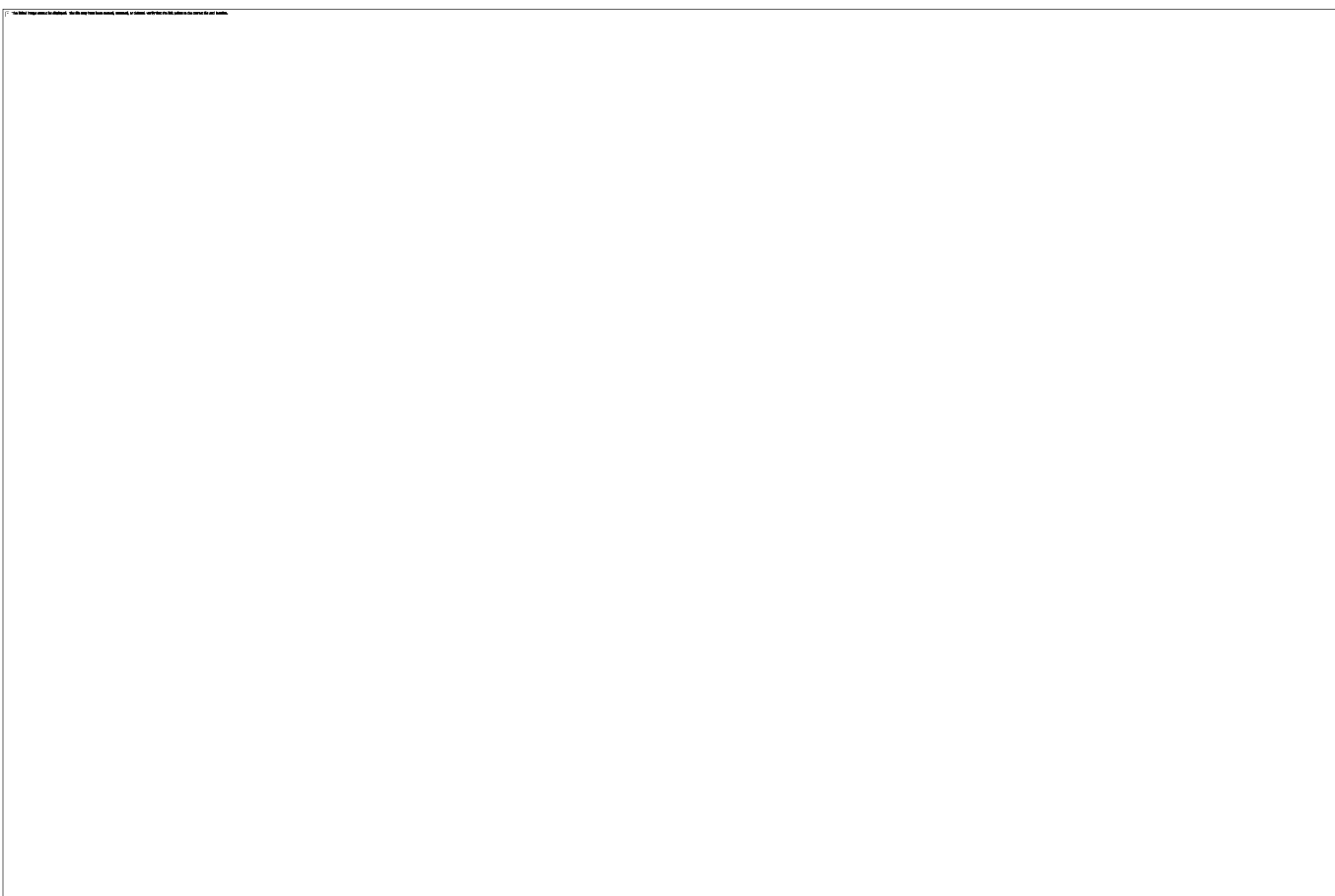


Vice President Mike Pence disembarks Air Force Two at Joint Base Andrews, Md. Tuesday, April 21, 2020, returning from a trip to Madison, Wisc. to visit the GE Healthcare manufacturing facility which has been producing ventilators during the coronavirus pandemic. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

Wednesday, April 22, 2020



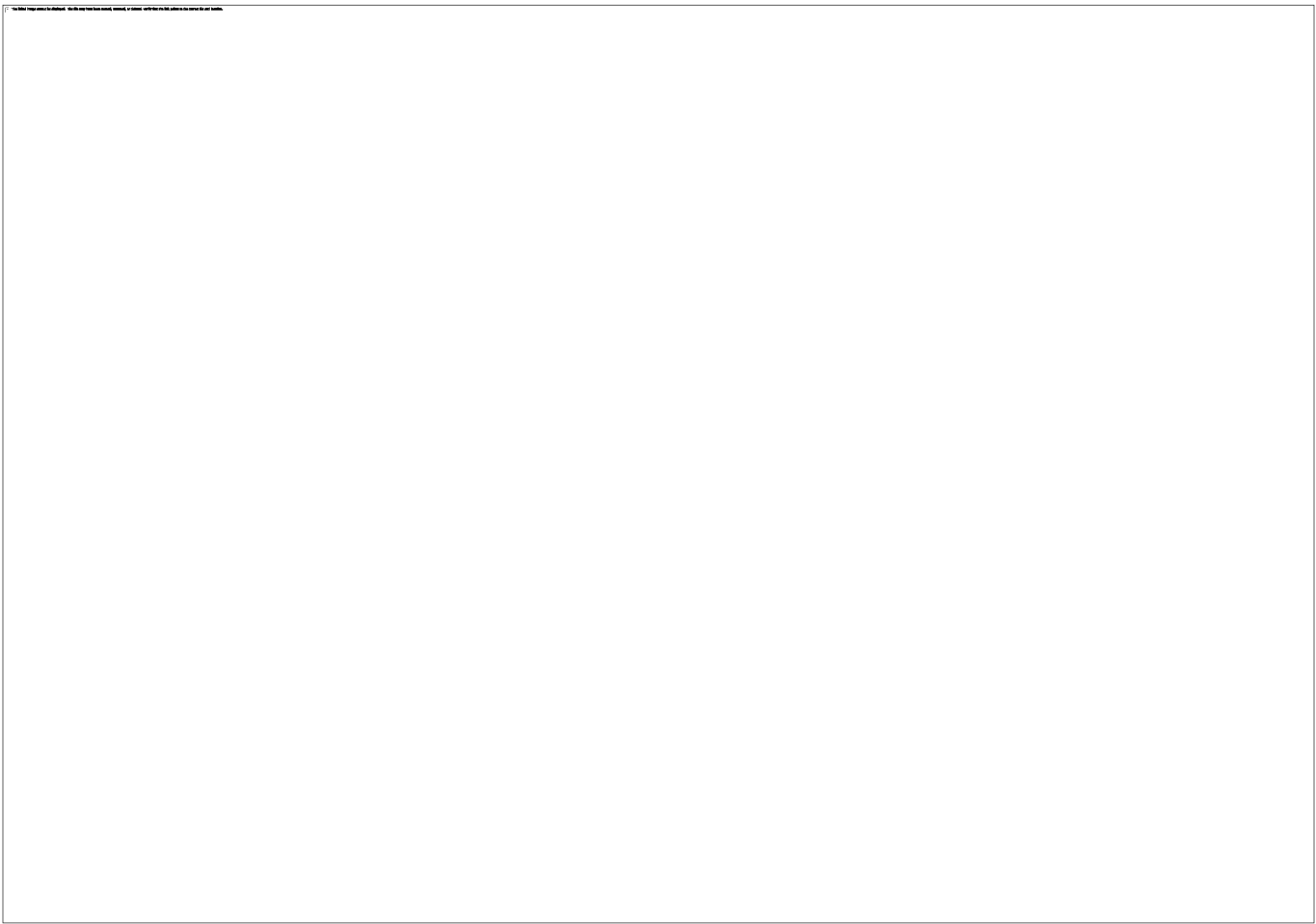
President Donald J. Trump, joined by First Lady Melania Trump, delivers remarks during a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day Wednesday, April 22, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks during a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day Wednesday, April 22, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by First Lady Melania Trump, delivers remarks during a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day Wednesday, April 22, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by First Lady Melania Trump, delivers remarks during a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day Wednesday, April 22, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, and Second Lady Karen Pence look on as Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks during a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day Wednesday, April 22, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, and Vice President Mike Pence look on as Second Lady Karen Pence delivers remarks during a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day Wednesday, April 22, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump participate in a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day Wednesday, April 22, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Second Lady Karen Pence participate in a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day Wednesday, April 22, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and Second Lady Karen Pence walk with House Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., after participating in a tree planting ceremony in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day Wednesday, April 22, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump talk with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and House Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., on the Colonnade of the White House Wednesday, April 22, 2020, after participating in a tree planting ceremony on the South Lawn in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 22, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence listen as United States Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 22, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



President Donald J. Trump and the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony S. Fauci are seen on the screen of a video camera during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 22, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



Dr. Robert R. Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 22, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

Thursday, April 23, 2020



Vice President Mike Pence meets with members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force Thursday, April 23, 2020, in the White House Situation Room. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



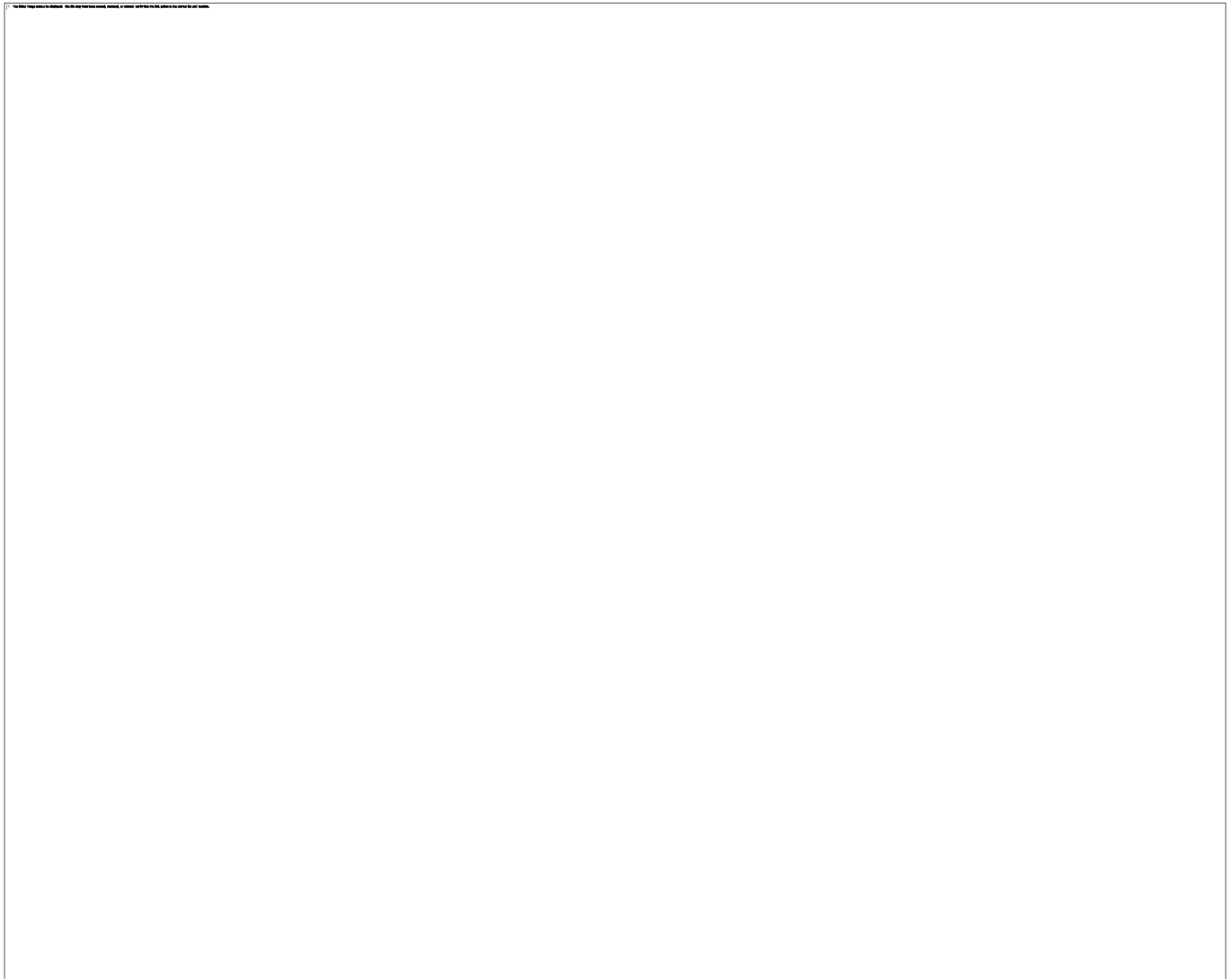
President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, arrives to a coronavirus update briefing Thursday, April 23, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump listens as Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Thursday, April 23, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence listen as William N. Bryan, the science and technology advisor to the Homeland Security Secretary, delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Thursday, April 23, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



Care packages from First Lady Melania Trump, that include Be Best items, Dr. Seuss books, and games, are packaged in the East Wing of the White House Thursday, April 23, 2020, before being shipped to young patients in hospitals in 10 states struggling with the coronavirus pandemic. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)

Friday, April 25, 2020



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, Cabinet members and legislators, poses for a photo before signing H.R. 266, the “Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act” Friday, April 24, 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, Cabinet members and legislators, signs H.R. 266, the “Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act” Friday, April 24, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



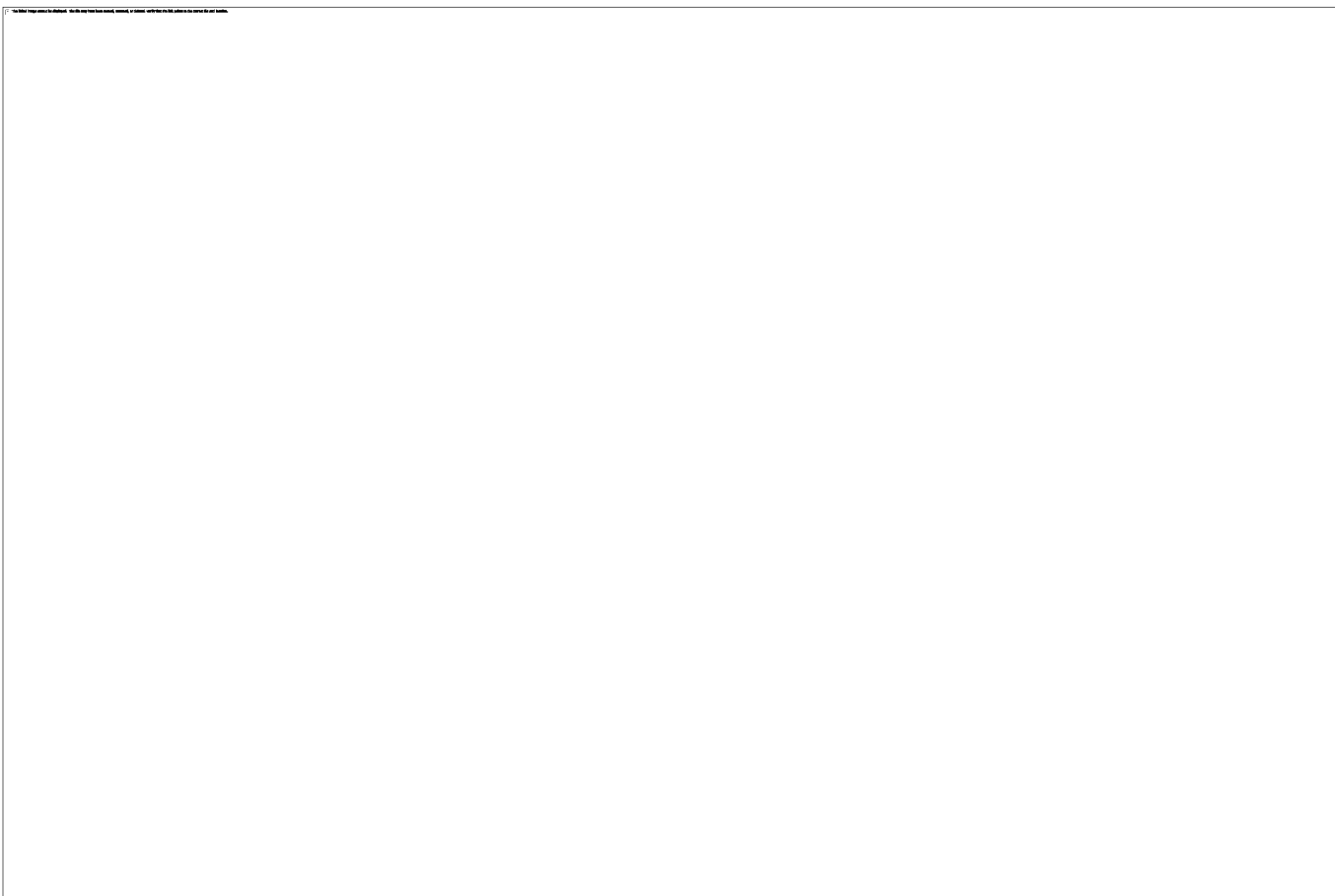
President Donald J. Trump displays his signature after signing H.R. 266, the “Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act” Friday, April 24, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



H.R. 266, the “Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act” is seen on the Resolute Desk after being signed by President Donald J. Trump Friday, April 24, 2020, in the Oval Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Dave Gallagher, Associate Director of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, listens as NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine delivers remarks during a meeting to discuss NASA's response to the coronavirus pandemic Friday, April 24, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump listens as Dave Gallagher, Associate Director of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, explains the development of devices like the AMBUstat as part of NASA's response to the coronavirus pandemic Friday, April 24, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence listen as Commissioner of Food and Drugs Dr. Stephen Hahn delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Friday, April 24, 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 attends a coronavirus update briefing Friday, April 24, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and Commissioner of Food and Drugs Dr. Stephen Hahn, delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Friday, April 24, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

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Subject: Pool Report #22 — Exchange in NASA event, link to photo

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@washblade.com>

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 4:18 PM

Subject: Pool Report #22 — Exchange in NASA event, link to photo

In the Cabinet room, NASA Jim Bridenstine moved from a transparent oxygen hood to a red-colored robot, then allowed Dave Gallagher, associate director of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, to comment on a beige colored ventilator.

Here's a photo I tweeted that will give you an idea of the general setup: <https://twitter.com/chrisjohnson82/status/1253775596066410500>

Here's a transcript...

Jim Bridenstine: This is an oxygen hood. So a person who has coronavirus, we want to make sure that they have pressure for their lung with 100 percent oxygen, so we put this hood on them, and we also want to make sure they're not shedding the virus at the same time. So it protects the healthcare workers that are there that are there working on the patient.

So this is an — it's an oxygen hood. It was created by scientists at the Armstrong Flight Research Center in Calif., in conjunction with what's called Virgin Galactic, which is a commercial company that will be launching people to suborbital space straight up and straight down here in just a very short period of time. Just commercial tourists, if you will.

POTUS asks to reaffirm its straight-up and straight down, then asks about the level of safety.

Bridenstine: I think it's very safe. And if you ask them, they'll tell you. It's Sir Richard Branson's organization. He took it public. So it's now publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange and, and they're getting customers very rapidly. They go up to about 50 miles — over 50 miles as a matter of fact — straight up.

POTUS: And do they immediately come straight down?

Bridenstine: They do. They'll get about 10 minutes of weightlessness before they come back to Earth. So it's not so much of a tour around but just a period of time where you get to experience weightlessness.

POTUS: Would you do it?

Bridenstine: I would absolutely do it. No kidding? In a heartbeat.

POTUS: I'll pass.

Bridenstine: And in fact, NASA actually contracts with them for experiments...Now this red box sir, is something you're gonna love and I mean it's impressive.

NASA had this technology. When we launch a robot to Mars — which as you know, we're going to do here in July, when we launch a robot to Mars — we have to sterilize the robot. We have to make sure that there's not a microbe on the robot because we don't want to accidentally put a microbe on Mars because we want to make sure anything we discover on Mars is something that was already there.

So here's what here's what this does: We took that technology to sterilize a spacecraft. And we said, How do we use it to sterilize the inside of a room? And that's what this device is [AMBUstat](#). So think of it as a fogger. It will fog the room and every surface in the room will then be sterilized. No Coronavirus. So we use it right now it's NASA technology used by ambulances. But now we're going to use it for the inside of schools, the inside of prisons.

POTUS: So people can breathe this in?

Bridenstine: It'll take about an hour and after the room is clear of the fog — think of it as an atomized sterilant that touches every surface and guarantees that there's no germs. That's what we're doing with this. We've been using it in ambulances now for a while. Now we want to take it and use it to sterilize the entire room, so schools can open and businesses can open.

POTUS: So it's emptied out, and then you would do it.

Bridenstine: Yes, that's right, sir.

POTUS: Would you do it remotely, or no?

Bridenstine: You just bring it in a room, set it down, let it fog and then every surface ends up being clean and and people can go back to work knowing that their workspace is clean and it doesn't leave a film on any of the surfaces. You don't have to wipe down the surface.

POTUS: So what is it that cleans the room?

Bridenstine: It's what we call a sterilant. So think of it as a fog, so the fog goes throughout the room. It touches all the surfaces. And it kills viruses. We've used it specifically for MERS. We've used it for Ebola. And we believe it's very effective. And we're proving it out right now. We believe it's going to be very effective for coronavirus.

...

Dave Gallagher on ventilator

Gallagher: So Mr. President. This is actually a great news story in the midst of this pandemic. When we started stay-at-home about four weeks ago, one of our engineers just could not stand the idea of sitting back and doing nothing with the spreading coronavirus and came up with a design very rapidly.

We built the team which did a lot of the work remotely working from home. And in just over four weeks have developed a COVID-19 ventilator. It's unique in many ways — and JPL we build spacecraft, we don't build medical products, and the innovation and creativity of men and women at JPL. It's incredible.

So this thing has about 80 parts. A normal ICU ventilator has about an order magnitude higher than that. These parts are not in the ventilator supply chain, They're part of regular parts. So by building these, we will not interrupt the supply chain for ICU ventilators. Most importantly, COVID-19 patients have — their lungs are not compliant, so you need high pressure. And this is a high pressure ventilator from day one. We got Mount Sinai doctors on the front line involved. We got the FDA involved. This thing just finished a couple days of testing at Mount Sinai. We submitted it for FDA approval.

POTUS: How did it do?

Gallagher: It did great. They have the most high fidelity lung simulator anywhere.

POTUS: So how would this compare to a really high quality ventilator?

Gallagher: So the difference is just heavily computerized. But the real difference is a ICU ventilator, a traditional one that you find in a hospital right now is meant to deal with any kind of situation. This is really targeted for COVID-19 patients.

POTUS: Because of the pressure?

Gallagher: Because of the pressure, it's very easy to manufacture. So we submitted the FDA approval and then just this morning got the details operated for NASA. It's by Caltech. So this morning, Caltech, we went live with a royalty free worldwide license. And we have here hundreds of companies that are interested in it...

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House Reporter

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Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: FOX

Print: TIME

Radio: CBS

EDT

11:00AM

In-House Pool Call Time

4:00PM
State

THE PRESIDENT meets with the Governor of New York

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

###

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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 22, 2020

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

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

6:10 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Appreciate it. A lot of tremendous things are happening. The number of new positive cases continue to decline nationwide. Recent hotspots appear to be stabilizing. The hotspots are, in some cases, very interesting what's going on. And they're going down; they're going in the right direction. Cases in the Boston area are now declining. The Chicago curve appears to have flattened, which is terrific. And Detroit is past its peak.

These trends demonstrate that our aggressive strategy to battle the virus is working and that more states will soon be in a position to gradually and safely reopen. It's very exciting. It was very exciting, even today, watching and seeing what's

happening. And people are getting ready and they're all excited.

I do want to mention a man who's done a very good job for us: Dr. Robert Redfield. He was totally misquoted in the media on a statement about the fall season and the virus. Totally misquoted. I spoke to him. He said it was ridiculous. He was talking about the flu and corona coming together at the same time. And corona could be just some little flare-ups that we'll take care of. We're going to knock it out. We'll knock it out fast. But that's what he was referring to: coming together at the same time.

And I think rather than waiting, I'd ask Dr. Redfield to come up, say a couple of words just to straighten that out, because he didn't say it was a big -- a big explosion. The headline in the Washington Post was totally inaccurate. The statement wasn't bad in the Post, but the headline was ridiculous, which is -- as I say, that's fake news. And CNN is fake news like crazy, and they had just totally the wrong story, which they knew. They were asked to change it, and they wouldn't do that. And it was false.

So I'll ask Dr. Redfield, who is, you know, a real professional, to come up and explain. Please. Thank you, Doctor.

DR. REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I really do think it's important to clarify this as we build the confidence of the American people.

When I commented yesterday that there was a possibility of the fall, winter -- next fall and winter, it could be more difficult, more complicated when we had two respiratory illnesses circulating at the same time: influenza and the coronavirus-19.

But I think it's really important to emphasize what I didn't say. I didn't say that this was going to be worse. I said it was going to be more complic- -- or more difficult and

potentially complicated because we'll have flu and coronavirus circulating at the same time.

I want to emphasize that we continue to build the nation's public health infrastructure to ensure that we have the capacity to sustain the containment mode. Those of you who heard me talk before, I've told you that in January and February -- up to February 27, 28, this nation had 14 cases. We were in the containment mode. And then, unfortunately, the virus overwhelmed where we got into this extreme mitigation.

We are building that public health capacity now to make sure that we stay in the containment mode for the upcoming fall and winter season so we will not need to resort to the kind of mitigation that we had to this spring.

I have confidence that our public health response of early case recognition that we've talked about, isolation, and contact tracing, combined with our plans for increased surveillance, particularly for the most vulnerable, will be an effective public health strategy so our nation will be able to maintain itself in the containment mode.

Again, that will be supported by the American public's continued cooperation, obviously in the areas of personal hygiene and the types of social distancing strategies that may be appropriate.

The key to my comments and the reason that I really wanted to stress them was to appeal to the American public to embrace the flu vaccine with confidence. One of the greatest tools we have as we go through the fall-winter season that we're into is to get the American public to embrace the influenza vaccine and thereby minimize the impact of flu to be the co-respiratory disease that we confront.

Thank you very much.

Q Could I just ask a follow-up on that, Dr. Redfield?

Q Sir, just to clarify your comments --

THE PRESIDENT: But I don't know what's to follow up.

Q Well --

THE PRESIDENT: He was misquoted. Totally misquoted. He said they could come together. They didn't talk about that. And his whole purpose in making the statement was to get a flu shot, so that next fall we don't have such a big season of flu -- and we possibly won't.

But, as you said, there's -- it's possible, if the corona even comes back -- and he doesn't know that it's going to and neither do I. We spoke a great length. And I think the doctor will speak, if you'd like to continue. But we may have some embers -- and we're going to put them out -- of corona. But we may have a big flu season. But that's different. Flu is very different from corona.

Q Can I just ask him a follow-up question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, go ahead. Sure.

Q Okay. So, Dr. Redfield, the Washington Post -- which, you did the interview with them -- they quoted you as saying, "There's a possibility that the assault of the virus on our nation next winter will actually be much -- even more difficult than the one we just went through. And when I've said this to others, they've kind of put their head back, they don't understand what I mean. We're going to have the flu epidemic and the coronavirus epidemic at the same time." Is that what you said to the Washington Post?

DR. REDFIELD: Yeah, that's what I was trying to say to you just a minute ago -- that the issue that I was talking about, about being more difficult, is that we're going to have two viruses circulating the same time.

This spring that we just went through -- February -- we had a benefit of having the flu season ended, so we could use all our flu surveillance systems to say, "Whoops, this is coronavirus. We need to focus." Next fall and winter, we're going to have two viruses circulating, and we're going to have to distinguish between which is flu and which is the coronavirus.

And so the comment that I made: It's more difficult. It doesn't mean it's going to be more impossible. It doesn't mean it's going to be more, as some people have said, "worse." It just means it's going to be difficult because we have to distinguish between the two.

And what I was wanting to do and what I want to do again here is appeal to the American public to recognize they can really help, like they did with mitigation, which they really helped. I need them to help now to best prepare us by getting the flu vaccine and taking flu out of the picture.

Q But that quote -- but that quote --

THE PRESIDENT: And you may not even have corona coming back, just so you understand.

Doctor, would you like to explain that.

Q No, but -- but, I'm sorry, but that quote that I just read was accurate -- right, sir? Because that's the quote from the Washington Post. You were accurately quoted, correct?

DR. REDFIELD: I'm accurately quoted in the Washington Post as "difficult." But the headline was inappropriate.

THE PRESIDENT: What does the headline say? What does the headline say? Go ahead, read the headline.

Q The headline says, "CDC Director Warns Second Wave of Coronavirus is Likely to be Even More Devastating." And isn't that correct? Because --

THE PRESIDENT: That's not what he says.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It's not what he said.

THE PRESIDENT: It's not what he said.

Q But if you have the two things happening --

THE PRESIDENT: The headline doesn't correspond to the story.

DR. REDFIELD: No. I actually think it's actually going to be -- I think the American public is going to heed the request to relook at their vaccine hesitancy, to vaccinate with confidence for flu. And I'm confident that the public health infrastructure that we're putting together now across this country so that we can early-case diagnose, isolate, and contact trace -- as I say, block and tackle, block and tackle -- that system is going to be there, and we're going to be able to contain this virus.

Q Why did you retweet the article if it was inaccurate? Doctor, why did you retweet it?

THE PRESIDENT: You weren't called.

DR. BIRX: So, I just -- we talked about this yesterday when you asked me this question. And someone, I think, used the word

"devastating." And I want to really, again, emphasize to the American public that when we first interacted with this virus for the first time in the February and March timeframe, we didn't have an understanding of its transmissibility, all of its symptoms. We do now.

And I think what we are building together, and the -- when we talk about the public health infrastructure, it is very much working on the surveillance piece. But I think we also know the strength of the American people and their ability to immediately understand how to protect themselves with not touching their face, making sure that they're washing their hands.

But the other piece I wanted just to talk about, and we mentioned yesterday also: that we have the summer -- while we have flu surveillance that we can utilize and syndromic management that we can utilize -- we have all of that time to prepare clearly the testing algorithm that you would need in a flu, potentially, if COVID came back. Potentially.

And so we are preparing for that potential right now. And I think we spoke to you all about that and talked about how we're not only preparing for today and tomorrow, but we're preparing for six months from now, three months from now, and making sure that all of these pieces are in place.

I think what Dr. Redfield clearly was asking for -- just like we asked for every American to follow the guidelines, he's saying: Please add to that guidelines getting your flu shot and making sure you're protected.

THE PRESIDENT: And, Doctor, wouldn't you say there's a good chance that COVID will not come back?

DR. BIRX: We don't know --

THE PRESIDENT: And if it does come back, it's in a very small, confined area that we put out. Go ahead.

DR. BIRX: Well, the great thing is we'll be able to find it earlier this time. And I think that's what we're talking about. We'll find those cases earlier. So what Dr. Redfield said: We would be able to stay in containment phase.

And what we're also hoping -- and we talked about this about four or five weeks ago -- that we're hoping that the flu infections also go down because people are much more aware of respiratory illnesses and how to protect themselves. We want you to get your vaccine, but we also want to also protect individuals from getting the flu because of the vulnerability, we know, in certain populations to flu and the devastating outcomes to flu. We could prevent and decrease both of those things.

So I think we are assured that the CDC is putting in place today what we are going to need in the fall so that we can stay in containment if, potentially, the virus comes back.

THE PRESIDENT: And if it comes back, though, it won't be coming back in the form that it was. It will be coming back in smaller doses that we can contain. But what the doctor was saying -- and I spoke to him a great length -- he was saying, if it should come back "together." Now you have a flu and you have the embers of corona.

But, in my opinion, from everything I've seen, it can never be like anything that we've witnessed right now. Would you say that's a correct statement?

DR. REDFIELD: Absolutely. I think --

THE PRESIDENT: It's nothing like what we're talking -- what we've just gone through, we will not go through. You could have

some embers of corona, and you could have a big flu system. And if they combine, if they come together -- if they come together, it's not great. But we will not go through what we went through for the last two months.

Yeah, Jeff.

Q Mr. President, I --

THE PRESIDENT: Is that a correct statement?

DR. REDFIELD: Correct.

Q I understand that the United States will certainly be more prepared in the fall, but how can you say that you know it won't come back in the same level that it has today?

THE PRESIDENT: What -- it is estimated it might not come back at all, Jeff. It may not come back at all.

Q But how -- how can you --

THE PRESIDENT: He's talking about a worst-case scenario where you have a big flu and you have some corona. And if it does come back, it's not going to come back -- and I've spoken to 10 different people -- it's not going to be like it was.

Also, we have much better containment now. Before, nobody knew about it. Nobody knew anything about it. We understand it. Now, if we have pockets -- a little pocket here or there -- we're going to have to put out. It goes out and it's going to go out fast. We're going to be watching for it.

But it's all possible. It's also possible it doesn't come back at all.

Q I understand the containment, but I don't understand how you know it won't come back on a big scale.

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't say it's not. I said if it does, it's not going to come back on anything near what we went through. But you could have a mess, where they come at the same time. And if they come at the same time -- the flu is not the greatest thing in the world, Jeff. It's not the greatest thing either. If they come at the same time, you have them both.

But if we have embers of corona coupled with the flu, that's not going to be pleasant, but it's not going to be what we've gone through in any way, shape, or form.

Yeah.

Q If you don't think that it's going to come back at the same severity it is right now, why are you still directing that taxpayer dollars be spent on emergency procurement of ventilators? Tens of thousands of --

THE PRESIDENT: Because we have to have them for other reasons. Something else could come. I mean, we didn't know about corona; now we know about corona. But look at what happened. And now, we did have the H1N1 swine flu. We had that. We have other things that have happened. We had various forms of flu, but nothing like what we've had here. Nothing at all like what we've had here with the virus. But something could happen.

I think that the stockpiles -- we're making hundreds of thousands of ventilators right now. Nobody writes about that. You know, at the one time, all they talked about was ventilators, right? Because you didn't think it was possible for me to solve that problem. And I solved it and nobody can believe it.

I just spoke to world leaders today who desperately need ventilators. They said, "The job you've done..." And we're sending 500 to Mexico, then another 500 to France. We're sending some to Spain. We're sending some to Italy. We have them -- they're being made by the thousands.

And world leaders -- I spoke to Prime Minister -- I mean, I went through a lot of different calls today. I won't even tell you. But I went through -- I can give you a list if you want -- but I went through a lot of calls to a lot of leaders. Spoke with Pakistan; they would like to have some ventilators. We're going to get them some ventilators. But they all said to me one thing: It was incredible that you solved the ventilator problem because that was a big problem.

The testing problem. We've done more than any other nation in the world. Go a step further: If you added up the testing of every nation in the world, put them together, we've done substantially more than that. You people aren't satisfied.

So let's say we had 350 million people in the United States, right? Let's say. And if we gave every one of those people a test 10 times -- so we give 350 people a test 10 times -- the fake news media would say, "Where's the 11th time? He didn't do his job. Trump didn't do his job." Because you have a lot of bad reporting out there. It's very sad. And it's so bad --

Q But that's not true. That's not true. That wouldn't be the case --

THE PRESIDENT: But you're one of -- you're one of the leaders of the bad reporting. You know?

Q No, but that's not true. I mean, this is --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, let's get onto another subject. I wanted

that to be --

Q Mr. President, can I just follow up on this real quick?

THE PRESIDENT: I wanted that to be cleared up. If you want, we can get on to it later, but I want the Vice President to speak. But you ought to get the news accurately. You ought to write it -- if you -- if you take a look at what you wrote about the ventilators -- and when we became the king of ventilators -- we're making different factories all over. Ventilators by the thousands.

In fact, Mike got back from Wisconsin. The first thing he did, he called up. I said, "How's it going?" He said, "You're not going to believe." He just saw a plant, a factory where they're making ventilators. I think I can say, the words were "unbelievable." He said it was unbelievable what he saw -- the quality of the equipment, the professionalism.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: They doubled production.

THE PRESIDENT: A tremendous number of -- how many workers would you say were there?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It was over 550. They doubled production and are about to triple production.

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody thought this could be done. The fake news was very unhappy that it was done. But you guys don't ask me about ventilators anymore.

Q Well, who's unhappy -- who's unhappy that ventilators are being made, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody. Everybody. Because you never mention it. You never mention it. There's no story that's what a great

job we've done with ventilators.

We're now supplying ventilators all over the world. Because no other country could have done what we did. And you should say that's a great story. Instead you say, "Trump was slow" or -- slow? We were so fast.

Plus, we put the ban on so much earlier. When Nancy Pelosi, as an example -- you don't say this -- when she's having her rally in San Francisco -- in Chinatown, in San Francisco. Nobody wants to say that. If we didn't -- and Dr. Fauci said this -- if we didn't close our country to China, we would have been so infected, like nobody's ever seen.

When you saw the chart -- and we were at the top of the list, in terms of success -- nobody wrote it. I said, "Where -- is anybody going to use that chart?" Nobody wrote it. In terms of mortality. You saw that. Nobody wrote it. Germany and our country: the most successful, in terms of mortality. Nobody wrote it.

It would be great if you wrote the truth, but let's get on with it because I want Mike to speak. And then we'll take some more questions, on the assumption you'd like to and I think you probably will.

It's been encouraging to watch states begin to open up as -- and it really has been; it's a beautiful thing to see -- as restrictions are lifted. We must maintain vigilance and continue practicing social distancing. I encourage governors to follow a careful, phased approach. And I want to remind all Americans to adhere to our guidelines. Very important. The governors are going to adhere, hopefully, or they're going to do what they think is best. I want them to do what they think is best, but ideally they'll adhere.

Wash your hands, avoid close physical contact as much as possible, and wear a face covering when distancing is impractical. There were cases.

We've flattened the curve and really made tremendous progress, but we must guard against a dangerous rebound. We don't want to rebound. That's so important. This is what we were just talking about. We don't want a rebound. The doctor doesn't want to rebound. These people definitely don't want to rebound. I don't think you want one, do you, huh? You especially.

We don't want to rebounds after all this death -- death -- that we've suffered. Not work -- I don't view it "work"; I view it "death" that was unnecessary. It should have never happened. It should have never left that little area where it started. You know it and I know it and they know it.

In our all-out war against the virus, we continue to make great strides on testing. Famous testing. Doing more than anybody else anywhere in the world. Nothing funny about that, Jon.

Most of the governors have never faced a situation like this before, but we're helping them find unused testing capacity within their states -- tremendous testing capacity that the governors, in many cases, didn't know they had. And additional capabilities are coming on line every day. We're coming up with new equipment, like the Abbott Laboratories equipment -- on site, five minutes. Great success. Everybody wants it. But you can only make so many of those machines, so we have many other forms of testing. We have many other machines that do it very quickly and by the millions -- by the millions.

Our task force issued its reopening guidelines earlier than April 30th to give governors the time that they needed to develop testing capability and capacity and customized plans for their states, which many of them did. We've had some governors do a

fantastic job on testing and on a lot of other things.

I spoke -- as you know, Governor Cuomo was here. He had a -- we had a great conversation on testing yesterday, and they're doing a really good job in New York.

We're working very closely with each of the states to help them succeed. I spoke earlier today with Governor Newsom, California. And that was all about testing, that conversation. He has been scaling up really well. Really good job. And I agreed to help him get some of the critical supplies that California needs to make use of the tremendous capacity that they've found. This is a tremendous testing capacity. And I'm going to do it very quickly. He needs certain things. I'm going to -- we're going to get that to him very quickly.

Now, could he get it himself? Yes. But I can get it faster. He understands that. And he's done a great job. And we're going to have it to him -- we're going to have a lot of it to him over the next two days. And we're going to beef it up the following week, get him a lot of additional. He's done a really terrific job in California. Some of the governors have done a fantastic job, working with us.

I told the governor of Georgia, Brian Kemp, that I disagree strongly with his decision to open certain facilities which are in violation of the phase one guidelines for the incredible people of Georgia. They're incredible people. I love those people. They are -- they're great. They've been strong, resolute.

But, at the same time, he must do what he thinks is right. I want him to do what he thinks is right, but I disagree with him on what he's doing. But I want to let the governors do -- now, if I see something totally egregious, totally out of line, I'll do. But I think spas and beauty salons and tattoo parlors and

barbershops in phase one -- we're going to have phase two very soon -- is just too soon. I think it's too soon.

And I love the people. I love -- I love those people that use all of those things: the spas and the beauty parlors and barbershops, tattoo parlors. I love them. But they can wait a little bit longer. Just a little bit. Not -- not much. Because safety has to predominate. We have to have that. So I told the governor, very simply, that I disagree with his decision, but he has to do what he thinks is right.

I'm excited to announce that, in the coming weeks, the Air Force Thunderbirds -- they're incredible -- and the Navy Blue Angels -- equally incredible -- will be performing air shows over America's major cities and some of the cities that aren't major cities. They're going to be doing a lot of work -- a lot of very dangerous flying. It's dangerous, you know -- the odds when you start going at massive speeds and you're 18 inches away from each other. That's dangerous work.

Your son is a great pilot. And I don't know if he could be -- could he be a -- could he be a Thunderbird? I don't know.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We'll see.

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- I think he probably could, from what I hear. I don't know if I'd want him to be, because it is -- it's incredible what they're able to do. And to sacrifice our frontline -- what we're doing is we're paying tribute to our frontline healthcare workers confronting COVID. And it's really a signal to all Americans to remain vigilant during the outbreak.

This is a -- a tribute to them, to our warriors. Because they are equal warriors to those incredible pilots and all of the fighters that we have for the more traditional fights that we win. And we win. If we want to win, we always win. Sometimes

we don't want to win, so we just go to a standstill. But that's always -- that's not the way this country works.

Operation America Strong was the idea of our great military men and women -- the Thunderbirds and the Blue Angels crews who wanted to show support to the American medical workers who, just like military members in a time of war, are fiercely running toward the fight. It's going to be great. I want to see those shows. I've seen them many times and I can't get enough of them.

And on July 4th, we'll be doing what we had at the Mall, as you know. We're going to be doing it. Last year was a tremendous success and I would imagine we'll do it -- hopefully, I can use the term "forever." That was a great success as you remember, even though it was pouring. It was raining so hard. It was raining at -- that was about as hard as I've seen in a while, but it was an amazing success. Didn't bother the pilots. It didn't bother the military. It didn't bother the crews that we had there. So we're going to be doing that again on July 4th.

Our great military is operating at 100 percent during this crisis and thousands of troops are deployed alongside of civilians in the COVID hotspots, as you know. You see them all over. I spoke -- when I spoke with Governor Cuomo, and when I spoke to Gavin Newsom, and many of the other governors, they wanted to know if we could have some military help with the medical, and we -- we gave it to them. And in every case, they said, "Fantastic." I mean, just fantastic.

In New York City, Mayor de Blasio called me to say it was inspiring to watch. He was there when the military came in. He said it gave everybody spirit when he saw the professionalism and the spirit that they had. They walked in and they helped a lot of -- a lot of people: doctors, nurses, respiratory technicians, and professionals. It was an incredible thing. But they all --

everybody that saw them going to work said that was something special.

So we're going to have some tremendous air shows all throughout our country. And that's in honor of what we're all going through together, and the people that are helping us so much, and, unfortunately, the people who have passed away from something that should never have been allowed to happen.

Following around-the-clock negotiations yesterday, the Senate answered my call to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program so that millions of additional American workers can keep getting a paycheck. We just increased it by \$310 billion dollars. I urged the House to pass the bill without delay. In our first round of funding, we've provided nearly \$350 billion dollars, and it went at record speed to American workers and small businesses. And it's really been an incredible, incredible success.

I want to thank the banks. We have the big banks, the little banks, the commercial banks of all kinds. We had the community banks -- who were fantastic, by the way. Community banks.

And as you know -- this was an interesting story in recent days -- I've called for Harvard -- that's Harvard University, which has a \$40 billion endowment fund -- to return the money that it was allocated under the CARES Act. And I'm pleased to announce that Harvard has announced today that they will not accept the funds, nor will Stanford University or many of the others that were involved both on a university level. Also on company level, some of the companies were bigger than people had represented or bigger than people had thought and strong enough that they didn't need the money. So there's a certain amount of money that we are not sending.

As soon as I heard it, I said, "Stop funds." And for the most part, I guess, they stopped it, Mike, right? They stopped

it. But we're not -- they're not accepting the money, and that's great. And so I want to thank Harvard, I want to thank Stanford, and I want to thank the other companies in the case. It's broken differently between colleges and companies, but I want to thank the companies and the other great universities. And there's some great ones.

The legislation passed by the Senate yesterday also reserves \$30 billion in loans for small financial institutions that serve minority and distressed communities. This is very important. We're determined to protect our African American, Hispanic American, and minority workers who have been hit so hard by this hidden enemy.

My administration is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to address the full spectrum of needs in these communities, supporting both health and economic revitalization. First, my administration is committed to providing the testing that is needed to fight the virus in distressed communities. In the last month alone, we've already sent over \$1.4 billion to our nation's 13,000 community healthcare centers -- think of that, 13,000 -- to increase testing and treatment in the underserved areas.

We're also expanding access to telehealth. Telehealth has become a big deal. You know, I've been reading about it for years, and all of a sudden, because of this, it's become a big -- a big thing. People can't leave their houses. They didn't want to leave their houses for various reasons, including they wanted to follow the guidelines.

The legislation passed by the Senate yesterday -- and I want to thank everybody. A great, great vote. Great. It's -- as you know, it was a unanimous vote. How often do you see that? But the legislation passed by the Senate yesterday includes an additional \$25 billion to further expand testing, and provides even more funding for community health centers and various forms

of epidemics and pandemics. And we'll be working on that because, you know, as per a couple of your statements and questions before, we want to work on that for the future.

We hope this doesn't happen again for -- again, ever. But, you know, last time it was of this magnitude: 1917. That's a long time ago. So we want to be prepared. And we are prepared.

And, as I told you, we're building up hospital -- not only our stockpile, which is being up greatly -- being built up greatly -- but also hospital stockpiles. We're getting them what they need. We're working out cost arrangements with them. And we're getting them a lot of the ventilators, which are the hardest thing for them to get, both from a cost standpoint and a technical standpoint.

At the same time, we're also supporting the establishment of new testing sites focused on these communities. Forty sites have launched so far, and there are plans to launch dozens more in the next three weeks. We're -- we're coming up with testing apparatus and testing plans that are incredible when you look at the numbers. And some people are very, very big on testing. I'm big on testing, but some people are much less big than I am, I will tell you, and they're professionals. But we want to have it so that nobody can talk about, "Gee whiz, I wish we had more testing."

Nobody has done it like we've done it, and nobody will. And we're getting very much stronger. We have incredible professionals doing it. So many different tests have now evolved, people are finding it even hard to believe.

My administration is working closely with governors to ensure that they have the testing infrastructure in place to reduce further spread of the virus if they're so inclined to use the testing apparatus, including strategies for older individuals,

low-income Americans, minorities, and Native Americans.

As part of the effort, the White House Task Force, headed up by Mike, who has done incredible -- I'll say it every time. I'll say it to anybody that wants to listen: Mike Pence has done an incredible job. Really, an incredible job. Thank you. Is providing technical assistance to all 50 states through one-on-one phone calls as they develop and implement their plans.

In addition, my administration is committed to restoring black and Hispanic communities to full economic health. They want to be healthy, economically and physically, and that's what we're doing.

To that end, today I'm directing the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, led by Secretary Ben Carson, to focus its effort on supporting underserved communities impacted by the coronavirus. And so Ben Carson is working on that with Mike and myself and a lot of other people. I'm going to ask Tim Scott, who was so helpful with the Opportunity Zones. That's an economic answer to a lot of problems. And Tim Scott was fantastic, and so I'm going to ask him to get involved with you. And I'm sure he'll be willing to do it from South Carolina.

I also asked the council to identify what additional funding will be required from Congress beyond what has already been provided. We're really building ourself a strong base and we're building ourself a wall that's very different from the kind of walls that you've been hearing me talking about. But it nevertheless, in many ways, performs the same function. And hopefully it's going to perform it equally as well.

Furthermore, the council will seek input from the private sector and community leaders on how we can best support minority and distressed communities.

As President, I'm absolutely determined to deliver a great future for Americans of every race, religion, color, and creed. Before our nation was attacked by this horrible enemy, our African American and Hispanic American citizens were prospering like never before. Best employment numbers ever. Not only African American, Asian American, Hispanic American -- every American. We were breaking records at every level. We had almost 160 million people employed. We were never even close to that number. And we're also breaking them economically -- highest stock market numbers, highest numbers of every kind. And I think we're going to be back there, and I think it's going to be much sooner rather than later. And I think we'll surpass those numbers, including our employment numbers.

But I'll not rest until that prosperity has been fully restored. And, again, I really believe that we're going to lift those numbers higher than ever before. And it won't be as long as people might think. A lot of very smart people are looking at that and they're betting. You just have to look at what's going on with the stock market.

In order to protect our great American workers, I've just signed an executive order temporarily suspending immigration into the United States. This will ensure that unemployed Americans of all backgrounds will be first in line for jobs as our economy reopens. Crucially, it will also preserve our healthcare resources for American patients. We have to take care of our patients, we have to take care of our great American workers, and that's what we're doing.

So I've just signed it, just before coming into the room. And very important, very important. And as to amending it or extending it, that we can do at the appropriate time. But it's now signed.

Earlier today, the First Lady and I planted a tree on the South

Lawn of the White House in recognition of the 50th annual Earth Day. I was glad to announce that we will begin to reopen our national parks and public lands. We want Americans to be able to satisfy and be really safe. We want them to satisfy their family that safety is going to happen. And it will happen, and maybe even at a level like never before. We've learned so much. But we want them to enjoy these great national treasures as we continue to take reasonable precautions. And hopefully, it'll be just reasonable.

My administration has directed more than \$7 billion in federal funding to support the development of treatments, diagnostics, and therapies. And that's something, Doctors, I hope you can really work on. It's something so powerful and so important.

The FDA, the NIH, and industry leaders are establishing master clinical trial protocols to test multiple promising new drugs at the same time. And they're doing a lot of -- we're doing a lot of testing right now.

More than 1,600 locations across the country have signed up to administer convalescent plasma to patients, infusing them with antibodies of those who have recovered. And when they recover -- I said it last time -- practically, the first thing they say is, "I want to give my blood so that I can help other people." They want to give their blood. It's incredible. They're laying in bed, they're still in pretty weakened conditions, and they say, "I want to give my blood." And that's happening all the time, isn't it? If you recovered from the coronavirus, I ask you to consider contacting your local blood or plasma donation center to arrange a donation that could potentially save many lives.

With love for our nation and loyalty for our fellow citizens, we will safeguard our families, care for our neighbors, heal the sick, protect our workers, and build a future for a country that is the greatest country anywhere in the world. And we're only

going to get greater.

Thank you very much. Mike Pence, please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. The White House Coronavirus Task Force met today and, despite the fact that there have been more than 843,000 Americans who contracted the coronavirus and we grieve the loss of more than 47,000 of our countrymen, according to Dr. Birx and her team, we continue to see encouraging signs because the American people have been putting into practice the guidance that's been issued by the President and this task force and they've been taking to heart the guidance of state and local officials.

And, Mr. President, as we learned today, we are continuing to see declines in all the major metro areas around the country that have been most impacted. Numbers remain low and steady on the West Coast -- in Washington State and in California. The New York metro area, New Jersey, Connecticut all appear to be past their peak. And as -- as our scientists may reflect in a few moments, we also are seeing the positive rate going down, which is actually even as encouraging as the declining cases.

The Detroit metro area appears to be past its peak. The Seattle metro area, as I mentioned, remain stable. The New Orleans metro area is the most stable of all the large metro outbreaks.

We also are continuing to see a stabilization and even declines in -- in Houston and Atlanta and Nashville and Baltimore and Indianapolis and elsewhere.

This is a tribute to the American people, to the fact that the American people have taken to heart the guidelines -- the social distancing; the personal hygiene; the recommendation that you use the drive-through at a restaurant, rather than going in a restaurant; and avoiding groups of more than 10.

On the President's behalf, on behalf of our entire White House Coronavirus Task Force, we just want to urge all of the American people to continue onward. We all want to reopen America. And we want to reopen our states and our communities as soon as it is safe and responsible to do so.

But I want to say to my countrymen: the fastest way to reopen America is to continue to do what you've been doing. That's the fastest way, as President Trump has said many times, to get our country working again -- is to put the coronavirus in the past. And we are on our way to doing just that.

You know, from early on, the President called forth not only the full power of the federal government, but he called forth the full weight of the American economy. And I had the privilege yesterday to travel to Madison, Wisconsin, and see American industry and American workers at their very best. And I want to thank the GE Healthcare team in Wisconsin, as well as the union machinists that I spent time with all day yesterday.

It was extraordinary, Mr. President. And earlier this month, you used the Defense Production Act to ensure that supplies could flow to GE and General Motors and Ford and other companies that -- that were prepared to repurpose manufacturing lines and hire new workers to construct ventilators.

And, at this particular plant, they literally have -- the union sat down -- the machinists' union sat down and, in less than one week, negotiated a new contract with GE Healthcare that allowed them to begin to bring in workers from around the country. They doubled -- they doubled their -- their work line in one week. They're about to triple it. They've been going 24 hours a day, 3 shifts, 7 days a week.

And the President promised that, by harnessing the power of the

American economy, we would have 100,000 ventilators in 100 days. But thanks to the ingenuity and the hardworking Americans that I was with yesterday and other companies, we're actually going to have 110,000 ventilators in 100 days.

They were all wearing t-shirts, Mr. President -- I brought one back for you -- that simply read, "Union Machinists Save Lives." And to that great team of GE Healthcare, I want to just say all of America is proud of you and grateful for you.

We're also grateful to all of our healthcare workers at every level and all the work that they're doing. And we're proud that our National Guard and our American military are at their side. As our task force learned today, more than 31,000 National Guard stood up around the country. And the President, in the last day, extended what's called Title 32 authorizations for all National Guard personnel through May 31. So we're going to continue to partner with states, as the National Guard plays a vital role in testing, and in cleaning nursing homes, and in standing up states' response.

Military personnel: Mr. President, we have more than 5,500 active duty military personnel, including, as of yesterday, 964 medical professionals in the uniform of the United States, working in 17 hospitals in 7 states around the country.

We're also very proud of our team at the VA. The VA has -- has addressed its capacity issues. It's not seeing cases among the veterans in its facilities increase, so they're deploying teams to focus on nursing homes.

In Massachusetts, the VA personnel have disinfected two different nursing homes in New Jersey. They've literally taken over two state nursing homes and deployed 90 doctors and nurses. And, in Florida, we're sending 16 teams to assist in nursing home operations.

As the President also mentioned, in addition to what I saw yesterday in Madison, Wisconsin, we continue to -- we continue to build our Strategic National Stockpile. It's growing, again, with ventilators -- nearly 11,000 in supply. Nine hundred and one new ventilators will be added, transitioned in the near term. And every American, I think, can -- can be confident that, should the need arise for your family member, facing serious consequences from the coronavirus to need that equipment to help them breathe, that equipment will be there.

As we said yesterday in Wisconsin and you've said, Mr. President, I think it should be a great source of comfort to every American that no American who has required a ventilator in the United States has been denied a ventilator. And that's a testament to our healthcare workers, it's a testament to every American putting mitigation principles into practice, and it's a testament to all these great companies.

Speaking of great companies, American businesses are stepping up. It was on April 1st that I traveled to Walmart distribution center and the President reached out to the -- to the president and CEO of Walmart to ask Walmart to get in the gowns business. And, Mr. President, I'm glad to report to you that we heard today at the task force that Walmart is producing 8.4 million gowns, and they will be delivered into our commercial supply to healthcare facilities around the country by the end of June.

They're hardly alone. Honda is producing 500,000 face shields. New Balance is making 100,000 masks a week. In a very real sense, the American people have stepped up to make the sacrifices and endure the hardship that social distancing has required, but American businesses, at every size and every means, have come together to respond to the President's call.

It really has been a whole-of-America approach. And our message from the President's White House Coronavirus Task Force is to tell the American people it's working. We're getting there. We can see light at the end of the tunnel. We can see the day that we can reopen and put America back to work. But it's going to take all of us, continuing to make the sacrifices necessary to practice those disciplines, to get us to a place where we can reopen safely and confidently.

And with that, Mr. President, I'll call Dr. Fauci up for his reflections and -- and we'll move on.

THE PRESIDENT: Great.

DR. FAUCI: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. So I'm going to just take off from when I was at this podium a few days ago, to kind of reiterate some of the things that the Vice President said, but to kind of connect the dots from where we were, where we are now, and where I think we're going to be.

So, you remember a couple of weeks ago, when we talked about the fact that we were going to have a really bad week because the deaths, particularly driven by the situation in New York, were going to get worse and worse. But yet, as that was happening, we were starting to see some turnaround, some flattening, and some coming down. As you've heard from Dr. Birx and will likely hear more, that that is continuing.

So what has happened is that the mitigation that we put in with the first 15 days and then the 30-day mitigation program of physical distancing worked. So it got us to where we are today. It is a successful formula. It is the basis for our being able to say that we can now think seriously about reopening America. And for that reason, we put together a carefully thought out and, I believe, well-delineated and described program for Opening Up America Again. And you know what it is; it's the

guidelines that we announced a few days ago. Those very guidelines are based on a version of the successful formula that got us to where we are.

So what I'm trying to say is that the program is not one that is going to be: "Turn the lights on in America. We're finished." We're not. We have to proceed in a very careful, measured way. And if you look at the guidelines, they are careful and they are measured. There are certain checkpoints before you can even think about going into a phase one, and then things relax a little as you go into phase two, and relax a little and you go into phase three.

Now, we live in a big country and it's heterogeneous, and there are different dynamics of outbreaks in different parts of the country. So the speed with which one can go from one to another, at the point at which you can even begin to think about the phase, is going to differ.

So the one thing that I know: The urge we all have to get out there and get it over with -- let's get back to normal -- for a lot of good reasons because there's a lot of suffering, economic and otherwise, in this country because of that.

But again, as I've pleaded early on, weeks ago, I plead with the American public, with the governors, with the mayors, for the people with responsibility: Although I know one has the need to leapfrog over things, don't do that. Do it in a measured way. This is a successful formula. The problem is if we don't do that, there is a likelihood that we'll have a rebound.

And the one way not to reopen the economy is to have a rebound that we can't take care of. So, please, again, let me just close by pleading with the American public in general and those who are responsible leaders to carefully consider how we get back to normal.

Thank you.

Q Dr. Fauci, could you talk a little about your expectations for the fall? We heard from Dr. Redfield and Dr. Birx. What do you see for the fall? Is it going to be embers or possibly no return of the virus at all?

DR. FAUCI: You know, as I've said before here, when you look at an outbreak, it's two dynamic forces opposing each other. If you leave the virus to its own devices, it will take off if you do nothing to stop it. If you put into place the kinds of things that we talk about, first, containment -- and then hopefully you never get to mitigation -- but containment is important. Those two forces are going to determine whether you're going to have a big outbreak.

So, what Dr. Redfield was saying, first of all, is that we will have coronavirus in the fall. I am convinced of that because of the degree of -- of transmissibility that it has, the global nature.

What happens with that will depend on how we're able to contain it when it occurs. And what we're saying is that, in the fall, we will be much, much better prepared to do the kind of containment compared to what happened to us this winter.

Now, the complicating issue is that, unlike the syndromic and influenza-like observances that we have, that you could pick it up by clinically what's happening, it's going to get complicated by influenza season. And I believe that's what Dr. Redfield was saying, that it is going to be complicated.

So whether or not it's going to be big or small is going to depend on our response. And -- and that's what I think people sometimes have misunderstanding. Nobody can predict what is

going to happen with an outbreak, but you can predict how you're going to respond to it. And that's really very important.

Q So you would caution against people thinking that, in the fall, there's not going to be coronavirus anymore and we won't have to worry about it?

DR. FAUCI: No. No.

Q Or if it is, it'll be spotty and it won't be a big problem we have to worry about?

DR. FAUCI: No. There will be coronavirus in the fall. If we do -- which we won't, but let's take an imaginary period. We say, "Okay, coronavirus, forget about it. We're not going to do anything about it." It will take off. That's what viruses do, but that's not what's going to happen. We're going to respond to it to not allow it to do that.

Q Dr. Fauci, what happens when governors like Governor Kemp are not following this careful, measured plan and moving forward even without meeting the gating criteria? What do you do about that?

DR. FAUCI: Well -- well, you know, if I were advising the governor, I would tell him that he should be careful. And I would advise him not to just turn the switch on and go. Because there is a danger of a rebound. And I know there's the desire to move ahead quickly -- that's a natural, human nature desire -- but going ahead and leapfrogging into phases where you should not be, I would advise him, as a health official and as a physician, not to do that.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Go ahead, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Can you please give some details

about the executive order? I know that the White House has just released a document. I haven't had a chance to review it.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we could talk about that later. It's an executive order on immigration. We want Americans to have the jobs. We want Americans to have the healthcare. We want to take care of our citizens first. We have to. And it's a very powerful order. It's for 60 days. At the end of 60 days, or maybe even during 60 days, I'll extend it or not. And I'll maybe change it. I might modify it.

Yes.

Q (Inaudible) for immigrants who are already here, Mr. President?

Q Mr. President, I wanted to ask you --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, go ahead, please.

Q Immigrants who are already here in the country or immigrants abroad who already effectively have a green card, trying to get into the country, and healthcare workers?

THE PRESIDENT: We're talking about immigrants that are trying to get in, and we're talking about people and -- also, by the way, people that are coming in illegally.

Now, as you know, because you've seen the numbers, our border -- our southern border -- is very, very tight. It hasn't been this tight in years. It's being helped by 160 -- more than that -- miles of wall that are going up. I'm trying to get to 450 by the end of the year -- 450 miles.

And we'll have 530 miles early next year, and that's really great. It's fully funded. We have all the funds. And the Army

Corps of Engineers is doing a fantastic job. Same people that did Javits Center, as you know. They're doing a fantastic job. So our -- our southern border is very, very tight, for good reason -- for very good reason.

We're also being helped by 27,000 very good soldiers from Mexico, and I want to thank the President of Mexico. He's been terrific in many ways, including on what we're doing with COVID. And, as you know, we have a very good trade arrangement with Mexico now, which we didn't have before. So I want to thank the President of Mexico, in particular for the 27,000 soldiers.

Q Do you want to talk about the exemptions for the healthcare workers, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: They're doing -- they're doing a fantastic job.

Q Do you want to talk about the exemptions for healthcare workers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we want to protect our healthcare workers, and that's one of the other reasons we're doing this.

Yes, Jon.

Q Mr. President, I wanted to ask you about Rick Bright. He's the head of the federal agency in charge of getting a vaccine out to -- to Americans once it's ready. He says he has been pushed out of his job because he raised questions about hydroxychloroquine and some of your directives on that. Was he pushed out of that job?

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I've never heard of him. You just mentioned the name. I never heard of him. When did this happen?

Q This happened today.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I've never heard of him. If the guy says he was pushed out of a job, maybe he was, maybe he wasn't. I -- you'd have to hear the other side. I don't know who he is.

Please.

Q And on the hydroxychloroquine --

THE PRESIDENT: Hold on one second, please.

Q I just wanted to -- you said by Fourth of July you expect people be on the National Mall and we'll be having a celebration like we did --

THE PRESIDENT: Hope so.

Q -- last year. Given what the doctors are just saying -- that, you know, coronavirus is still going to be out there -- might not be as bad as it is now, but it's still going to be circulating -- is that -- is that going to be safe to have that many people on the Mall for July Fourth?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to probably have 25 percent of what we had last year. Last year, as you know, it was maxed out -- maxed out. I saw a magnificent picture of Dr. Martin Luther King and I saw a magnificent picture of our event last year, and both of them were maxed out. It was beautiful to see. Beautiful. Very similar.

This year, most likely, we'll be standing six feet apart. We'll have to do that in a very, very interesting way. And maybe we'll even do it greater, so we'll leave a little extra distance. But if we do that, we'd certainly do that.

I -- I don't see, maybe, the purpose if we can't do that. We

have to have people. Thousands -- we had tens of thousands -- most of you were there -- tens of thousands of people last year. It was incredible. And it was, to an extent, an air show of all the different aircraft flying over. We even had Air Force One flying over.

So ideally, it would be wonderful if we could actually have it as it was last year. But -- and, eventually, we'll -- we will have that. I think it's important to know: Eventually, we are going to have that.

Your stadiums are going to be the way --

Q You think by July you'd be able to have --

THE PRESIDENT: -- they've been for the last hundred years.

Q By July, you'd be able to have a --

THE PRESIDENT: No, I know. But your stadiums -- as an example, sports -- are going to be the way they used to be. I mean, I told one of the owners. He said, "Do you think I should take out seats?" I said, "No, you shouldn't take out seats." We're going to have it the way it was. We're going to be back.

This virus will eventually be gone. And if it should show up in the fall, we're going to put it out very fast. We have great people. We're going to put it out very fast, because we've learned a lot. We've learned a lot about how to deal with this, and we'll put it out very fast.

Yeah, please.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Nice -- just nice and easy. Just -- good.

Q You talk a lot about testing capacity.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q And governors agree that that exists. But it's very different from testing implementation. And they are still begging for you to use your full authority to help them get reagents and other things. As you would like to say, what do you have to lose by helping them do that --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am doing that.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We are doing that.

Q -- and becoming the king of testing?

THE PRESIDENT: And -- and let me just say, we are the king of testing already. There's no country in the world that's done more. Not even -- not even close.

Q Well, only 1.2 percent of the population has been tested. Is that good enough?

THE PRESIDENT: I just said there's no country in the world that's done more. And we have tests that have already come out that are going to be introduced very shortly that will do it more.

My problem is this: It's a -- it's very much of media trap. Whether we did 2 percent, 5 percent, 50 percent, or 100 percent, it'll never be enough, no matter what.

Q But it's 1.2 percent.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, with the -- with the expertise and with what

we did -- because of our expertise and tremendous talent at manufacturing -- what we did with the ventilators, that wasn't a trap. Because we got them done, shockingly to everybody, because of the incredible talent -- like Mike Pence saw yesterday in Wisconsin. But we have numerous of those sites all over the country doing the same thing.

So that when the governors were complaining -- some of the governors, I must say. And it was very much along party lines, for the most part, but when they -- except for one. When the governors were complaining, we said, "No, no. How many do you need?" "We need 50." "We need 100." One governor asked for many, many, many thousands, and it turned out they didn't need that, and that's good. We got them and nobody that needed a ventilator -- you know this, and we went through this with the governors -- that needed a ventilator didn't get a ventilator. That was an incredible achievement.

With testing, it's a little different. It's much easier than ventilators. It's like 2 percent. But -- for instance, the swabs are coming in by the millions. They're coming in -- literally coming in by the millions. Totally ordered. We wanted the highest quality. We could have gotten a much lesser quality. We didn't want to do that. We got the highest quality.

But, testing -- it's like no matter how well you do, you can always say more. With the ventilators, they either have them or they don't. In fact, we went to one meeting -- "Who wants a ventilator?" One governor -- one governor said, "We'd like 25." "Twenty-five. You got them. Who else?" Nobody spoke up. That was four weeks ago. So that was great.

The problem with the testing is, as I said, if we test -- if we tested 350 million people, you'll say, "Well, we want them to have a second test or a third test or a fourth test."

Not everybody believes as strongly as some people in testing. Some people want to do testing because they think it's impossible for us to fulfill that goal. That's easy compared to ventilators, as I've said. But we have a tremendous testing capability -- better than anybody in the world right now. And every day, it's growing. And it's growing very substantial. I mean, these doctors are very talented people. They've seen testing all their lives. They've never seen anything like we've been able to do.

So, we're going to give everybody what they want with the testing. But again, testing -- and I've said it from the beginning: The actual test has to be administered locally. You can't do from Washington or faraway locations -- federal testing -- nearly as well as you can, where you have a governor, he has mayors, and they have representatives, and -- and they know the back of a Walmart -- put it in the parking lot in the back of a Walmart or put it in a certain location in different states. They're doing it beautifully. It's working beautifully.

The relationship I have with the governors, and Mike has, and we all have with the governors, I would say, other than one or two -- but even them, they don't complain. They're not complaining. So we're doing tremendous testing. And ultimately, we're doing more testing, I think, than probably any of the governors even want.

Okay. Please, Jennifer.

Q Back on the immigration EO -- can you say, is it just for green cards -- for green card holders or is it --

THE PRESIDENT: It's green cards for -- subject --

Q Is it also for people seeking temporary work visas?

THE PRESIDENT: It's subject to change. We have some people coming in, for instance, helping the farmers. We want to have the farmers take care -- they've been coming for years and years, and they're helping our farmers, and they've -- they've been coming in for years.

We don't want to do -- you know, the border has been turned off a number of times over the years. And you know what happened? Our farmers all went out of business. They were out of business. They couldn't farm. We're taking care of our farmers. Nobody ever took care of farmers like I take care of farmers.

Q Subject to change because some --

THE PRESIDENT: Including the \$19 billion that we're dispersing to farmers because of some very good things that happened.

Q Subject to change because some of your advisors are saying there could be a problem with it, or subject to change because you want to extend it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Just it might be modified. It could be modified next week, in two weeks. It could be modified in two months. No, we may modify it as we go along. But right now, we have a very powerful immigration ban, but it could be modified -- meaning made tougher or made less tough. We don't want to hurt our businesses, and we don't want to hurt our farmers. Very important.

Q Mr. President, can I ask you about your conversation with Governor Kemp? What did he say to you when you said you strongly disagreed with him? And, of course, for gym owners and tattoo parlor artists and barbers in Atlanta -- I mean, Georgia, generally -- would you advise them to listen to you and not to

their governor?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, I'd like them to listen to their governors. All of their governors. I have the right to do, if I wanted to clamp it down, but I have respect for our governors. They know what they're doing, I think. And, as you know, Brian Kemp, governor of Georgia, I worked very hard for his election. He beat their superstar. He beat the superstar of their party. I think you can say, I helped a lot.

Michelle Obama, Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey -- they all went in. They campaigned for him very, very hard, and he lost. He also was way down in a primary, and he ended up winning a primary after I came out and endorsed him. So, a lot of good things and there's a lot of good feeling between myself and Brian Kemp. I like him a lot.

I happen to disagree with him only on time and timing. I disagree. When you have spas, beauty parlors -- and I love these people -- I know the people from spas and beauty parlors, tattoo parlors. Bikers for Trump -- a lot of tattoos. I love them. I love these people. And barbershops. These are great people. But you know what? Maybe you wait a little bit longer until you get into a phase two.

So do I agree with him? No. But I respect him, and I will let him make his decision. Would I do that? No. I'd keep them a little longer. I want to protect people's lives. But I'm going to let him make his decision. But I told him: I totally disagree.

Okay.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. The Vice President, in his remarks, was talking about the federal efforts that have been undertaken as it relates to nursing facilities. And, as you both

know, they've been just so incredibly hard hit -- just tragic -- over 10,000 COVID-19 deaths so far. The industry says that they're struggling as it relates to testing. Can you commit to increasing testing at the nursing facilities across the country?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Well, we're doing that automatically. I mean, that's almost common sense. But we're doing that automat-- I mean, you look at the State of Washington. That was our first glimpse of it. They got hit so horribly in that nursing home. It seems -- it seemed like everybody was from a particular nursing home.

So we knew immediately that was going to be a problem. And we're doing that, 100 percent.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I can speak to --

THE PRESIDENT: We're taking very special care of our nursing homes and our seniors, other than me. Other than me. Nobody wants to take care of me. But other than me, we're taking care of our seniors.

Q Another -- another --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I can speak to that as well.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, please, Mike. Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: No, it's just an enormously important question. And we want to thank the American people who have been putting off visits to their grandmothers and grandfathers and moms and dads. It's tough. I'm going to be in Indiana next week, and I'm not going to go see my mom. She lives in her own home, but people get it that the risk of serious illness for a

healthy American of the coronavirus is fairly low. You'll either have flu-like symptoms or no symptoms at all.

But as we've said so many times at this podium and the American people get it: A healthy American could inadvertently convey the coronavirus to a senior with an underlying health condition and have the kind of heartbreaking results that we've seen in nursing homes around the country.

It's the reason why, from early on, the President took decisive action to raise the infectious disease standards at every nursing home in America. He deployed all 8,000 of our inspectors at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to dedicate all of their time to ensuring compliance with those new higher standards.

And we've spoken about -- about nursing home issues with governors around the country. And frankly, there are governors around the country that have done remarkable work with nursing homes. You mentioned Governor Brian Kemp. He actually used the National Guard. In Georgia, he deployed them to nursing homes to do cleaning and to disinfect areas of those nursing homes. And it's a tremendous service.

But to your point about testing, if you look carefully at the Guidelines to Open Up America Again, you will see that in phase one, the level of testing that we contemplate is first that we want to be able to test anyone who has the symptoms that may be coronavirus, and be able to test them quickly. Secondly, we want to do the kind of contact tracing -- and Dr. Redfield and his team are deploying CDC teams in every state in America -- to be able to find out everyone that that person has been in contact with and test them.

But if you look right underneath that, what we're directing states to do is be prepared to deploy testing resources first and

foremost to nursing homes and long-term care facilities so that we can monitor any potential outbreak of the coronavirus among the most vulnerable population.

Thanks to the leadership of our Surgeon General, as the President announced today, we're also going to be deploying testing resources to vulnerable communities, to underserved communities. The CDC released new preliminary data on the impact, particularly, on African American communities in this country. And it's the reason why part of our phase-one recommendation is that we deploy testing resources into those communities that are described by the doctors as socially vulnerable. And, even as we speak, we'll announce next week that we're already in the process of deploying testing.

And so it's a good opportunity to remind every American to be especially careful around our seniors and to heed the guidance about avoiding visitations to protect the health of those who are most vulnerable. But the American people can be assured that from phase one forward, all the way through phase three and reopening, we're going to be helping to guide the states to focus on the most vulnerable, beginning with our seniors with serious underlying health conditions.

Q Mr. Vice President --

THE PRESIDENT: How about right behind Jennifer? Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: We'll get back -- we'll get back to you.

Q Commercial labs say that they need to buy new diagnostic machines to be able to double their testing capacity. Your administration has said that there is enough testing capacity to double overnight. How do you, kind of, square that difference?

THE PRESIDENT: Very easy. They can get new machines if they want, but even if they didn't, we have tremendous testing capability. You take a look at what's happening in California and New York. Governor Cuomo told us very strongly -- he said, "Wow, we have a lot of labs." You know, that's a research center of the world. They have tremendous -- in California, too. Long conversations. They have tremendous testing capability there too. Now, if they want to increase it, they can increase it, but they have plenty right now.

You saw the maps the other day, when we put up the different sites in various states, and virtually all states are like that.

How about you with the mask? Nice that you wear a mask.

Q Yes. Mr. President, may I actually follow up on those maps from the other day? On Monday, a reporter for a local television station in Miami sent me a question asking if it was possible to get the information on those maps distributed to the media so that local TV stations and newspapers can check on that information. So if that could that be done --

THE PRESIDENT: Who did the maps? Do you -- do you want do that? Do you want to say something?

DR. BIRX: Thank you for talking about testing and testing capacity because we have been talking about that for several weeks, because we could see -- and we did a full inventory of every single state and every single laboratory. And I also appreciate you talking about the implementation piece of the testing capacity. And it's complicated, so we have been -- we have a team calling every lab and working through the American Society of Microbiology, as I mentioned before, to really work with every lab director to see what the issues are in each laboratory.

And I just want to thank Administrator Verma, who really worked on increasing the funding for this test and uniquely doubling the funding for the coronavirus nucleic acid test from \$50 to \$100 to really address some of the issues about laboratory technicians. Because sometimes we think these tests run themselves; they don't. They actually need people to help with the machines. So we were talking about purchasing more machines; we actually need to have additional laboratory technicians to really be able to work all of those machines. And so it's lab by lab, state by state, and that's the dialogue that's going on now to unlock the full potential of the United States.

Maybe the testing would not be needed at this moment, and maybe it is, but we want it also totally available in the fall if it comes to an issue where we have to distinguish between flu and COVID-19.

So we're building infrastructure and capacity not only for today, but for tomorrow, and really showing a new way to really deal with pandemics and bring testing to scale. Because the country has never had to do this before. I mean, if you look at some of the other countries, they're -- they're struggling with some of the issues, from PPE to testing. And so this is a universal issue, but we're working on it as a collective to really have a very innovative and integrated way to approach testing.

THE PRESIDENT: But without building new, they have tremendous capability. And --

DR. BIRX: And the maps are -- I will ask the companies, because, obviously, it's proprietary where every single machine is. And, you know, if you have that machine and five others, maybe you don't want to know -- let that person know you have five others. It's kind of like Coke and Pepsi. So I think we're working very deliberately to really be able to share those maps.

The governors, I can tell you that they -- all of the state and local gover- -- state governors and the mayors have those maps and the addresses and the type of machine for every single laboratory in their jurisdiction so know who they're testing.

THE PRESIDENT: And many of the governors were not aware that those laboratories were available.

Q One more for Dr. Birx, before you leave, on the -- the state of California has now partially broken with CDC restrictions on who will get guidance and who should get testing because they want to test people without any symptoms at all in high-risk environments, like a nursing home. Do you agree with this? Vice President Pence, do you agree with this?

DR. BIRX: Well, not only do we agree with it; it was in our guidelines.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: It's in our guidelines.

DR. BIRX: That was fundamental to our guidelines, and I think we were the first group that said testing asymptomatics will be key. We've always said that we think that's a significant contribution to infections. And we went to the places where we thought it was most critical to find cases the earliest. And so that is where we have asked states in the guidelines to start with nursing home, indigenous peoples, and people in underserved areas and cities to really ensure that we're monitoring for any type, because we know the asymptomatic piece may be the tip of the iceberg. In fact, it'd be the iceberg underneath the surface. And so if you're only seeing cases and maybe this.

But in parallel, we're working with states and local governments to really define what that population is by doing -- in

collaboration with states, working with them together, to really reinforce this antibody testing but in a careful way where you do two antibody testing to increase your sensitivity and specificity into the 99-plus percent range, because we think it's really important that you have a very high-quality test, but a high-quality test that you can really tell someone that they've had this before. And so we're waiting to have those two tests that we can do in series to really assure people.

But that is -- that was in the guidelines from the very beginning, and we think it's fundamental, both for right now and going through the fall, because that will be our early alert if any of the COVID virus reappears.

Q So how much more testing are we going to need? How much --

THE PRESIDENT: Jon, you didn't know that was in the guidelines?

Q The CDC criteria says that (inaudible) --

Q Well, it's currently in the CDC guidelines. You're saying that --

THE PRESIDENT: No, but it's right -- but it's right in the guidelines.

Q Dr. Birx --

THE PRESIDENT: I'm surprised at you.

Q -- while you're there, can I just --

THE PRESIDENT: Jerome, would you like to say something on that, please? Please.

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I just

want to reiterate to everyone that the task force and the administration have a commitment to protecting vulnerable people, and that includes in the area of testing. We've had the opportunity to talk to many different groups, and we hear that testing is absolutely a concern.

And we'll be giving you more details in the coming days, but I just want you to know that we're building on the public-private partnership that the President rolled out with pharmacy and retail companies like CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Walmart, and Kroger to accelerate testing for more Americans and more communities across the nation.

We're going to be increasing access to testing for under-tested, underserved, and minority communities. And we're working closely with partners and states to establish sites in areas most in need of increased access to testing.

We're using data -- CDC-provided data -- to locate sites and counties that are under-tested and socially vulnerable, especially with high populations of black, Hispanic, rural, and Native Americans.

We're using the CDC's Vulnerability Index, as you heard about -- heard about earlier to select sites. And this measures the resilience of communities when confronted by external stressors along four main themes: socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status, and housing type. Our goal -- our goal is to have about two-thirds of these initial sites located in counties with moderate to high social vulnerability and about a quarter of these sites and counties with high social vulnerability.

So again, I want communities that are vulnerable to understand that we are strategically and intentionally making sure we're deploying testing in those areas so that people can get

identified if they have symptoms, can get identified if they are asymptomatic, and that we will be able to deploy resources appropriately.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Jerome. Thank you. And I have to say our Surgeon General is doing a great job. Thank you.

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Great job. Really good.

OAN, in the back, please.

Q Mr. President, thank you. Can we talk about Iran? You put out a message this morning making a rather big announcement for our military when it comes to Iranians' -- Iranian aggression. Are you going to change, formally, rules of engagement for our U.S. military so that they can engage?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We're covered -- we're covered 100 percent. We don't want their gunboats surrounding our boats and traveling around our boats and having a good time. We don't want them anywhere near our boats. And -- so you know the order I gave. I don't think I have to say it again, but I've given that order.

Under the Obama administration, it was taking place all the time. Under my administration, I gave this order early on and nothing happened. They were very nice; they were no problem. But then I noticed yesterday, they did that in a much lighter form, but they did that again. I said, "We're not going to -- we're not going to stand for it."

So if they do that, that's putting our ships at danger and our

great crews and sailors at -- in danger. I'm not going to let that happen. And we will -- they'll shoot them out of the water.

Q So the U.S. military does not have to change its rules of engagement in order to follow your directive?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that's not rules of engagement; that's a threat when they get that close to our boat. And they have guns. They have very substantial weapons on those boats. But we'll shoot them out of the water. Okay?

Please.

Q Thank you, President Trump. If possible, I'd like to ask a question to Dr. Fauci and then a very different one to you. To Dr. Fauci, today the CDC and the USDA said that the first pets in America had tested positive for coronavirus. What does that mean, and what should the public know about that?

DR. FAUCI: Pets?

Q Pets. Two pets.

THE PRESIDENT: Pets.

DR. FAUCI: So that question was asked before, but I'd be happy to answer it again. Certainly, animals, pets can get infected. Big cats in zoos have been reported to be infected with coronavirus. There is no evidence that the virus is transmitted from a pet to a human.

Now, obviously, is that impossible? I mean, biologically, you know, anything is possible, but there's no evidence whatsoever that we've seen, from an epidemiological standpoint, that pets can be transmitters within the household.

So, it's not surprising. I mean, we -- when you have viruses that can infect multiple species, isolating it from an animal doesn't necessarily mean the animal is transmitting it.

THE PRESIDENT: What about the lion in the New York Zoo?

DR. FAUCI: Yeah, well, you know, that's the lion in the New York --

THE PRESIDENT: How did that -- how did that happen?

DR. FAUCI: You know what probably happened? I don't know, Mr. President, but I would imagine that one of the -- one of the zookeepers probably had an asymptomatic infection, took care of the animal, gave him some food, touched him or whatever, and that's how he got it.

Q A question for you, President Trump. My question for you --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q -- is: Earlier in these briefings, you talked a lot about giving Americans hope and you wanted to focus on that. But now that the crisis seems to perhaps be lessening, I wanted to ask you about accountability. And, of course, million -- millions of Americans became familiar with you as the tough boss who fired people for doing a poor job. I wanted to ask you about two specific things. There was a report from Reuters today that the HHS Secretary put a former dog breeder in charge of day-to-day coronavirus efforts, to begin with. And also on --

THE PRESIDENT: He did what? What?

Q Reuters reported today that Alex Azar, the Secretary of HHS, put a former dog breeder -- that was his most recently

former job -- in charge of day-to-day operations of the coronavirus.

THE PRESIDENT: That, I don't know. But I -- you're just telling me something. And what's the second?

Q And the second one is on face masks. Taiwan has a bigger population than New York State. Early on, they had universal wearing of face masks. Here --

THE PRESIDENT: No problem with face masks, if the governors want to do that. You know, we ordered -- I don't know if you know -- 500 million face masks. We have hundreds of millions right now. And if people want to wear them, it's up to the governors. If the governors want that, it's absolutely -- now, it's more appropriate in some states, obviously, than others. You have the big plains and you have certain states where it's much less necessary.

But, no, that's up to the governors. And we have that very well covered, I think, face masks. But we have --

Q Here, people aren't wearing masks.

THE PRESIDENT: We have hundreds of millions of face masks, and we have at least 500 million. That's a lot. We'll have them very shortly.

Q And lots of people are wearing face masks now that the federal government advised. It was almost overnight. But less than a month ago, our Surgeon General said that -- and I'm quoting -- they're, quote, "not effective in preventing the general public from catching coronavirus." I mean, is -- should there be accountability there and also from HHS Secretary?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. Would anybody like to speak

about it? I don't -- I think, if -- for -- as -- just so you understand, if somebody wants to wear them, I'm all for it. Would somebody like to discuss that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Bob Redfield. Bob.

DR. FAUCI: Go -- go for it, Bob.

DR. REDFIELD: I think the comments that we made when we came into face masks -- and I think it's important when we came out with the CDC guidance about face masks, or what we called "face coverings" -- was, in recognition of the growing understanding of asymptomatic infection or pre-symptomatic infection, was the recognition that we could use a barrier. And the reason -- you know, and I have mine when I'm in public, right here, that I use -- you know, that this barrier, in case I was, in fact, infected if I didn't know, is a barrier to prevent me to protect you in case I happened to be asymptotically infected.

There's very good data to show that the ability of viral particles to go through a barrier is substantially diminished [sic] -- diminished. And that's why we recommended these face coverings. I think if you go back to when CDC came out with that recommendation, some people may think, intuitively, it's to protect them from getting infected. No, it was to protect you from potentially getting infected by me when I go out in public.

Jerome, do you --

THE PRESIDENT: Jerome, please.

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: I actually appreciate you asking that question because it's one that -- that we've had to clarify several times, and I understand why the American public has been confused over time.

As Dr. Redfield mentioned, initially we said, based on CDC, World Health Organization, and most other major public health organizations that the public needed to know that these masks are not effective or shown to be effective in preventing you, if you wear a mask, from catching coronavirus.

Another important thing to remember is the context of those statements was a run on medical masks, on N95 masks, and our healthcare workers were at risk.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Right.

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: What's changed? What's changed is, we found out that, unlike past viruses that are spread through the respiratory route, a significant proportion of coronavirus cases can be traced back to asymptomatic spread.

So the task force deliberated this. We've always told you that we will look at the facts and we will give people recommendations based on the best available evidence at the time. And once we saw that asymptomatic spread, we said, "Well, masks still aren't effective, from our point of view, at preventing you from catching coronavirus in a significant way." But we've always told people that they should wear masks, if they know they have symptoms, to prevent them from spreading to other people.

Well, now that we know about 25 to 50 percent of people are spreading asymptotically, we suggested people wear cloth facial coverings to prevent asymptomatic spread. You wear your mask to protect me. I wear my mask -- and Dr. Redfield mentioned it --

I've got my mask -- I believe I have mine on me, Bob. I carry mine around with me too. I wear my mask to protect you. We're six feet away, which is why I'm not wearing my mask to protect you now, and we also all have been tested. So that's why I'm not wearing mine now.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, but I'm right next to you,
so. (Laughter.)

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: Well, I'll put mine on if you want me to,
sir. But -- but again, important to note that if you're going to
wear a mask, it's not a substitute for social distancing. Still,
social distancing is the number one thing you can do.

Number two, it's important to know that you should practice good
hand hygiene and not touch your face, because you still can touch
a surface and bring disease to your face.

And number three -- this is the most important -- well, it's just
as important: Please, save the medical masks, the N95s for the
healthcare workers, because the cloth facial coverings are
effective, as far as we know right now, based on the best
available evidence, at preventing you from spreading disease to
other people. So no inconsistency there. It's just the
recommendation changed because the information changed, and
that's what you want from your public health leaders.

Q There's been the now argument made that you knew about the
asymptomatic transmission at the time that you said that and that
you were essentially misleading the public?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think it's (inaudible).

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: Well, I made --

THE PRESIDENT: He's answered that question.

SURGEON GENERAL ADAMS: The honest answer to you is: No, we did
not. That was a recommendation of the World Health Organization
and the CDC, and we gave you the best information we could at the
time.

So I actually, a little bit, resent that implication because I work hard to try to protect the American people, and we are always going to give the American people the best information we have available at the time. And we don't -- and we have -- we're humble enough to say, "Look, if we don't know, we're going to change. We're going to change our recommendations."

THE PRESIDENT: Just a wise-guy question, that's all.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Please, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, I wanted to ask you about the launch of the military satellite by Iran. I wanted to get your response to that. Do you see this an advancement of the missile program?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean the shot they took? Well, they say no. Okay? They say all sorts. "It was for television". Does anybody really believe that? They want to have better television in Iran, so they say.

No, we're watching Iran very closely. Very closely.

Q Are you concerned --

THE PRESIDENT: We know more about Iran than they do. Right now, we know more than they do. So we know all about it. We watched it; we knew it was going up. We followed it very closely. They say it was for television.

Yes, please.

Q Are you concerned, though, Mr. President?

Q Mr. President, I have a question for Dr. Fauci.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Finish up there, please.

Q Yeah, very quickly. Are you concerned that they see this as a potential vulnerability on the part of the United States? There is the outbreak --

THE PRESIDENT: See what? What is vulnerable?

Q Military readiness. The outbreak on the Roosevelt, the fact that you're consumed with dealing with coronavirus here in the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: Her, I read where various navies have had outbreaks of COVID. Look, we're in 184 different -- different nations right now. A hundred and eight-four -- the COVID.

No, we have a problem on -- that just shows you how rapidly it spreads. It started off with two sailors and then 10 sailors and 20, and now I hear it's 540, of which one has died and a few are very sick. But most of them are back in -- you know, in great shape. But we did -- we did lose one, and it attacked the lungs of that young person. And then we also had a number of that were quite sick, but they're all either better or getting better. But most of them are better for a long time already.

Okay, please.

Q Mr. President, can I --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, just one second.

Q Thanks, Mr. President. As you know, over the course of the past few weeks, there have been the closures of several meat-processing companies across the country in several states.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Is this a concern to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Are you going to increase testing in these facilities because the workforce is getting sick?

THE PRESIDENT: Look at South Dakota, how well the governor is -- yeah, look at South Dakota, how well the governor has done there. And, all of a sudden, you have a big spike in one location. And she's got that very much under control, as you know. But nevertheless, that was surprising. And they had a big one right near where you were yesterday, as I understand it. And -- so yeah, we're concerned about that.

Q Is the food supply --

THE PRESIDENT: They're closing one or two of the plants, actually.

Q Is the food supply secure?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, totally secure. It's in great shape.

Yeah, in the back. You didn't go.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. The Attorney General in the State of Missouri filed a law -- a law case against China --

THE PRESIDENT: Against China.

Q -- accusing it of lying and covering up about the origin of the virus.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Do support that? And do you call for international --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I haven't seen the case. I know about the case. He filed a case against China. I love Missouri, as you know. It's great. But I'm going to take a look at it. I actually know about it very much. I have to take a look at it. I have not seen the case, in terms of reading it, but I will be doing that.

Q But would you call for international investigation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to have to take a look. Oh, we're doing investigations. We're doing our own. But I do want to see and review that lawsuit. I'm sure that won't be the last one.

Yeah.

Q Mr. President, yes, I just had a follow -- a question for Dr. Fauci, if you don't mind.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, sure.

Q And I'm happy to ask you one after. So Jon had asked the President about Rick Bright, and he said he wasn't sure who that was, but I'm -- I'm sure you're familiar who he is since he was the head of BARDA. So this concern or an accusation he's raised that he was removed from his job because he protested widespread use of hydroxychloroquine, are you familiar with the situation? And do you feel like public health experts feel they are able to speak publicly or to speak out in opposition to the things?

DR. FAUCI: Here I am.

Q Yeah.

DR. FAUCI: So you don't feel like there's any concern among --

DR. FAUCI: No. No.

Q -- people at the NIH right now or in the public health community?

DR. FAUCI: At the NIH, absolutely not.

Q Dr. Fauci, knowing Dr. Bright and knowing what his gifts are as one of the country's leading experts on vaccines, are those gifts best suited at NIH rather than BARDA? What's he going to be doing with you?

DR. FAUCI: What is he going to be doing at the NIH?

Q So, first of all, are his gifts best suited to work with you rather than BARDA?

DR. FAUCI: No, I -- I can't -- I don't really think I can comment on somebody's relative gifts. I mean, he's -- he's going to be at the NIH, and he's going to be responsible, from what I hear -- again, this is what I've heard -- that he's going to be responsible for the development of diagnostics, which is very, very important.

The NIH is going to be involved in trying to develop new-generation diagnostics, which we feel is going to be very important for the future of being able to facilitate the kinds of things that now are sometimes problematic.

Q Are you concerned at all that he --

THE PRESIDENT: And why did you say that he has great gifts or gifts? What, do you know him?

Q Well, that's his expertise. I mean, I'm just looking at his résumé.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, but have you reviewed him? Have you -- have you studied him? Have you reported on him? You said, "his gifts." His gifts. I mean --

Q He's worked his entire career developing vaccines, including the --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that doesn't mean you have gifts. I know a lot of people, they play baseball, but they can't hit 150 in the Major Leagues.

Q Well, he helped develop the flu vaccine last year.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, but you talk about his great gifts.

Go ahead, please.

Q Mr. President, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Please, go ahead. You can go. Please.

Q Thank you, sir. I have two questions, one for myself and then one for a colleague of ours who cannot be here today because of social distancing.

THE PRESIDENT: From where? From where?

Q I'm with USA Today. First, the executive director of the National Association of Counties said today that the White House did not want to see money for local -- state and local

governments in the latest COVID assistance package.

THE PRESIDENT: And they didn't want to say what? What does that mean? Tell me.

Q I'm sorry?

THE PRESIDENT: What does it mean? Repeat it. Say it a little differently.

Q The executive director of the National Association of Counties said today that the White House objected to putting funding for state and local governments into the latest COVID assistance package.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, really? That's interest- -- is he a Democrat?

Q I do not know, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, check it. How can you ask that questions without knowing?

Q Okay. Well -- but what --

THE PRESIDENT: Check it out. You'll find out.

Q I'll check it out. But he says --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, what's the next question?

Q His question was --

THE President: You know, the numbers -- you know, the money we put into states, local governments, everything else? And they have to be responsible for their own finances. But you check it

out. Go ahead. What's the next --

Q Well, his point was -- he said that you felt like that this would somehow be a disincentive for states to open their economies. Is he correct about that?

THE PRESIDENT: How would he know what I felt? I never spoke to him. I don't even know who he is.

Q I'm asking you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: You don't know who he is either.

Q Yes, his name is Matthew Chase, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, it doesn't help me, and it doesn't help you.

Okay, go ahead, Jeff.

Q Mr. President, also a follow-up --

THE PRESIDENT: Do we want to keep going a little while longer or no?

Q Yes. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: You're not going to say, "Oh, he took questions all night long"?

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay? Right?

Q Yes, please. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, well, good. How many questions can you ask? Go ahead.

Q Also --

THE PRESIDENT: We -- we all have fun, because we're talking about something very important.

The main thing is I think we're getting to a lot of solutions. We never want this to happen again. We never want this to happen again -- what happened. And if it should come back in some form, we want to snuff it out very quickly before anything can happen.

And I personally hope it doesn't come back in the fall as a combination of the flu or not as a combination of the flu. But I think we learned a lot. And, you know, some of these questions are good. Some of them are ridiculous, frankly, but some of them are very -- I think some of them are very important questions. Very important. You know, when you asked Dr. Fauci about the right to speak -- if I let him speak, I'll let anybody speak. And we love him.

Let's go.

Q Mr. President, Senator -- Senator McConnell said today that he would prefer to see states that have high public pensions declare bankruptcy, rather than taking on more --

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I heard he said that.

Q -- federal bailout money.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- I don't know what he said. I'll have to call him and ask him.

Q That's what he said.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's okay. I'm going to have to look at it directly.

Q Would you agree with him on that? Or --

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you that. I have to see -- I want to base it on fact and reason. I want to see what he said -- you know, why he said it and how he said it. I'd have to watch him say it. But some of the states are not doing well, let's face it. And some are doing phenomenally well. A state where Mike was governor, Indiana -- I looked at their numbers. They have -- it's incredible what they're doing.

Some states are doing fantastically well. Iowa is doing great. You have -- you have states doing well, and you have some states that aren't doing well. We know the ones. I don't have to mention the ones that aren't doing well, but you do have states that are in trouble. And certainly they're coming back to talk to us. We'll see what happens.

Q Are you concerned -- are you concerned, sir, about the growing U.S. national debt as a result of these stimulus packages?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have a choice. Do we have a choice? Yeah. I'm always concerned about everything. We had to fix this problem. This was -- we were attacked. This was an attack. This wasn't just, "Oh, gee."

And this wasn't the flu, by the way. You know, they like to say the flu. Nobody has ever seen anything like this. 1917 was the last time. We were attacked. We had the greatest economy in the history of the world. We had the greatest economy -- better than China, better than any place. They will tell you that. I dealt

with them for a long time, and they will tell -- we have the greatest economy and we built it in the last three years, three and a half years we built it.

And then one day, they came and they said, "You have to close it." I said, "You got to be..." "These people right here, they said you have to..." They came into my office -- into the Oval Office, and they said, "We have to close the economy." I said, "Let's explain this. Explain this to me." The greatest ever in history and we had to close it.

Now we're going to open it again, and we're going to be just as strong or stronger. But you have to spend some money to get it back open. We saved our airlines. We just, as you know, finished up with the airlines. We saved numerous companies -- that are great companies -- that, two months ago, were having the best year they've ever had. Now, all of a sudden, they're totally shut out of markets.

There was a great spirit today. You know, the fact is some of the governors are opening up their states. And I saw it. I feel it. I don't know if you folks feel it. I feel it. There was a great spirit today. I don't know, the stock market was up today, I guess. It was up quite a bit when I just walked out here.

And I will say I feel much different today than I did two or three days ago, and I think the world does. We spoke to a lot of leaders. The world feels that we're really leading a path of optimism. The European Union is having a lot of difficulty. You know, you take a look at what's going on with the European Union; it's having tremendous difficulty.

But we're going to be back, and we're going to be back stronger than ever. We're going to be at a level, I think, that everybody is going to be look -- and they do; they look up to us. They want to know what are we doing. What are we doing with

therapeutics? What are we doing with vaccines? We're going to have those answers too. We're going to have them, just like we took care of ventilators, just like we're taking care of -- and, already, as we said 100 times, we had more testing than any nation in the world. We had more testing than all of those nations put together that we mentioned the other day -- all of them put together. And we're going to be, within two weeks, at a level that nobody has ever even seen before.

They've never seen where we are right now. You don't have to build new machines. You don't have to build new labs; we already have them. But some of the labs are even upgrading to be able to double and triple their capacity, in one case. No, we're at a level that nobody has ever been. We're going to be bigger, better, and stronger than ever before. So I'm not concerned about that.

Thank you very much.

END

7:48 P.M. EDT

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Subject: Memorandum on Providing Continued Federal Support for Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Facilitate Economic Recovery



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2020

April 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBJECT: Providing Continued Federal Support for
Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and
to Facilitate Economic Recovery

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 and territorial Governors under the Stafford Act in their responses to all threats and hazards to the American people in their respective States and

territories. On March 13, 2020, I declared a national emergency recognizing the threat that COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel (new) coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 ("the virus"), and the virus 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)). Considering the profound and unique public health risks posed by the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, the need for close cooperation and mutual assistance between the Federal Government and the States and territories is greater than at any time in recent history. This need remains as the United States continues to battle the public health threat posed by the virus, while transitioning to a period of increased economic activity and recovery in those areas of the Nation where the threat posed by the virus has been sufficiently mitigated. To provide maximum support to the States and territories as they make decisions about the responses required to address local conditions in their respective jurisdictions with respect to combatting the threat posed by the virus and, where appropriate, facilitating their economic recovery, I am taking the actions set forth in sections 2, 3, and 4 of this memorandum:

Sec. 2. One Hundred Percent Federal Cost Share. To maximize assistance to the Governors of the States of Alabama, Alaska, and Delaware 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 Alabama, Alaska, and Delaware 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 and Extension. The 100 percent Federal cost share for the States' and territories' use of National Guard forces authorized pursuant to this memorandum, and my prior memoranda dated March 22, 28, and 30, 2020, and April 2, 7, and 13, 2020, each titled "Providing Federal Support for Governors' Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19," shall extend to, and shall be available for orders of any length authorizing duty through, May 31, 2020.

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

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Subject: Pool Report #1

From: "LUCEY, CATHERINE" <catherine.lucey@wsj.com>

Date: April 23, 2020 at 12:52:23 PM EDT

Subject: Pool Report #1

Good afternoon from the White House. The president has no public events on his schedule. There is a briefing scheduled for 5 p.m.

The White House just provided this call readout:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed of the United Arab Emirates. The President and the Crown Prince discussed cooperation in the fight against the coronavirus, including the donation of coronavirus test kits from the United Arab Emirates to the United States. The President encouraged the Crown Prince to take steps toward resolving the Gulf rift in order to work together to defeat the virus, minimize its economic impact, and focus on critical regional issues. The President also thanked the Crown Prince for the strong partnership between the United States and the United Arab Emirates across a wide range of issues. The two leaders agreed on the importance of de-escalation in Libya and a sustained cessation of hostilities in Syria to enable political resolutions to both conflicts.

--

Catherine Lucey

WHITE HOUSE REPORTER



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Subject: Pool Report No. 8

From: Thomas Burr <thomaswburr@gmail.com>
Date: April 19, 2020 at 10:46:21 PM EDT
Subject: Pool Report No. 8

Passing on from the WH:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Republic of the Philippines. President Trump expressed his solidarity and offered additional assistance to the Philippines as it continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Both leaders agreed to continue working together as long-time allies to defeat the pandemic, save lives, and restore global economic strength. President Trump also expressed condolences for the loss of 11 Philippine soldiers recently killed while fighting Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Sulu. The two leaders also discussed how the United States and the Philippines can continue building upon the strong and enduring economic, cultural, and security ties binding the two nations.

--

Thomas Burr

Washington bureau chief The Salt Lake Tribune tburr@sltrib.com O: 202.662.873



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Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: ABC

Print: WSJ

Radio: NPR

EDT

11:00AM

In-House Pool Call Time

THE PRESIDENT has no public events scheduled.

Briefing Schedule

**5:00PM
briefing**

Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press

James S. Brady Briefing Room

On Camera

###

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Subject: Print pool report #6

From: Collins, Michael <mcollins2@gannett.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:47 PM

Subject: Print pool report #6

From Judd Deere:

Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. President Trump detailed the unprecedented steps his Administration has taken to fight the coronavirus in the United States and underscored the importance of continuing close cooperation with Australia during the crisis. The two leaders also discussed plans for reopening their respective economies and agreed to remain in close communication on this matter.

Michael Collins

White House Correspondent

USA TODAY

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Subject: In-town pool report #1

From: Niels Lesniewski <niels@cqrollcall.com>

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 12:08 PM

Subject: In-town pool report #1

Hello from the White House. I'll be your print pooler today.

The only on camera appearance by the president is expected to be at the briefing of the coronavirus task force, which is currently scheduled for 5 p.m.

For those of you not attending the briefing today, feel free to send questions my way, and I'll try to ask some of them.

--



Niels Lesniewski

Chief Correspondent, White House & Congress | CQ Roll Call

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Subject: Print pool report #9

From: Collins, Michael <mcollins2@gannett.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 6:08 PM

Subject: Print pool report #9

Two-minute warning for start of coronavirus briefing.

Journalists attending the news conference were given the usual temperature check beforehand.

Michael Collins

White House Correspondent

USA TODAY

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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 20, 2020

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

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

5:39 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much everyone. Thank you. Following the release of our reopening guidelines, governors across the country are looking forward to phase one and announcing plans for an economic resurgence; we're going to have a resurgence, too. At a time when millions of American workers and families are struggling with the financial consequences of the virus, it's critical to continue the medical war while reopening the economy in a safe and responsible fashion.

During this time, Americans must maintain strict vigilance and continue to practice careful hygiene, social distancing, and the other protective measures that we have outlined and that

everybody has become very familiar with.

We continue to be encouraged that many of the areas hardest hit by the virus appear to have turned the corner. For example, recent deaths are down very, very substantially. You can compare that with their peak not so long ago, and you have numbers of 30 percent, 25 percent. In Detroit, as an example, it's down by over 50 percent. Congratulations. And, in New Orleans, where they've done a terrific job, they're down 65 percent.

Thirty states have just one case or less per 1,000 people -- far fewer cases per capita, as an example, than Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Ireland, Switzerland, Singapore, Belgium, Spain, Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden.

My administration continues to press Congress to replenish the enormously successful Paycheck Protection Program, which has impacted 30 million American jobs. We hope to have an agreement very soon. And hopefully tomorrow, the Senate is going to be able to vote. A lot of progress has been made on that -- tremendous progress. It's a great plan. It's a great plan. It's helped a lot of people. So we hope to have a vote maybe tomorrow in the Senate.

And based on the record-low price of oil that you've been seeing -- it's at a level that's very interesting to a lot of people -- we're filling up our National Petroleum Reserves. Strategic -- you know, the Strategic Reserves. And we're looking to put as much as 75 million barrels into the reserves themselves. That would top it out. That would be first time in a long time it's been topped out. We'd get it for the right price.

We're also pushing for the deal to include an additional \$75 billion -- our deal; the deal we're talking about -- \$75 billion for hospitals and other healthcare providers. Many providers and their employees have taken a huge financial hit in recent

weeks. And visits, elective procedures, surgeries, et cetera, et cetera, were canceled. We think that they can all get back online. They'll get it done. The hospitals have really been fantastic. The hospitals, they've -- they've stepped up to the plate. They've really done a great job. We appreciate it so much.

For areas less affected by the virus, we've issued new recommendations about how to safely resume elective treatments. HHS has also distributed the first \$30 billion in direct payments to a million healthcare providers across the country. We've also invested \$1.4 billion in community health centers to ensure our most vulnerable communities, including many African American and Hispanic American communities, have access to the services and testing that they need.

Earlier today, Vice President Pence spoke with governors from all 50 states about our unified effort to defeat the virus. He had a great call. It was a great call -- very positive in, I'd say, every way. Prior to the call, we provided each governor with a list of the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the labs where they can find additional testing capacity within their states -- many, many labs. We're providing you with the list. We'll show it to you now if you need it. We'll give you the details. But hundreds and hundreds of labs are ready, willing, and able.

Some of the governors, like, as an example, the governor from Maryland didn't really understand the list. He didn't understand too much about what was going on. So now I think he'll be able to do that. It's pretty simple. But they have tremendous capacity and we hope to be able to help him out. We'll work with him and work with all of the governors.

Similar to the situation with ventilators, states need to assess their complete inventory of available capacity. Some states have far more capacity than they actually understand. And it is a

complex subject, but some of the governors didn't understand it. The governor, as an example, Pritzker from Illinois did not understand his capacity. Not simply ask the federal government to provide unlimited support -- I mean, you have to take the support where you have it, but we are there to stand with the governors and to help the governors, and that's what we're doing. And they have a tremendous capacity that we've already built up. And you'll be seeing that; we're going to be introducing a couple of the folks in a little while to talk about it.

I want to draw your attention to Governor Cuomo's remarks during his press conference today. He said: The President is right. The states' testing is up to the states to do, which will implement the test and logistically coordinate the tests. We have about 300 labs in New York and they do it. And they're great labs, actually. And it's my job to coordinate those 300 labs. I think the President is right when he says that the states should lead.

And the governor is really -- they're really getting -- they're getting it together in New York. A lot of good things are happening in New York. And I think the governor is going to come in to see us tomorrow. He's coming to the Oval Office tomorrow afternoon. Andrew is going to be coming in with some of his people. So we look forward to that.

The -- some of the articles that just recently came about -- if you remember, I put out a statement today. For a month, it was all "ventilator, ventilator, ventilator." That's all people could talk about was ventilators. And we did a great job with that. We built a lot of ventilators, to put it mildly. We have so many now that, at some point soon, we're going to be helping Mexico and Italy and other countries. We'll be sending them ventilators, which they desperately need. They were a position -- they were not in a position to build them themselves.

But we have thousands being built. Every state has had -- they have the ventilators. If they don't, we have almost 10,000 in our Federal Reserve -- our "stockpile," as they call it. And we did a great job with the ventilators.

Unfortunately, the press doesn't cover it -- other than the fair press. But -- so then you say, "Gee, I -- they need ventilators." We don't need ventilators. And that's -- that's under pressure we did that.

Nobody that needed a ventilator in this country didn't get one. And a story that just came out: "How the Media Completely Blew the Trump Ventilator Story." I'm sure you love to see that. That's by Rich Lowry, a respected journalist and person. "How the Media Completely Blew the Trump Ventilator Story" -- which, unfortunately, you did.

And here's another one that just came out. Kyle Smith. "The Ventilator Shortage That Wasn't." "The Ventilator Shortage That Wasn't" -- because we got it fixed. And we're also going to help the states, by the way, stockpile ventilators. So if a thing like this should happen again, they've got them.

The stories on testing are all over the place -- that we're actually in good shape. I'm going to have the Vice President and others speak to you about that, but we're in very good shape on testing and we're getting better all the time. You're going to see some interesting things.

I thought before I went any further though, I'd like to have General Semonite, who has done an incredible job, tell you where we are. You know we're still building beds and hospitals for people that need them. I guess the hospital business generally is getting pretty much closed out now, but we're -- we're creating a lot of space for people, just in case. And in some

cases, they probably will be using them.

But I thought the general -- he's been so impressive and done such a great job. I thought, on behalf of the services and on behalf of the federal government, he'd say a few words about what we're doing right now.

Thank you very much. General.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: Well, thank you, Mr. President. I just want you to know that, on behalf of all of us in the Department of Defense, our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those patients and all those victims that have been affected by this terrible virus.

And the President of Vice President talk all the time about the heroes, but when I've been out there, I've seen the doctors, I've seen the nurses, and all those that have worked very, very hard, and we're just -- we're just so proud to be part of this noble calling.

I -- for my team, I really made it very, very simple. I said there's three legs of this stool, and they all have "S's": There are "sites" -- in other words, hospitals; we've got to worry about "supplies"; and we've got to worry about "staff."

And so, right when Governor Cuomo called the President, about almost 30 days ago, he said, "I need some help" -- worrying about what could be tens of thousands of hotel room -- I mean, of hospital room shortages.

So the President and Secretary of Defense asked us to fly to Albany with a team. And on the way up, we understood how complex of a challenge this was, and we knew there was no way you can solve a complex catastrophe with a complicated solution. We needed a very, very simple solution to be able to then work with

HHS, to be able to work with FEMA, to be able to work with the Vice President's task force, and then to be able to power this down all the way down to the local level.

Some of the governors asked us to try to build a hospital in a parking lot or a field in two or three weeks. You can't physically do that. So what we said was, "Let's go to where there's an existing facility." And I'm going to kind of make this in two big pots: those that are either hotel rooms or college dormitories, smaller rooms -- or those that are in real large areas, like field houses or convention centers.

And we designed those standard facilities that could be either non-COVID or COVID, and then we got that approved here at the federal government to be able to then power that back down.

So we went to Governor Cuomo, and he said, right up front, "I love the concept. I need you in the Javits Center. I'm ready to start having you work tomorrow afternoon."

So when we flew back that afternoon, the next day, we basically built this standard design and then continued to be able to power it down, all the way down through the rest of the team.

So I just want to show you a couple of slides here. And we'll -- we'll kind of let you know where we're at right now, Mr President.

We had to do a bunch of assessments, so somewhere in the order of over 1,100 different locations we went to. And we work for FEMA, and we work for the President, and we work for governors and mayors. And we said, "What do you think your demand is going to be?" And based on a lot of the modeling that's been in this room here, we were able to understand when the peak curve was, but we also were able to understand where's the bed shortage.

So then, these 1,100 facilities -- right now today, sir, we're actually executing 32 different facilities. That's on the order of merit of about 16,000 beds. Eight of those are all done. We've still got a lot more to complete. And in the next week and a half, we're going to complete about 15 more facilities.

We've got some pending. Some mayors and governors are still wondering do they have enough bed space. And what's important here is we need a very agile plan. You can't do something three weeks ago and think that this is going to continue to stay, because this virus gets a vote. And this entire team -- the federal government has tried to be as agile as they can, supporting those states and those governors.

The beauty of the plan, though, was it doesn't have to be built by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. So we designed about an extra 52 facilities. We gave those to the governors. And I've got to be very, very laudatory to the governors. They then imposed and put a lot of those on the -- on the ground and did those themselves.

So let's go to -- I'm just going to show you some real simple pictures here. Go to the next slide, if you don't mind.

So this is an example of the Javits Center, and you heard the President talk about it quite a few times. This one, about 2,100 bed spaces. What you get is about an 11- or 12-foot-square cubicle. There is lights in there. There's a nurse call, so if you need to be able to call the nurse station. There are nurse spaces throughout. There's pharmacies throughout. This one started as non-COVID, but then we came back in and put in central oxygen. So everybody has oxygen right behind their bed to be able to take care of those patients. And again built this one, and about 1,000 patients treated.

Let's go to the next one.

I was up in Detroit with Governor Whitmer, and she walked us through and told us her intent. Here's what -- she needed to do this in the TCF Center. You'll see all the cubicles that are laid out. This is right in the middle of a convention floor where there might be like a boat show or a car show, and then we went in and we built 970 different capabilities there.

And again, a lot of great work by my guys in the Corps of Engineers and the rest of the mayors in the cities' team all pulling together.

Let's go to the next one.

This is called the McCormick Place. Governor Pritzker sat us down. He said, "Here's, kind of, our intent on what you want to do." Mayor Lightfoot walked us through, and we went into another large convention center. This is actually 3,000 bed spaces. This was a very, very large build. And got this one done in a relatively short time.

And then here's another one that kind of helps you understand the dynamic here. Go to the next one, please.

This is in Miami Beach, and I flew in to see Governor DeSantis. And my guys had kind of scoped out about 450 beds, and he said, "Todd, how long is it going to take to build this?" And we kind of said, "Probably until the 27th of April." And he went to his health people and he said, "How long do you need?" And he said, "The day we need this is the 21st of April." And I told my guys, "You don't have until the 27th. Figure out how to get it done by the 20th."

This is where you don't get to build to be able to have the perfect solution. You got to be able to get the mission

essential done. Lives are on the line here, and we've got to be able to get everything done to be able to save those lives.

And let's go to the last one here. This is one we're doing right now: Colorado. This is in Denver, in another gigantic convention center. You'll see all the different cubicles here to be able to just bring in that oxygen. Six-inch copper pipe that comes in, and it's all piped throughout the entire convention center. Six miles of pipe that's able to go in to be able to make that happen.

And in closing, I just want to be able to say that we are very, very focused in the Corps of Engineers on getting this done, but this is all about the team -- the federal team, the state team, the local team. The Vice President and his task force, and on a lot of the people sitting here, have informed us of how fast we need to go. And it goes back to, again, all the governors and the mayors to make this happen.

But I want to reiterate: President Trump has called me three times, and Secretary Esper has been on the phone at least one of those times, and said, "What else do we need to do to set you up for success? Is there any other knobs we can turn to be able to help you go?" And you think about that equation of those three "S's." I think that with the federal government and the mayors in the cities here, we've effectively taken that first "S" out of the equation.

And, sir, I can't tell you, of all the things I've done in my career, this is a noble calling to be able to step up and save American lives.

So, with that, sir, I thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Fantastic job. Thank you very much. Anybody have a question for the general while he's

here? Anybody? Because I think he's very self-explanatory. He's done an incredible job.

Jeff, do you have a question?

Q Are there are there more projects, sir, beyond the ones that you've just identified that you'll be working on?

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: So, about a week ago, we thought we were about capped at 26. What we're seeing is -- as I said, the virus gets a vote. We're seeing some of these curves are stretching out where we might have thought we only had five or six days. We actually have a couple weeks now.

Other ones, we're seeing exactly the opposite. So where we didn't think there was some -- and I'm not going to go into locations here -- but we are definitely get requests in. We've got six more requests in just in the last four or five days. They're a little bit smaller facilities and more remote areas, but our job, we still -- if we have enough time to go build, we want to get in there, do the assessment. We work for the mayor and the city and the governor here. And we can still get them done if the mayors and those elected officials make a fast enough decision.

THE PRESIDENT: You might say, while you're here, we're building -- the general is in charge of the wall on the southern border, and we want to build 450 miles of wall, and it's very much under construction. You might give them a little bit of an update: how are we doing with the wall.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: So, sir, I think the most important thing -- and you stressed this and Secretary Esper stressed this -- there's really several different priorities here. Our number-one priority in the Department of Defense and the Corps of Engineers is to protect the team, protect the force. No matter

what we do, we've got to continue to take care of our civilians and our service members out there.

And so every single thing we're doing, whether we're building for the VA, or we're building for Civil Works projects or for the Department of Defense, or building on the southwest border, we are going out of our way.

I talked to my commanders this morning; we've got over 4,000 contractors that are on the ground out there, and we've had no positives as of this morning, knock on wood. Same thing with my 400 employees. We're testing them -- not necessarily with the more stringent test, but with temperatures -- to be able to make sure that everybody is safe and everybody goes out of their way to do things the right way.

Construction is going very, very smooth. What we're seeing is our contractors are extremely focused. Now that we've -- we've got a good clear path -- both on the CBP program, as well as some of the DOD program -- we, I think, are very well postured. It's a very, very aggressive build, but we're well postured to be able to meet your expectations, sir, of 450 by the end of December 2020.

THE PRESIDENT: And we're over 160 miles.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: A hundred and sixty-four as of today, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: A hundred and sixty-four miles. And we'll have it done sometime pretty early next year. Very exciting.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: And you might just say one thing: the quality of that wall, in terms of its power for stopping people that

shouldn't be coming into our country.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: So, same thing. If you have a standard design that you trust in and it works very well -- I've got to pat on the back Commissioner Morgan; he was very adamant to continue to be able to make sure that it supports his agents.

And so we've got a design now that certainly does that. And then we've got a phenomenal contractor workforce that's in there, my Corps of Engineer employees. And it's going in well. We don't see any significant problems.

And I think it's also important to point out that there -- we want to do this the right way, so we try to balance this with environmental considerations that are out there. We're trying to do due diligence when it comes to anything to do with any of the citizens who are affected. We're trying to make sure that we're protecting all of the things that we need to protect and try to find that balance where we can both meet the administration's directive, while at the same time making sure we're doing this so that everybody gets a vote and everybody has a fair shake.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay? Yeah, please.

Q May I ask what you're doing regarding the availability of -- the recreation sites that the Army Corps of Engineers operates, how the access is going there and whether or not there are restrictions --

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: So, I'm an engineer. I take my guidance from some of these experts sitting on the bench over here. And when the President says, "Turn on America," what we initially did, like many, many other governors -- they, you know, shut down beaches, shut down cities -- I had a meeting with my commanders this morning, and as soon as we think it's safe, turn them back on.

I mean, parking out there at a rec area where you're 500 feet away from everybody in a camper is probably low threat. I will continue to take guidance from the administration. But when we get greenlights to continue to put our rec areas full up and let everybody go back out there and do things the safest way -- I mean, we work for the administration, so I want to do it safe, but I don't want to be the last guy that turns things on. Not at all.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Hi. Thanks for walking through some of the efforts. Do you have any -- can you say anything about whether or not there are any specific efforts in communities that are hardest hit, like black communities or Latino communities, communities of color? Are the Army Corps of Engineers doing anything that would be building any sort of temporary facilities for those communities?

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: So we basically key off what the city asked for -- the city and the governor. There are a couple specific areas that certain city mayors have asked us for. Again, I'm not going to go into details. But we basically -- if they go in and say, "I'm very worried about a hotspot on this side of town, or a specific community here," we will do -- and that's what the administration has charged to do -- is whatever we can do to be most responsive.

We just don't want ever to have an ambulance pull up to the back of a hospital and somebody says, "We're out of room. Go to the next hospital down." So that's where we're trying to make sure that that bed space is available. And, so far, everything we've built has been ahead of need. In other words, we're able to finish the building two or three days before it's needed.

Thank you, ma'am.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay? So, General, you have a choice: You can stay and watch -- watch these wonderful people ask us really nice questions -- or you can go back to building beds.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: Sir, I got a lot of building to do. I'm going to leave, if you don't mind.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. I had a feeling you were going to say that.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEMONITE: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Very impressive. That's an impressive job, isn't it? Seriously. That's really great. Thank you very much. He's a terrific gentleman. We have a lot of great people doing that kind of thing that they really have to get recognition for the incredible job they're doing, because I don't think anybody else could do it. Nothing like that. And that's on top of thousands and thousands of hospitals. And, you know, he built -- just in New York alone -- four hospitals and 2,900 beds, and got them done so quickly. Nobody -- nobody saw anything like it.

Fortunately, we haven't had to use too many of them, and that's okay. That's probably better news than having to use them all, right? Because a lot of good things are happening in New York and elsewhere.

So through the public-private partnerships and deregulation, the federal government has already made immense testing capabilities available, but some states need to take action to fully utilize it. To date, the United States has conducted millions more tests than any other country. You can add them all up and they don't catch us. And our numbers are doubling almost on a -- certainly on a monthly basis, but almost on a weekly basis. We're moving

very rapidly, far -- at a number nobody thought possible.

And we'll be doubling our number of daily tests if the governors bring their states fully online through the capability that they have. We have tremendous capability out there already existing. And we explained that to the governor today. Mike and all of the people explained it very strongly to the governors. They -- they really get it now, I think.

As the experts have explained, this capacity is sufficient to allow states to conduct diagnostic testing to treat patients as well as contact tracing to contain outbreaks and monitoring to pinpoint potential hotspots during phase one.

And there are some hotspots, and we have them pinpointed, and they can really cover it very, very nicely when they know exactly where to go and they're being told where to go. And also, these locations where they're going -- and some of them are federal; some of the governors didn't realize they were allowed to use federal locations. They are.

And we have a booklet of the federal locations. We can hold it up. I think you'll show that. Maybe we'll hold it up now.

DR. BIRX: I'll have the locations.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Okay, fine. But you see the number -- thanks. Thanks. These are all locations where they can go, which is really pretty amazing. This is just one page out of many.

DR. BIRX: Over 5,000, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Look. Look at this. This is -- these are all locations. (The President displays a document.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Five thousand labs.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a lot of locations. And they can all -- what is it? Five thousand --

DR. BIRX: Five thousand pieces of equipment.

THE PRESIDENT: So that's -- thank you very much. That's more than anybody thought, and it's already there. They have to use it. That's all. They have to use it. Some weren't aware; some were very much aware. Some weren't aware.

My administration also continues to support states with our massive operation to deliver masks, gowns, gloves, and other vital supplies. Admiral Polowczyk and his team at FEMA [FEMA] are really -- what a job they've done. And Pete, what a job he's done. They're calling on Easter Sunday to make sure everyone is okay. But they're using detailed data about supply chains to track the deployment of 1 billion pieces of protective equipment through private distributors every two weeks. So what we're doing is we're delivering a number that nobody anywhere in the world is delivering.

FEMA is working closely with Dr. Birx and the distributors to prioritize supply of resources where they are most needed. We're finding the location that they have to -- they have to get to that location. We have locations that are very important to get to and get to them fast. And that's where they're going. So we have a very strong priority.

This pandemic has reaffirmed the importance of keeping vital supply chains at home. We cannot outsource our independence. We cannot be reliant on foreign nations. I've been saying this for a long time. If we've learned one thing it's: Let's do it here, let's build it here, let's make it here. We've got the greatest country in the world. We've got to start bringing our supply

chains back.

Somebody, years ago, got this crazy idea: Let's build all over the place and let's have parts -- let's have a screw for a car delivered and made in a country that's far away, and let's have a fender made someplace else, and let's do this, and let's do that, and let's put it all together.

And I like making it right here in the USA. And I think we've learned a lot about that and especially maybe when it comes to pharmaceutical products.

We've also conducted major military operations, providing cities and states with additional medical capacity and the incredible 1,800 men and women from the Army Corps of Engineers. You just met with Todd. He's -- the job they've done is incredible. But we have nurses, doctors -- we have experts in every field, all over.

I spoke with Governor Cuomo, I spoke with Mayor de Blasio, I spoke with many of the other governors that I'm both friendly. And -- yeah, I think I'm friendly with just about all of them, if you can believe it. But I've gotten friendly with a lot of them. I've gained a lot of respect for a lot of the governors, both Republican and Democrat, during this process. Some really good people, some really good talent.

But we're sending a lot of our medical people, not only our construction people like Todd Semonite, but a lot of our medical people are being sent all over the country to different locations: New York City, New York State, New Jersey. I spoke with Phil today. He's doing a terrific job in New Jersey, but New Jersey got hit very, very hard -- Phil Murphy, governor.

From the day this crisis began, America launched a scientific mobilization of colossal size and scale. Someday they'll be able

to write the true story because nobody has seen anything like it. The fake news just refuses to cover it correctly, but that's okay. But the people are understanding, and that's what matters to me.

There are now 72 active trials underway across the United States researching dozens of therapies and treatments, and another 211 are in the planning stages. They're getting -- I mean, they're literally mobilizing on therapeutics and also on vaccines. A tremendous progress is being made on vaccines and, I must say, on therapeutics.

I mean, frankly, if I had my choice: Give me the therapeutics right now, because that would help people right now. And we have some things that I think are working. Not only working, but we have some incredible things that look like they could be an answer. But we'll know soon. Being tested. Working out right now.

This includes their therapies designed to attack the virus, as well as others that would hinder its replication, reduce the rate of infection, control the immune response, or transfer lifesaving antibodies from the blood of recovered patients.

And one of the incredible things that we've seen -- and Mike and I were talking about it before -- is the fact oftentimes somebody gets very ill from the plague -- okay? -- from this horrible scourge. And they get better and they recover, and the first thing they say is, "I want to give my blood." That's happened. The doctors have told me it's happened so much. "I want to give my blood. I want to give my blood." And they're doing that.

But tremendous things are happening. You'll be seeing about -- you'll be seeing that over the weeks. I think we'll be talking about it in the not-too-distant future.

Johnson & Johnson is very well along on vaccines. Again, the vaccines have to be tested. The therapeutics are for now, but a lot of good things are happening on both. But ultimately, we also hope to prevent infection through a safe -- a very safe vaccine. And that'll be a great thing when we have that. And we will have that.

So with that, I'd like to introduce Admiral Giroir and Brad Smith to discuss some of the incredible things that have been done. And we have -- they really are -- what they've been able to do in a very, very short period of time with -- and equipment. You're going to see equipment that you haven't seen before.

Any if you'd just come up, Brad. If you guys would come up, you could give us a little display of some of the equipment that we have and some of the things that are happening, having to do with testing, because "testing" is a big word.

Remember, it was all ventilators. And the reason it was all ventilators -- they said, "There's no way he'll ever be able to catch this one." And not only did we catch it, we are now the king of ventilators all over the world. We can send them anywhere. We have thousands being made a week. And they're very high quality. And that's -- it wasn't playing well, so then they said, "Testing. Testing. Oh, we'll get him on testing." Well, testing is much easier than ventilators. Ventilators are big machines that are very complex and are very expensive. You need real -- real -- you need a group of people that really know what they're doing. We took auto lines. We took a lot of different people, and now we've done that. But it used to be "ventilators, ventilators, ventilators." Not it's "testing, testing, testing."

And I think the Admiral and I think that Brad will show you some

things that you haven't seen that are, really, very spectacular having to do with testing. We're way advanced. Way advanced.

The list I showed you -- these are places you can go if you're in the states: 5,000 different machines. Five thousand. They're all over the country. And we have international also, but these are all over the country. But you'll see something now that's really eye-popping in terms of what they've done.

And they've done this under great pressure. They've come up with things under great pressure that are absolutely amazing.

So, please, if you would. Thank you, fellas.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Well, thank you, Mr. President. I want to talk about a couple things today a little bit different than I've spoken about before.

Since early March, we've really been focusing on two key concepts for testing. Number one: to assure and expand supplies in the U.S. market. This is really critical because we were talking about, really, a cottage industry with very minimal suppliers that we were asking to supply, over a two-week period of time, the normal production that would be for at least a year.

And as simple as a swab is: A swab is not a swab is not a swab. And we need to be very careful that when we put something in a person and tell them a test result, that it's really correct.

The second component is to secure sufficient supplies at FEMA during this time of peak disease where we could alleviate any mal-distributions within the state. This is the FEMA process of requesting and sending things out, and also supporting outbreaks.

So, starting many weeks ago -- starting in my office many weeks

ago, we assembled a multidisciplinary team of really incredible people: the medical side of the equation, which I represent; the laboratory side of the equation; high-tech side of the equation; logistics and operation.

And Brad Smith is -- his day job is Director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services -- an incredibly important component of our country's CMS system, building the future healthcare system -- but has done a really incredible job operationally and logistically in bringing everyone together.

We have focused on every piece of the supply chain that relates to testing, down to the most minute detail. And he's going to talk to you about some of that. But that started in the second week of March, was starting an airlift, because the only supplier -- the main supplier of swabs at that time was a place in Italy that was completely shut off because of the outbreak in Italy. So Admiral Polowczyk arranged gray-tail Air Force planes to go to Italy to bring millions of swabs back to secure. That's just how it started, and it's expanded since then.

The second part is we've been really marrying -- and this has been the beauty -- the logistics and supplies to the overall strategy. Two pieces of strategy: Number one, what is the overall testing strategy? And Dr. Birx has had just an elegant strategy in the past, but even more important in the future, when we make sure we take care of indigent populations and those most vulnerable. So the clinical, the contact tracing, and the monitoring of those who are at most risk.

We've also married it to the strategy -- and you've heard more than you know about -- you wanted it to know about it: that a small machine -- this point of care -- is good for certain things, but it's not going to test 5,000 people over a short period of time. So the small machines, the medium machines, and the large machines and how to contextualize them.

And the third thing, before I give it to Brad, which is very important and it's really critical, is coordinating the research, the epidemiology, and the FDA regulatory process. And why is that so important? When we started five weeks ago, if we wanted to test this many people with the technology we had, we would have used about 80 percent of the Strategic National Stockpile in PPE just to do testing.

We needed an innovation. That innovation was to be able to test out of the anterior nose with a completely different kind of swab. It sounds very mundane, but if you don't do that, you can't get the testing to scale. That allowed us to really go to widespread testing last week, moving to polyester swabs, which is going to open up millions of new swabs onto the market. But that's a regulatory, science, and innovation step that had to co-occur with this.

And with that, I'm going to let Brad talk about some of the details that he has really shepherded over the past weeks in ways that have truly been amazing and incredibly impressive to me.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thanks, Admiral.

MR. SMITH: Well, thank you, Mr. President. It's an honor of a lifetime to be here and serving in this way. I've been working under Dr. Birx's and Admiral Giroir's leadership over the past several weeks to help increase the supply of testing across the United States.

As you all know, there's really three parts that you need to make the test work. First, you need the machine -- which as Dr. Birx will share more, and the President spoke to, we have a very, very large number of those across the United States. It's about making sure that we're taking advantage of them.

The second part of the testing is making sure that we have the collection supplies to actually be able to collect the specimen. And I'll talk a little bit more about that. And then the third part is making sure that you have the materials you need to support the machine to ensure that you can actually process the test once it gets to the lab. I'll let Dr. Birx talk more about the machines here in a second.

But as you'll -- as you'll see across the United States, we have a tremendous number. They range in variety. So we have some very small machines that do point-of-care testing. They may do, say, 50 to 100 tests a day. We also have other very large machines; they can do several thousand -- process several thousand tests a day.

On the collection supply piece, I'll talk through a couple of different kinds of collection that can be done. So for the nucleic acid test, which are the tests that are currently being done today, you generally need a swab of the nose. To do that, you need the swab, you need the collection tube, and you also need the transport media that it can be transported in. We have a large -- very large number of swabs already in the country, but we have secured an additional 3 million in production that will be ramping up over the next several weeks.

One company located in the northeast -- we're going to be using Title 3 of the DPA to help them build four new production lines. They are currently the largest swab producer in the country, and this will help them ramp up their production tremendously to over 20 million additional swabs a month.

A second company located in Ohio is currently the largest Q-tip maker in the country. We're helping them convert their line from making Q-tips into making swabs. They are actually ramping up production, starting this week, of swabs, and will be ramping up to over 10 million production -- 10 million per month. So, in

total, that's over 30 million new swabs that will be coming just over the next handful of weeks.

The second piece is on the collection tubes. The collection tubes, we've been partnering with Oak Ridge National Lab, a Department of Energy lab based in Tennessee. They have very unique and sophisticated injection molding manufacturing capability, and they are in the process of ramping that up to create collection tubes, and they will be ramping up to over 40 million collection tubes a month here over the next several weeks.

In addition to the swabs, we believe that as testing progresses, there'll be other types of testing, like serological testing that will occur. And those samples have to be collected in different ways. So, many times, some of those tests will require a finger prick. So, in addition, we've secured over 17 million lancets, which is what you use for the finger prick, so that we have those available, as well as 17 million alcohol swabs, which is what you need to clean the finger before you do the finger prick.

In addition, although folks are not talking about this much yet, we also believe that businesses across the country may want thermometers to test folks as they come into the office, and so we've secured over 650,000 infrared thermometers that states and businesses will be able to access, to be able to test folks as they come into work. So I think we've made tremendous progress on the collection side.

In addition to the collection side, we've been very focused on ensuring that the labs have what they need. To process a specimen in a lab, you really need two things: You need something called an extraction kit, and you need something called a PCR test. In order to be able to fully process a test, you need both of these things. Sometimes these things come together, and sometimes they come separate.

For some of our point-of-care tests, including the Abbott and Cepheid tests, they come together. They are ramping up production rapidly to over 3 million of those tests per month. And these are tests that did not exist even a month ago.

The second piece is on some of these large machines. They also sell complex cartridges that come together. One of the big manufacturers has already ramped up production from about 1.6 million a month to more than twice that already. And that's already occurred.

In addition to when they come together, they also sometimes come separate, and we see significant ramping up of production there from our manufacturers through our public-private partnerships. And we're seeing both several million more over the next few weeks of both the RNA extraction kit, as well as the PCR test kit.

So with that, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Mike, please. Thank you, Brad.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. And I share your admiration for this remarkable team -- from the Army Corps of Engineers, to Brad, to Admiral Giroir. They're doing a remarkable job every day.

As the President mentioned, today we had our weekly conference call with governors across the country -- states and territories. And I was able to convey to them our appreciation for the leadership that every governor of every state and territory has provided.

Thanks to their leadership, thanks to the extraordinary cooperation of the American people -- despite the fact that more

than 770,000 Americans have contracted the coronavirus, and our hearts grieve for the more than 41,000 Americans who've lost their life -- the truth is that, as we stand here today, we are slowing the spread. And as the President reflected, we continue to see steady progress in less cases, lower hospitalizations, even in hotspots around the country. And we commended America's governors for their efforts in that regard.

We are preserving our healthcare capacity, as the General with the Army Corps of Engineers reflected. At the President's direction, we've built a great number of hospitals around the country, but the utilization rate has been fairly low because of the mitigation efforts, the cooperation of the American people, and we have not had to use them. And that, as the President said, is very good news.

In a word, we thank the governors across country for taking actions -- decisive action to save lives and to make a difference. I reminded them that we're all in this together, that we have one mission, and we're one team.

And we spoke on the conference call about last week's Guidelines to Open Up America Again. And we heard from governors across the country about the progress that they were making. We spoke to governors from New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Michigan about their ongoing efforts at social distancing and addressed questions that they had about needs that have been spoken up already in this -- in this presentation today.

In addition, as we promised last week when we spoke to governors on Thursday about the guidelines to open up America, our team presented every governor in the country, states and territories, with a memorandum detailing laboratory capacity and all locations of laboratory equipment for diagnostic tests that can perform the coronavirus test.

We also provided, as Dr. Birx will elaborate in just a few moments, literally a map about where these -- these testing devices are located. And I must tell you, Mr. President, I was very impressed at the way governors, as we speak, are scaling testing in their own states using these resources.

Our hope is that by providing this information, and by our team that we've enlisted out of Walter Reed that's contacting every one of the laboratories in the country to find out what their needs are and to encourage them to activate those testing machines to do coronavirus testing, that we'll continue to be able to support a state-managed effort to increase testing even more.

But a few highlights: Governor Doug Ducey announced antibody testing for 250,000 health professionals this week and first responders -- a partnership between the state and the University of Arizona.

We spoke today about Governor Gavin Newsom's announcement that he set up a task force for testing at five to seven high-capacity testing hubs, in partnership with UC San Diego and UC Davis, to increase testing in high-capacity labs around the state of California.

We heard from Governor Ron DeSantis, Mr. President, about -- about the efforts of the state of Florida. I believe he said that, at this time, Florida had conducted 275,000 coronavirus tests, and they are in the process of a major expansion of statewide testing, with the goal of opening up additional sites and using the Florida National Guard to test residents at nursing homes and long-term care facilities in Florida.

We also recommend -- recommended, today, to every governor's attention the public health website that the state of Florida

established, which has useful information on a county-by-county level about where testing is happening.

Mr. President, as you said, governors are utilizing testing assets. They're managing and deploying these resources as they see fit. And at your direction, we're going to continue to work very closely with them.

Other governors that we spoke with included Governor Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan. There are 13 new or expanded coronavirus drive-through testing sites in Michigan that her team has stood up with the Michigan Primary Care Association. And we -- and we assured her that we would continue to work, as Brad and Admiral Giroir are literally working around the clock, to make sure that they have the supplies to support all of that testing.

As the President said, Governor Hogan -- who always begins our conference calls as he's chairman of the National Governors Association -- expressed appreciation for last week's Guidelines to Open America Up Again and his appreciation, on behalf of all the governors, for the list of laboratories in each individual state.

He did raise the issue that we had included on the list Department of Defense facilities that have laboratories and machines, and also other federal facilities, many of which are in Maryland. And I was able to assure Governor Hogan and every governor on the call that we will make all of those laboratories available across the country, to every state, as the need for testing capacity continues to scale.

And so this is one more step where you see the Army Corps of Engineers; where you literally see thousands of military doctors and nurses on the streets of New York and other cities around the country. This is one more step where we, literally, as the President said from early on, are leaving no stone unturned, and

we are delivering a whole-of-government approach for our states as they -- as they deal with the coronavirus outbreak.

Governors are continuing to expand testing, and we assured them that we're going to continue to work in every way to support their efforts to do just that.

And I will say again, as we've said before, as Dr. Birx comes up to explain to you what we delivered to the governors today: We told the governors once again, today, that by our best estimates, we have enough testing capacity today for every state in America to go to phase one if they meet the other criteria of 14 days of reduced cases and sufficient hospital capacity to prepare for any eventuality that may occur. Once again, we have enough testing capacity for every state in America to go to phase one.

But we assured the governors today that we're going to continue to work around the clock to expand the testing capacity, support supplies, and to support their efforts to encourage social distancing and the very mitigation efforts that the American people have been doing that have brought us the progress that we see all across the country today.

With that, Mr. President, I'll just let Dr. Birx describe what we distributed today.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mike. Deborah?

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. Vice President and Mr. President. I just want to show you a couple of additional slides, but also to remind all of Americans that we still have a significant number of cases, both in the Boston area and across Massachusetts and Chicago. To really -- that our hearts go out to those cities as they continue to struggle with coronavirus and the consequences at the hospitalization -- to all the healthcare providers that are on the frontline.

We wanted -- so these are just an illustration of the different types of equipment that are out there, describing them both as low speed but quick turnaround time, to high speed and taking three to four hours to actually run 100 or more tests.

And so the equipment range from those different -- and that's why there's 5,000 of them, as noted by the President in this list.

We wanted every governor and every state and health laboratory director to have a clear understanding of the full capacity within the state -- both for the capacity, but also where technical assistance and additional supplies may be available. And we were proud to put the federal labs on that list because the military and the VA have stepped up every step of the way to provide support both in testing and care. We have many military members on the frontlines, and I'm sure the military would offer their facilities to the governor of Maryland or any governor who wanted to utilize those to expand testing.

So the next slide -- I'm just going to run through them very quickly. So every governor not only received the Excel spreadsheet with the complete list of the equipment and the ZIP Code of the location and the laboratory to really be able to create a mosaic of laboratories of the high-speed and low-speed equipment together to meet the needs of their clients, depending if they're drive-through or hospital needs.

So this is what Florida looks like. Next slide. This is what Louisiana looks like. Next slide. Maryland, with significant capacity. Next slide. Virginia, with significant capacity throughout the state. Next slide. New York -- obviously a lot of capacity in New York City, with overlapping capacity. It's important to know where this is, because then hospitals and labs can support each other when they need surge capacity. Next slide. This is New Jersey. Next slide. Pennsylvania. Next

slide. Massachusetts. Next slide. Ohio. Next slide. Oklahoma. Next slide. Washington. Next slide. I think that's Wyoming.

So we wanted to show, both in states that have large populations and in states that have lower populations. You can see that, in general, the number of machines match their population.

And we're working with the Walter Reed group and the American Society of Microbiologists and all the lab directors to really create a web of understanding of what the capacity is currently, what the capacity can be, and how the federal government can support them in developing their strategies linked to the overarching federal strategy of testing, as outlined in our guidelines.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. That was great.

Q A question for Dr. Birx, please.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Dr. Birx, the University of Southern California and the L.A. County Public Health put out a report today that suggests that the penetrance of the virus is as much as almost 40 times what it was believed to be; that as many as 442,000 people in L.A. County may have been infected, which suggests two things. It suggests that you have a lot more people out there who would be spreading the virus, but it also suggests that the case fatality rate is more in line with the 2017-2018 flu than what we've seen in some other areas of the world. But I'm wondering if you've seen that and what your thoughts were.

DR. BIRX: So we're looking at all those studies very

carefully. And I think you will remember, over the last three weeks, I've been talking about the level of asymptomatic spread and my concern about asymptomatic spread. Because with flu and other diseases, when people are sick, it's easy to contact trace. When people are not sick and shedding virus, you have to have a very different approach -- a very different sentinel surveillance approach, a sentinel monitoring approach, which we outlined in the guidelines. And it's why the guidelines took that very seriously. We knew that was unique for respiratory diseases, but it was because we were very concerned about the level of asymptomatic.

And, if you remember, we used to -- we talked about younger age groups may have more asymptomatic disease, and your asymptomatic disease may decrease with your older age groups, and that your symptomatic disease might increase with -- with age groups. This is still our working hypothesis. We have no data right now, still, to support that. But it's these kinds of studies that help that. We know that New York and Detroit and other cities are very interested, which we want to also support them in -- testing for frontline responders, first responders, and healthcare workers because we think their exposure may have been the greatest.

What we don't want to do -- and I'm just going to do another 30 seconds on testing. These tests are not 100 percent sensitive or specific. And I'm going to go over this over and over again. So if you have 1 percent of your population infected, and you have a test that's only 99 percent specific, that means that when you find a positive, 50 percent of the time it will be a real positive and 50 percent of the time it won't be.

And that's why we're really asking people to start testing in among the first responders and the healthcare workers that have had the greatest exposure, because that's where the test will be most reliable. And then, when we have the luxury, we can go out

to broader and broader communities. But this has been the fundamental question to begin with and has been persistent.

And we will emphasize to the American people again: This is a highly contagious virus. And we don't know, by looking at someone, whether they have preexisting conditions or not. And so all of us, as far as protecting others, must continue to do all of the recommendations to ensure that when we are in an asymptomatic state, we're not passing the virus to others.

Q I have a question for you as well. The governor of South Carolina announced today they're going to open some stores with restrictions. But they just told my colleague, Natasha Chen, that they have not achieved that criteria in the White House Guidelines about the downward trajectory for 14 days. So shouldn't they not be reopening stores today?

DR. BIRX: We have asked every governor to follow the guidelines, just as we've asked every American to follow the guidelines put out by the President. But each of the governors can decide for themselves whether they've reached specific guidelines in specific areas.

I had a question, I think, on Saturday about Jacksonville and their beaches. So I did spend about five hours going to every state website, and I will tell you that the -- Florida's Department of Health website is extraordinary. And this is what every department of health should have. Because when you go to that website, you can see that most of the cases are in southern Florida -- in the Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County area. And if you look in Jacksonville, they had less than 20 cases per day and less than 800 in four weeks.

And so these are the kinds -- when you inform the public and give them the information that they need, then they can make decisions along with the local government and governors.

So I'm not going to say specifically with South Carolina because I don't know their specific website right now, and I don't talk about data unless I've seen it myself. But I know from Jacksonville that they had less than 20 cases a day.

And so this is how we need to start informing the community. These websites are critical. It's by ZIP Code and it's by county. They can see cases, they can see cumulative cases, they can see new cases, they can see hospitalizations, they can see mortality, they can see age groups of mortality, and they can see where every testing piece is.

This is how we have to inform the American public, and this is where the American public will develop confidence in each of their counties and local governments.

Q Dr. Birx, I was hoping you can comment -- the Vice President mentioned that there's enough testing capacity right now to proceed to phase one. But what about phase two or phase three? Is there -- are there enough machines or enough cartridges, are there enough regents right now for this sort of reopening the administration is envisioning taking place over the next month or two?

DR. BIRX: So you can see the current machine outline. And you can see that both of these gentlemen have par- -- prepared to have everything ready for phase two, and preparing it now for what we will need in the future. And I think that's what you saw with the ventilators. That's what you're seeing with PPE. It's not just for today, it's for tomorrow. And as our federal planning is not just for this instant -- it's making sure that we meet the needs of this instance, but we're planning for 30 and 60 and 90 days ahead.

THE PRESIDENT: Admiral, go ahead on that one, if you'd like.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: I -- I would just agree with Dr. Birx completely. We are ready right now to enter phase one. And we are ramping up all our capabilities across the board, not just to achieve what's necessary for phase two, but two x, three x, four x, so that we will be absolutely over prepared when the nation is ready to go into those phases.

Q President Trump?

THE PRESIDENT: And, by the way, not everybody agrees that we have to do that much testing. We're going maximum. You understand. There's some people that don't want to do that much testing, but we're going maximum. We're going to the outer limits. And I think that's the way, probably, it should be.

Jeff, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, to return to a topic that you opened the press conference with on oil: U.S. crude futures today went below zero, went into negative territory.

THE PRESIDENT: It went negative.

Q Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: Like interest rates, they go negative.

Q Does that make you want to see Saudi Arabia and Russia and OPEC Plus do more to reduce supply?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's for short term. Much of it has to do with short sellers, much of it has to do -- if you look a month into the future, I think it's at \$25 or \$28 a barrel. So a lot of people got caught. They got caught. And there are a lot of people that are not too happy because they got caught.

So if you take a look at it, you'll see it's more of a financial thing than an oil situation, but -- because you take, I believe, in a month or so -- in other words, go a little bit out, it's at \$25 and \$28 a barrel. So it's largely a financial squeeze, and they did get squeezed.

Q So would you like to see, however, Saudi Arabia and other countries make more cuts?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we've already done that, where Saudi Arabia is cutting back, Russia is cutting back, Mexico is cutting back, and the OPEC Plus -- they call it OPEC, plus additional states -- are cutting back.

And you know, the problem is nobody is driving the car anywhere in the world -- essentially, 184 nations. Factories are closed and businesses are closed. And so, all of a sudden -- we had really a lot of energy to start off with, oil in particular. We had a lot. And then, all of a sudden, they lost 40, 50 percent of their markets. So it just stopped.

So it's going to be picking up, and the energy business will be strong. But they cut back. It could be 20 million barrels, but it's, let's say, 15. That was between Russia and Saudi Arabia.

But this had to do with the squeeze, and it was a very tough squeeze. A lot of people got --

Q You don't think they need to do more right now?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they got to do more by the market, to be honest. Look, same thing over here. If the market is the way it is, people are going to slow it down or they're going to stop. That's going to be automatic, and that's happening.

Yeah.

Q Mr. President, I -- on criminal justice reform and these SBA loans: I got an email earlier this morning from a fella in the northwest who owns a supply business. And he has a felony on his record -- non-violent felony -- in the past five years, which under SBA guidelines makes him ineligible for one of these PPP loans. So he has now had to let go 50 employees, many of whom are criminals trying to get back into society.

I don't believe there's anything in the CARES Act that would restrict somebody --

THE PRESIDENT: If you give me the name of the company and his name, I'll have that checked out, John. I'll do that.

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: It's a friend of yours?

Q No, not a friend of mine. No. Just somebody who contacted me out of the blue.

THE PRESIDENT: Why did he call you? He called you to say he's a criminal and why did he get a loan? Or what -- what's --

Q Because he says he wanted to apply for an SBA loan and couldn't, and wondered how that squared --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. If you give me the --

Q -- with your drive to criminal reform.

THE PRESIDENT: -- name, I'll look into it.

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: I'd like to look into that, okay?

Q I have a question --

THE PRESIDENT: Kaitlan, go ahead.

Q -- on reopening of the country. If these companies that open, and they have employees come back to work and they get sick, will these companies be liable?

THE PRESIDENT: Which companies are you talking about? Under what?

Q Any companies that open. Manufacturing -- any kind of company that opens and employees go back to work --

THE PRESIDENT: So we have --

Q -- and they get sick, will the company be liable?

THE PRESIDENT: I'll give you an answer to that. I'll give you a legal answer to that when we look it up. But we have tried to take liability away from these companies. We just don't want that because we want the companies to open and to open strong.

But I'll get you a legal opinion on that.

Q Who would be liable?

THE PRESIDENT: I'll get you -- well, that's what I'm saying. I'll get you a legal opinion on it.

Q You -- you guys haven't discussed that yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody has discussed it, no. But we will now.

Q Have any business executives voiced concern to you about being liable, potentially?

THE PRESIDENT: Not one. Not one.

Q They didn't say it --

THE PRESIDENT: Not at this point.

Q -- on the call last week?

THE PRESIDENT: But we're going to look, because they have talked about general liability. So I'll get you a specific answer from the lawyers. Okay?

Go ahead. Please.

Q Thanks, Mr. President. I want to follow on oil. When you were talking earlier, you were talking about the PPP deal, and then mentioned the SPR in the first stimulus package, even though you had announced that --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I'll bet you know the price of oil right now, don't you?

Q I do. Do you know the price of oil? (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I do. I actually do.

Q It's negative 37 dollars.

THE PRESIDENT: Of course, nobody has ever heard of negative oil before, but it's for a short term.

Q In your opening remarks, you were talking about the PPP

deal, and then you mentioned the 75 million barrels of oil that -
-

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q -- you previously had said you wanted to purchase.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You weren't able to get funding for that in the first deal. So I'm wondering, are you --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, at the price you're talking about, you don't need funding. They pay you. See? You know? Because right now --

Q You could if you can go get it in the next 24 hours --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if you can get it. That's true. If you can get it.

Q So my question -- my first question is: Are you asking for that funding as --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, at a minimum, we'll let --

Q -- part of the PPP deal?

THE PRESIDENT: -- people store. So we'll store it. We'll use it as storage and charge for it. But people need storage desperately, and we have massive storage under the petroleum --

Q So you're not going to make it a requirement of the PPP interim funding deal?

THE PRESIDENT: It's not a question of requirement. If we could

buy it for nothing, we're going to take everything we can get. The only thing I like better than that is where they pay you to take the oil, but that's a short-term squeeze. You understand that. So it's -- I don't think you're going to see that.

But, no, we'd like to have Congress -- this is a great time to buy oil. And we'd like to have Congress approve it so that we could -- instead of just storing it for the big -- usually the big companies. Because I think we have 75 million gallons right now, capacity. That's a lot. It's -- we've been building it up over a period of time, but that's a lot: 75 million barrels.

So we're going to get -- either ask for permission to buy it, or we'll store it. One way or the other, it will be full.

Okay, please.

Q Mr. President --

Q And then, Mr. President -- oh, sorry.

THE PRESIDENT: No, go ahead. You -- you can finish up. We'll go right to you.

Q Yeah, some senators, including Senator Cramer, have called on you to stop Saudi oil shipments that are on the way right now. Is that -- you can do that under Section 232. Is that something that you would consider?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we'll look at it. I heard just as I'm walking into the room. We certainly have plenty of oil. So I'll take a look at that. Okay?

Yes, please.

Q Two questions: First, on testing. The second on the SBA loan program. When will you -- or will you, in fact, invoke the DPA to force that company you mentioned to ramp up production of cotton swabs?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we don't -- we really don't need it. We use it. We go up. And I've used it a lot. But we use it and then sometimes all they have to do is see it coming.

Do you want to talk about that, Admiral? Please.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: I think this is -- I don't think any of us knew very much about the DPA, but there's sort of a force side of the DPA where you force a company to do something. But there's a second side of it which is really a hand up.

The company we're talking about have done -- has done everything to support this effort and have ramped up production. I'm on the phone with them multiple times a day. This is the hand up. This is the government coming in and saying, "How can we help you expand your lines?" There's no asynchrony here at all.

So this is the hand-up side of the DPA, which is exactly what these small American heroic companies need. They don't need to be forced. They're all in. Their employees are all in.

MR. SMITH: So a point of clarity, because --

THE PRESIDENT: And we don't want to embarrass people either.

Please, Brad. Go ahead.

MR. SMITH: So today, we were on site -- or there were folks on site with that company, finishing out what their capital projections will be in order to be able to ramp up these additional four lines that I spoke about. The company will then

turn in a white paper to the DOD that will then help move the process forward. But it's actively in process.

Q And I fully understand that the need is enormous, but on March 24th -- March 21st, the administration promised 27 million tests by the end of March. So far, roughly 4 million people have been tested. So where are the other 23 million or so tests? Did they not materialize? Are they in the pipeline? Help us understand that discrepancy.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: So, since I was the one who said that, let me explain where we are -- where we were. So I was getting my information -- it was correct information -- about the actual tests that are in the marketplace. So if you want to use those metrics, there's been over 40 million, quote, "in the marketplace." But we have an end-to-end issue that we needed to deal with, and that's what we've been dealing with: the swabs, the transport media.

If we don't have people utilizing the machines the way Dr. Birx is talking about -- we have some of our main platforms that are only 10 percent being utilized. You can have a lot of -- you could have a lot of tests in the market, and those are correct numbers, but if the machines aren't utilizing them and they're not organized at that level, then they're not being -- they're not being utilized to its fullest. And that --

THE PRESIDENT: So, Admiral, you meant if the machines were utilized, that would be the number.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: You would -- you would have a lot of those millions of tests already being done. I think Ambassador Birx has estimated that we have another million tests a week, just on one platform, that could be -- that could be done if the machines were utilized more fully.

Q I have a question for Admiral Giroir.

THE PRESIDENT: For this?

Q For Admiral Giroir. You say that there are -- and the Vice President has said this and Mr. Smith said it -- that there will be enough tests in place for phase one.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: There are.

Q There are? The question is: What's the standard of testing that you now have the capability for? Is it to test people who are only very ill? Is it test people who have the sniffles? Is it test people who come in just because they want to get a test? I mean, what is the standard here for the testing?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: It is the guidelines, but I tried to be a little specific about this on Friday, and we all tried to.

Number one is, you need to test everyone who's symptomatic, right? And you need to over test them, because --

Q How -- how symptomatic?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: We're talking any symptoms that would be consistent with COVID, right? So -- and there's a wide range of symptoms. You want to test them and you want to over test. And we talked about the approximate metric with Ambassador Birx -- fully supports -- because we -- you know, this is a good metric that you want to get about one positive for every 10 tests. Then you know you oversample.

Second -- and this a really important part of the strategy -- is because so many people are asymptomatic, there is no way that you can test enough people to pull one asymptomatic out of 300 people in the population.

So the strategy with -- Ambassador Birx offered -- and, you know, I talk to epidemiologists around the country, and they go, "Wow, I wish I would have thought of that" -- is to really focus on the vulnerable population where we know that the asymptomatic rate could be much higher than the rest of the population. And we are going to be focus- -- and this is what my office does in during normal -- normal times -- focusing on the underserved populations, particularly in inner cities and urban areas. They have a higher rate because overcrowding, they can't telework, they're subject to a lot of comorbid conditions. Nursing homes: We all know about nursing homes, and there is both symptomatic and asymptomatic spread. And finally, some of our indigenous populations in the Indian Health Service.

So this is a very, very important layer that most of the models and people don't talk about, because that's where we're going to pick up the asymptomatic carriage. And when you do that, that's when you focus on track and trace.

Q So just a quick follow-up on that. If we have enough tests right now for everyone to go into phase one, why is the governor of Maryland having to get half a million tests from South Korea?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: I don't know what the governor of Maryland is doing in South Korea, but there is excess capacity every day. If he wanted to send 30- or 40,000 tests to LabCorp and Quest, that -- that could be done. That could be done tomorrow.

Q But he was saying they didn't have enough that they needed to start to up their testing capacity and make it adequate. So they had to have these late-night meetings --

ADMIRAL GIROIR: I think -- I think we're seeing all across the country --

Q -- with South Korea.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: -- that in the states that have been hardest hit, their capacity -- not only their capacity, their testing far -- far exceeds South Korea. And they've been able to do that on a relatively straightforward basis. I don't know what the governor of Maryland -- we talked to him today. He didn't bring that up today.

Q Haven't you spoke to him about this?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: We were on the governors' call today.

Q But you haven't spoken to him, like, personally on this?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, Mike.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We spoke to Governor Hogan today. I'll follow up, because I heard there was an announcement today about that he had acquired some tests from overseas.

Maybe we could put the slide back up that showed the number of facilities, just in the state of Maryland.

And part of our process -- and I don't know when the governor placed the order from South Korea. Wouldn't -- I wouldn't begrudge him or his health officials for ordering tests. But the capacity of all the different laboratories and the number of machines that are across Maryland was part of what we were communicating today, including federal facilities. NIH is in Maryland. There's Department of Defense facilities.

And what we assured the governor then, and we assured all the governors, is that we'll open up all of those facilities.

But, John, back to your -- your point: There was one other

element of that; that's the phase one testing. And I can't -- I can't really describe it as well as the doctors here. But it's the contact tracing piece. We really believe that states that meet the criteria of 14 days of cases going down and proper hospital capacity, if they test people that have symptoms, and if they deploy resources to vulnerable populations -- nursing homes and other designated vulnerable populations where we believe the threat of serious outcomes from the coronavirus is real, then we also, today, informed the governors that we will be deploying CDC teams to every state and every territory in the country to assist them in contact tracing.

Governor Jared Polis raised a very good point about the legislation the President is currently negotiating on Capitol Hill. He recommended that we make sure that the new bill, that has some \$25 billion in testing resources, also cover contact tracing expenses by states. We assured him our administration strongly supports that. We communicated that to the Secretary of the Treasury and the rest of our negotiation team, and we'll be pursuing that.

But we were able to tell every one of the governors that we will be deploying teams, we think of 10 or 12, for a start, from CDC to reside in all of our states and territories to supervise and work with contractors and others to do the kind of contact tracing.

So it's: Test people that don't feel well and may have the coronavirus. Keep a careful eye and monitor your vulnerable population. And when you come across a case, have a team on the ground that can do the immediate contact tracing and testing. And that's how we -- that's how we restrain and contain the spread of the coronavirus during phase one. And, frankly, it's the beginning of the structure for how we contain the coronavirus going forward.

THE PRESIDENT: And take a look at that map. The governor of Maryland could've called Mike Pence, could've saved a lot of money. Look at all of the -- look at these different places. And that's Maryland, right there. So, could've saved a lot of money, but that's okay.

Q So you're saying he didn't need to go to South Korea for those testing kits?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think he needed to go to South Korea.

Q Have you guys not spoken to him about this?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he needed to get a little knowledge, would've been helpful.

Q Mr. President, on the SBA loans, do you think it's right that major corporations, major institutions -- like the Ritz restaurant chain, like Harvard University -- apparently got a lot of money under the CARES Act, money that was supposed to be earmarked for small-business owners. Do you think that's fair?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I know one thing: I didn't get any. That's for sure. I didn't get any. We'll look at individual things, and some people will have to return it if we think it's inappropriate.

Q But should the criteria be changed so that that money goes to people who need it the most?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's being done by great professionals. It's being done by banks and, as you know, community banks all over the country. They're -- that's what they do. They loan money, and they're supposed to do it according to not only criteria, but according to what we think is

right. But if somebody got something that we think is inappropriate, we'll get it back. Okay? Good -- good point.

Please. Go ahead.

Q Yes. Another -- a different question about South Korea. There are reports that you are personally negotiating with President Moon the terms of reduction of U.S. forces on the Korean Peninsula, and that there are four scenarios involved. Can you confirm that? And, if so, what is your desired outcome?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that South Korea -- I had a great talk with President Moon. He's a friend of mine. I congratulated -- he had a wonderful election victory. I was very happy about that. He was -- as you know, just recently.

No, we are negotiating for President Moon and for South Korea to help us monetarily, because we -- as you know, we have 32,000 soldiers there. That varies from 28- to 32,000 in South Korea. And we think that, before I came aboard, they paid very little, if anything. So we're defending a wonderful nation -- a nation that we have great relationships, but we're asking them to pay for a big percentage of what we're doing. It's not fair. So, it's not a question of reduction; it's a question of will they contribute toward the defense of their own nation.

We're defending nations that are very wealthy. South Korea is a very wealthy nation. They make our television sets. They make ships. They make everything. And I give them great credit.

We've been defending them for many, many decades, as you know. Many, many -- over eight decades. And I've gone to them in the past. Last year, I went to them and now they're paying a billion dollars a year. And I went to them again, I said, "Look, I'll be back because that's just a fraction." And again, the

relationship is great, but it's just not a fair relationship.

We renegotiated the trade deal and made it a much more equitable deal than it was in the past. It was a terrible deal. It was done by Hillary Clinton. It was a terrible deal. The new deal is a much more equitable deal -- that's on trade.

But, on the military, I mean, we're paying for the military for -- to defend another nation that's 8,500 miles away. And they're not the only one I'm talking to you, by the way, as you know. I won't go into names, but I've done this. Nobody talks about it, but I think it's appropriate. I think the taxpayer of our country -- taxpayers -- want to hear these things. And so now they're -- they've offered us a certain amount of money, and I have rejected it. I just said, "It's just -- look, you know, we're doing a tremendous service." We have a wonderful feeling and a wonderful relationship with each other, but we have to be treated equitably and fairly. And so that's where it is right now. And what's going to happen, I can't tell you, but we'll find out fairly soon.

But I congratulate the President, who is a friend of mine -- I congratulate President Moon on having a terrific victory.

Please. Yeah.

Q Thank you, sir. A question for you about Governor Cuomo's visit, and then also a question for Dr. Birx, if you'll let me.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q The New York governor, along with the National Governors Association, in the past, have called for aid to be unrestricted. As a lot of state and local governments see their revenues drop, are you open to the idea of unrestricted aid or do you want it to be pandemic-specific?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to be talking about that in phase four, as you know, which will start very shortly. And that has to do with infrastructure -- hopefully infrastructure, because this country needs infrastructure.

We spend all this money in the Middle East -- \$8 trillion. Eight trillion -- trillion, with a "T" -- dollars in the Middle East, but if you have a pothole in a highway someplace, they don't want you to spend the money to fix it. How stupid have we been in this country? How stupid have we been? And that's changing rapidly -- you know that; you've seen that -- including things like negotiating with friends.

But when we are helping friends, friends should reimburse us for the cost. I mean, why should we be defending nations for free? We're defending a nation for free. Now I'm getting a billion dollars a year, and we're -- we'll be getting -- we were offered much more than that, but I turned it down. So that's where we are with that.

As far as -- as far as the other is concerned, look, we have to be smart in this country. We've been taken to the cleaners by every -- and I mean with allies, not just with the enemies -- with allies. We've been to -- frankly, the allies have taken us much more so than the enemies. The enemies we don't do business with, right? The allies, we do business with.

And whoever made these deals, whoever made these contracts -- in many cases, we didn't have a contract. Like, we didn't have a contract -- we didn't have a trade deal with China. They came in and they took \$500 billion a year for many years. But anywhere from \$200- to \$550 billion dollars a year out of our hides.

Now we made this great trade deal. Unfortunately, that was a number of months ago. And it's a great deal. They're paying 25

percent on \$250 billion. They're -- a lot of things are happening. They're going to have to purchase \$250 billion worth of goods, including farm product -- up to \$50 billion.

So, a lot of good things are happening, but then what happened with China was the plague hit us, right? The plague. That was after. This was long after we signed the deal. The plague hit us, so I'm not happy about that.

Okay. John, please.

Q A question for Dr. Birx, if I could. Dr. Birx, a question on the virus itself: As it passes from patient to patient, it mutates. Over time, have you picked up any indication that it has become less virulent? Have you picked up any indication it has become more virulent?

DR. BIRX: You know, that is an excellent question because we watch that all the time, particularly with RNA viruses, to really track its adaptation to humans. I mean, you're really asking: Has this virus become more adapted to humans and more able to spread, or is it becoming less adapted to humans and less able to spread?

We don't have any indication that it's less able to spread, and we'll have good analyses that will come from -- obviously, the Roosevelt had its incident with a virus outside of the United States, and we'll be able to look at those parameters. And the DOD and the military have done a great job in really ensuring the health of the sailors, but also ensuring that this -- these questions can really be asked and answered.

We have extraordinary evolutionary molecular biologists in this country, all around the United States, and they're looking at this very question. And a lot of the work that we've been doing and a lot -- you'll see a lot of work happening with testing in

New Mexico and testing in other states. They have extraordinary molecular biologists that are evolutionary biologists, and they'll be able to look at that, both in -- both in New Mexico, that it may have lower transmission rates, and compare that to New York, that has maybe 10x the transmission.

But it's an excellent question, and it's something that will be able to be answered by what we see in the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: John, what a good question that was. Where did that come from?

Q You know, once in a while, I pull one out of my hat, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: No, that's very impressive.

You know, when Senator Schumer wrote a letter a couple of months ago, and he said, "You should use admirals and generals." I said, "Well, that's where we've..." First of all, we have our Vice President, who has been incredible, but we have the admirals, we have the generals. And I was just talking to the admiral inside, just before we came out. I said, "Did you go to Annapolis?" He said, "No sir." I said, "Oh, that's too bad. That's too bad. Where did you go?" He said, "I went to Harvard." "Oh, that's okay too, I guess." Right?

So he went to Harvard and he was a great student at Harvard, and he's doing a fantastic job. And this young gentleman was very, very successful. But he wanted to help the country. He wanted to come into the country, and we appreciate it very much. He was a big success -- a big, big success.

Let's do here, and there next. Okay? We're all set. Good. Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I was hoping you'd talk about your meeting tomorrow with Governor Cuomo that you mentioned. Is there a reason he is coming all the way down here?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. He wanted to, and --

Q Is that sort of travel essential?

THE PRESIDENT: We, believe it or not, have -- we get along. Okay? He was very generous yesterday, in particular. Said we did a, quote, "phenomenal" deal. I don't know if anybody wrote that, but he said that, and I appreciated it. Because it's not about me; it's about these people and thousands behind Mike and the admiral and all of the other people that are working with us.

I mean -- and you see it. Look, I don't understand when -- when I see polling and approval ratings for the job. I mean, this group should get a 95. It really should. And we're really helping the governors a lot. And the governors call me -- the ones I know, or the Republicans, but the ones I know -- and they say, "It's incredible, the job you're doing." Again, not me -- the job this group is doing.

And you sit here -- I just -- I'm watching from -- from the corner, and I'm just saying, "Boy, it's incredible stuff." When you watch the general get up -- General Semonite -- and talk about -- boom, boom, boom. You don't see that. You don't see that. When you hear the admiral speak about the testing -- how good it is -- and yet people don't like to say it.

But remember, it was all about ventilators a month ago. Ventilators, ventilat- -- then we fixed it. You don't hear about ventilators. Where is the ventilator -- Jeff, you haven't asked about ventilators recently. What's going on? What about ventilators? We're helping other countries now, because they

can't have -- they're very hard to come by, and they take a long time to make -- like, years. It's incredible, the job they've done -- that our people have done and also private companies have done.

You know, you talk about the act. We -- we don't like to use it unless we have to. Because, a lot of times, just the fact that you have it gets you everything you need. So, you know, we don't want to embarrass any of the companies. But we have used it on a number of occasions and it worked. But it works just as well before you have to use it, because they don't want to be embarrassed, and I don't want to embarrass them because they've done a great job.

Please, go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think, right behind you. I promised. I can't -- I cannot tell a lie. So, I mean, we'll get you next. Okay?

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: We'll get you next.

Q Are you talking to her or me?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. You.

Q Me. Okay. Well, thank you so much, Mr. President. My question -- I have two questions. The first one is on testing. You talked about the idea that first it was ventilators, and now it's testing. You seem to maybe possibly be implying that talking about testing is a personal attack on you. Can you explain why you think testing -- talking about

testing is a personal attack, given that the access to testing has been an issue for a long time? There's bipartisan outcries still today that there is not enough testing. Why do you think it's a personal attack on you?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's not bipartisan. It's mostly partisan. But more importantly than mostly partisan, it's incorrect. You have -- you have the experts. Look at these maps. I mean, you have the maps with so many different locations.

In the case of, as an example, Governor Hogan. He didn't really know. He really -- it was very obvious to any of those listening on the call today -- even though you weren't supposed to be on it, I'm sure that some of you were or representatives were. He really didn't know about the federal laboratories. Would you say that's correct, Mike? He didn't know.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: He didn't know they were available.

THE PRESIDENT: He didn't know. And Mike doesn't like to get into this stuff. He's less controversial than I am. But he didn't know about it. And if he did know about it, he would've been happy.

No, we've done a really good job on testing. Now, with that being said, we have tests coming out perhaps over the next two weeks that will blow the whole industry away. Now, a lot of people love the Abbott test. So do I. You know, the Abbott test is great because it's, boom, it's -- they touch, they put it in, and in five minutes you have -- the problem is that doesn't do massive numbers like the big machine. But the big machine takes a day, takes a day and a half, you know, with delivery and everything else.

But we have tremendous testing -- tremendous testing

capability. Remember this: We've tested more than any country in the world by far. In fact, I think I read where if you add up every other country in the world, we've tested more.

But remember this: We're dealing in politics, we're dealing with a thing called -- November 3rd of this year. Do you know what November 3rd represents, right? You know better than anybody in the room. November 3rd of this year -- it's called the presidential election. No matter what I do, no matter where we go, no matter how well we do, no matter what, if I came up with a tablet, you take it and this plague is gone, they'll say, "Trump did a terrible job. Terrible. Terrible." Because that's their soundbite. That's the political soundbite.

They know the great job we've done. But with all of that being said and -- and also, there is a thing that somebody could talk to if they want, but I don't want to bore you with it. Not everybody believes we should do so much testing. You don't need so much. We're talking about maximum. Maximum.

The reason that the Democrats -- and some others, maybe, because they don't know -- they want maximum because they want to be able to criticize. Because it's almost impossible to get to the maximum number, and yet we've been able to do it already.

But with that -- and you'll be seeing this over the next -- I think over the next couple of weeks or sooner. We have a test -- if it comes out, it'll revolutionize the whole world of testing. It'll be -- it'll be something really special.

So I don't view it as personal at all. What I do say is, it's something that's not fair to thousands of people that have done such a good job.

Q The second question I had was about your language and how you approached the coronavirus at the beginning. I interviewed

someone who said that his family got sick. They went to a funeral in mid-March, and they said mainly because the President wasn't taking it seriously. He said, "If the President had had a mask on, if he was saying we should stay home, then I would have stayed home. Instead I had family members..."

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I know. I understand.

Q I just want to -- and he said his family members were sick because they were -- they were listening to you. Do you feel like or are you concerned that downplaying the virus maybe --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- got some people sick?

THE PRESIDENT: And a lot of people love Trump, right? A lot of people love me. You see them all the time, right? I guess I'm here for a reason, you know? To the best of my knowledge, I won. And I think we're going to win again. I think we're going to win in a landslide.

But just so you understand, you're talking about March, right?

Q Yeah. But this is --

THE PRESIDENT: And yet -- excuse me. Excuse me,

Q -- this is an American that's concerned.

THE PRESIDENT: I know. I understand. And yet, in January, a certain date -- you know the date better than I do -- we put on a ban of China, where China can't come in. And before March, we put on a ban on Europe, where Europe can't come in. So how could you say I wasn't taking it seriously?

You know, I put on a ban on China before anybody in this country died. I put on a ban. And so you tell me. Nancy Pelosi was having -- she wanted to have a street party in Chinatown in San Francisco at the end of February. That's a month later. And then they tell me it's only a political talking point. But you feed into it, because you're too good a reporter to let that happen. Really, you are a good reporter. You're too good a reporter to let that happen.

Remember this: So at the end of January, I put on a ban. People that were in that room will tell you -- I think there were 21 people -- I was the only one in the whole room that wanted to do it. Fortunately, I was the one that counted for that purpose. We put on a ban because I was reading bad things about China. World Health Organization should have told us, but I was reading it, with or without them. They should have known. All they had to do is read it. They didn't have to even be there. But they tried to cover up for China -- World Health covered up for China.

Q But you did hold -- you held rallies in February and March.

THE PRESIDENT: But -- no, no. Wait. But you can't say this. Look, I put on a ban. In other words, I stopped China from coming to the United States. I stopped Europe from coming into the United States, long before the March date that you're talking about. So people should say I acted very early. That was a very hard thing to do. Doing that was a very hard thing. I didn't want to do that.

Q But you held rallies in February and March.

THE PRESIDENT: But I did it because I thought -- and Dr. Fauci said that, by doing it, President Trump saved tens of thousands of lives. So I did take it very seriously.

Q You held rallies in February and in March. And there are some Americans saying --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know -- I don't know about rallies. I really don't know about rallies.

Q You had about five rallies in February.

THE PRESIDENT: I know one thing: I haven't left the White House in months, except for a brief moment to give a wonderful ship, the Comfort --

Q You held a rally in March.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Did I hold a rally? I'm sorry I hold a rally. Did I hold a rally? Let me tell you, in January, when I did this, you had virtually no cases and no deaths, and yet I put it on. So how could I not?

Why was Nancy Pelosi -- right? -- Nancy Pelosi is holding a street fair. She wants a street fair in San Francisco, in Chinatown, to prove -- you know what the purpose of it was -- to prove that there's no problem. Many other politicians did the same thing. They wanted to prove --

Q So you (inaudible) --

THE PRESIDENT: While I was -- no, of course not. No, no, no. I've been -- people are amazed at how early I acted, and I did act early. With that being said, it's very hard to say, "Let's close down the greatest economy in the history of the world." I had it closed down. I, and everybody else that works with me, and 300 and -- close to 350 million people built the greatest economy in the history of the world: best employment numbers, best stock market numbers, best numbers in virtually every category. Even good manufacturing numbers. The previous

administration said manufacturing was dead for our country. Even great manufacturing numbers.

And you know what? I did that, and somebody walked into my office and said, "Sir, you're going to have to close down the economy. You're going to have to close the country." But you know what I say to you? We're going to rebuild it. And we're going to rebuild it better, and it's going to go faster than people think. I built it once; I'll built it a second time.

Please.

Q Mr. President, thank you. Chanel Rion with One America News.

THE PRESIDENT: Please. Go ahead.

Q We have -- in going back to the topic of friendship and bipartisanship -- Americans -- with the exception of Pelosi, Schumer, and even Romney -- Americans have seen an unprecedented chapter of bipartisanship and cooperation on the political landscape. On a personal note, what has been the most significant signal that your relationship with Democrats, below the leadership level, have changed for the good of America?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's a great question, because there is bipartisanship. Look, we're getting the Paycheck Plan. It's -- already \$350 billion was approved, essentially unanimously. And we have another 250, which I think you're going to find out is going to be a higher number than that. Okay? I won't say it now, because I don't know if they've released it or not, but it's going to end up being more than \$250 billion. And this is going to small businesses and it's going to workers.

And these are really bipartisan plans. It's a great thing that's happening. So I think the fact that we're able to do all of this

in a bipartisan way is great.

Now, the tax cuts that the Republicans did, we had no help from the Democrats, so you can't say that's bipartisan. But this whole thing, getting our country back -- and, you know, Nancy Pelosi has been -- she's very nasty. She, you know, wasted a lot of time with the impeachment hoax. It was a total hoax. It went nowhere. But -- and that was not good. And Schumer, I guess, did the same thing, but he sort of accepted it. He just did what he was supposed to do, and he didn't do very well with it. But, you know, that was not appropriate. That was a bad thing for our country. But it was fine. I mean, I understand the game.

They have a little bit of a majority. So they say, "Let's do something and let's try and stir it up." But they wasted a year. They wasted tremendous -- we could've been doing things that would have been great for our country. They could have been looking into China. They should have been looking into China, as an example. A lot of people are blaming the Democrats for wasting all that time, because it was during that period of time, as you know, that it was fomenting.

But I think we've had a great spirit of bipartisanship, in a certain way. It's not -- I wouldn't say we're going to set records throughout the world, but things are happening that are very good. The country is coming together. And I'll tell you what: The people are coming together. The people are really coming together. I think you're going to find that our country is much more unified.

I do think that the press, the media, foments a lot of this -- a lot of anger. I really believe it. It foments tremendous anger. For instance, I'll be asked a tremendously hostile question from somebody, and then I'll answer to -- in a hostile way, which is appropriate; otherwise, you look foolish. Otherwise, it looks like just walk off the stage and

bow your head. I can't do that. You know, I just can't do that.

But a lot of these questions that are asked from certain networks are so hostile, and there's no reason for it. There's no reason for it. We are in a war. This is a World War Two, this is a World War One -- where, by the way, the war essentially ended because of a plague. That was one of the worst ever. They lost almost 100 million people. But we're in a big war.

And I'll say one thing about -- because I think it's important. The last person -- I did it early, but I was the last person that wanted to close down one of the great economic -- you can't call it an experiment, but everything, I guess, in life is an experiment. So I say experiments. But one of the great economic stories in history. I'm the last person who wanted to do it.

But we did the right thing, because if we didn't do it, you would have had a million people, a million and a half people, maybe 2 million people dead. Now, we're going toward 50, I'm hearing, or 60,000 people. One is too many. I always say it: One is too many. But we're going toward 50- or 60,000 people. That's at the lower -- as you know, the low number was supposed to be 100,000 people. We -- we could end up at 50 to 60. Okay? It's horrible. If we didn't do what we did, we would have had, I think, a million people, maybe 2 million people, maybe more than that.

And you look -- there's one country in particular that decided, "Let's wing it. Let's just keep going." They are being inundated with death. Now, if you take a look at some of the hospitals where -- one of them I knew growing up in Queens, and I'm looking at the bodies laying in hallways, being brought into refrigerated trucks. The trucks -- these massive trucks, bodies going in. Multiply that times 10. It's not sustainable.

And many of the people that have this theory, "Oh, let's -- you know, maybe we could have just gone right through it," I was -- I was somebody that would have loved to have done that, but it wouldn't have been sustainable. You can't lose a million people. That's more than -- that's almost double what we lost in the Civil War. I use that as a guide. Civil War: 600,000 people died. So it's not sustainable. But it could have been much more than a million people.

I mean, if you took a number and cut it half, and half, and in half again, you'd end up at 500,000 people -- okay? -- if you want to make a very conservative guesstimate. Five hundred thousand people is not acceptable. Is that a correct sort of an analogy?

So, I mean, I see it all the time by friends of mine, by people that I have great respect for: "Well, we could have done this. We could have done..." And remember this: When we say 50 and they compare 50 to the 35 of the flu -- because it averaged 35, 36,000 over a 10-year period. It's a lot. Who would think that? But we're not talking about with the flu. That's just -- it just goes. We're not locking ourselves in our units. We're not locking ourselves in our apartments and not moving and not touching anybody, and just saying -- you know, the world. In this case, we are. And we're still going to lose between 50 and 60.

But if we just kept it going on a normal basis, which is really the only standard that you can compare it to with the flu, because that was a normal basis. You get into an airplane, you travel to Florida, you go to Texas. You go wherever you're going.

But, in this case, if we didn't do anything, the number wouldn't be 50 to 60,000. The number would be a million people dead. It

would be a million-five, a million-two. Maybe 700,000. It would have been a number in -- like that.

Because -- because -- and it's so important because I see so much: "Oh, well, you know, they can..." You can't compare it, because I'll tell you what: The people of this country, what they've done -- they've gone out of their way -- what they -- the way they've lived, it hasn't -- it's not -- it's not great. It's terrible. Maybe the first three days, and then all of a sudden -- you see what's going on; they want to get going. And I get that fully.

But I just say this: If we would have done that, we would have lost anywhere from a million to more than 2 million people. Now, with all of the death that we've seen -- and 50- or 60,000 people, heading toward -- right now it's at 40. But 50- or 60,000 people; probably over 50, from what I see. But that's with our guard up. If we took our guard down and just said, "Okay, we're just going to keep this open," we would have lost millions of people. Can you imagine?

Look how bad it looks now, when you look at the bodies. When you look at Hart Island in New York, where they have the mass grave, and all of the things that you see. Can you imagine if we had the guard down, if we didn't do anything and we just said, "Let's ride it out"? It would not have been sustainable in any way. It would have been an atrocity.

So we've done the right thing. We've really done the right thing. And the people that have worked so hard -- and dangerously. I'll tell you -- again, I say it, but I watch those doctors and nurses and medical people running into those hospitals, and they don't even have their gear on. Forget about gear, whether it's great gear or not. And we're bringing in the best gear in the world. But they're running in with open everything, and they're pushing. I mean, the job -- they're like

warriors, the job they're doing.

But if we didn't do the moves that we made, you would have had a million, a million and a half, 2 million people dead. So multiply that times 50; you're talking about -- you would have had 10 to 20 to 25 times more people dead than all of the people that we've been watching. That's not acceptable. The 50,000 is not acceptable. It's so horrible. But can you imagine multiplying that out by 20 or more? It's not acceptable.

So it's a very good question. I appreciate it. We'll see you tomorrow. We'll see you tomorrow.

END

7:18 P.M. EDT

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing | April 21, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2020

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

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

5:46 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much everyone. We had a very big day today. I want to start by saying that our love and prayers of every American continue to be with our fellow citizens who have lost a cherished friend or a family member to the virus.

Amidst our grief, we're making tremendous strides against this invisible enemy. Thanks to our aggressive campaign against the virus and the extraordinary talent of our medical professionals, our mortality rate remains roughly half of that of many other countries and one of the lowest of any country in the world. And that's due to a lot of -- a lot of things, but our medical professionals have been incredible.

Since we announced our "Guidelines on Opening Up America," as we

call it -- we say "Opening up America," and we add the word again [sic]. I think we can add the word, probably, "again." But that's what it is: We're opening up America again.

Twenty states representing 40 percent of the U.S. population have announced that they are making plans and preparations to safely restart their economies in the very near future. So that's 20 states; that's about 40 percent of our country. They're moving along pretty quickly. Three announced today, as you know, and they're going to be doing it safely. They're going to be doing it with tremendous passion. There's -- they want to get back to work. The country wants to get back to work.

A short time ago, the Senate passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act, with additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, hospitals, and testing. A lot of money for all of them, especially for our workers and our small businesses.

My administration has worked aggressively with Congress to negotiate this critical 482-billion-dollar funding package. We reached a deal that includes \$382 billion in crucial small-business support to keep workers on the payroll; \$75 billion to aid hospitals, which really need the aid, and very badly -- I'm very proud of that; and \$25 billion to support coronavirus testing efforts.

I urge the House to pass the bill, and they're going to be voting on it, I imagine, very -- very soon.

I think while we're here, and so he's a very busy man, as you know -- Secretary Mnuchin -- he's going to be running back, so I thought we'd do -- we'll talk about that now, and we'll take a couple of questions on that. And then he can go and start phase four, as the ink is drying.

Probably, they'll be voting tomorrow in the House, but shortly. Shortly. And I think we have tremendous support.

So, Steve, please come up. Say a few words. Steve? Yeah.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you for all your work with us to get this passed. I'd especially like to thank Mitch McConnell and Chuck Schumer and the entire Senate for passing this. I'd also like to thank Kevin McCarthy and Nancy Pelosi, who have been working with us around the clock as well, and our Chief of Staff, Mark Meadows, who was also very instrumental in this.

Let me just comment. We've had tremendous support for the PPP. This gives us another \$310 billion for the PPP. We look forward to the House passing this tomorrow and being up and running quickly after that.

This also gives us \$50 billion for disaster loans, EIDL loans. That will allow the SBA to make \$300 billion of disaster loans, all for small businesses. It also allows us, as the President said, more money to hospitals and an unprecedented amount of money for testing. And again, I think we understand hospitals - - not only the hospitals that have been impacted by coronavirus, but more importantly, many hospitals that have been shut down, and making sure that the doctors and nurses get money.

Now, let me make just one more comment on the program. We have over a million companies that have received this with less than 10 workers. So there is very broad participation in really small business. I will comment there have been some big businesses that have taken these loans. I was pleased to see that Shake Shack returned the money. We will be putting out some FAQs. There is a certification that people are making.

And I asked people -- just make sure: The intent of this was for

business that needed the money. We'll put out an FAQ. But again, the intent of this money was not for big public companies that have access to capital.

THE PRESIDENT: And not for Harvard, you might say, Steve.

Q So, Mr. Secretary, are you going to request that those other companies -- because obviously Shake Shack was not alone in being a big company that got money in this. Are you going to be asking --

THE PRESIDENT: I'm going to request.

Q You're going to ask them --

THE PRESIDENT: I'm going to request.

Q -- to return that money?

THE PRESIDENT: Yep.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Yeah, I would --

THE PRESIDENT: Harvard is going to pay back the money. And they shouldn't be taking it. So, Harvard is going to. You have a number of them. I'm not going to mention any other names. But when I saw Harvard, they have a -- one of the largest endowments anywhere in the country, maybe in the world, I guess. And they're going to pay back that money.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: And I just -- I just want to clarify --

THE PRESIDENT: They shouldn't have taken it.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: -- because certain people on the PPP may have not been clear in understanding the certification, so we will give people the benefit of the doubt. We're going to put an FAQ out,

explain the certification. If you pay back the loan right away, you won't have liability to the SBA and to Treasury. But there are severe consequences for people who don't attest properly to this certification.

And again, we want to make sure this money is available to small businesses that need it, people who have invested their entire life savings. We appreciate what's going on, and they're hiring people back.

Q And how are you going to ensure that those small businesses -- the small restaurants, cafes, bars -- who did not get the money last time around are going to get it this time?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, as I said -- you know, there are million -- a million of these companies that did get it, that are very small. We're working with the banks. We're extremely pleased that the small banks did great. Twenty percent of the loans were made by banks of a billion and less; sixty percent by 20 billion and less. And the big banks also. We want everybody to participate. There's now a lot of money back in the program, and we look forward to all these small businesses getting access to funds.

Bret, it's great to see you here.

Q Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Do you know, estimate, how long this is going to take? That other pot of money obviously went quickly. Do you assume this is going to go quickly as well?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, let me just say -- I mean, you know, kind of, we're pleased with the success of this program and how quickly this got up operationally. We've -- we've put out more money in these SBA loans than in the last 10 years of SBA. So I want to thank all the banks that have worked really hard.

We knew that when we passed this originally, if there was full take-out, we wouldn't have enough money. That's why we've worked with Congress for more money. And this is going to -- you know, we've already impacted about 30 million workers. There'll be a lot more. So we look forward to this having a big impact on the economy.

Q Thanks. Yesterday, the President said he'd look into the issue of felons, those with criminal convictions getting access to some of these programs. I was wondering if you have an update on that as part of this --

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Sure. So we worked with the White House on this. There were actually much more onerous restrictions in the SBA program. There were people who had misdemeanors that weren't allowed to access the program. It was much longer than five years.

And, you know, we very much -- because of the criminal reform legislation that was passed and the work that's been done in the White House by Jared and others, we specifically designed the program, and the five years was significantly shorter than what had been done before. So we had already taken that into account.

Q And there is no consideration of (inaudible)?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: For now, we're not going to do that. But I want to just emphasize: We did take this into account. There were a lot of people that wouldn't have access previously, and we changed those regulations.

Q Mr. Secretary, the President talked about a phase four. I know we all understand the circumstances and why businesses need this, but how many more phases can we afford to have or can businesses expect to have? Do you see a phase five, a phase six, a phase seven? What's your thinking on this?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, first of all, I very much appreciate the President's support for phase four. He put out a tweet. As the President said, we would look forward to phase four; it would be infrastructure. The President has been talking about infrastructure since the campaign: roads, bridges, broadband. Especially, broadband now to rural America is very important.

We've talked about incentives for restaurants, sports, entertainment, because these businesses have been impacted. The President has talked multiple times about a payroll tax cut.

And we've also -- we're talking about, in the case of states, the states -- we've heard from the governors and the fiscal issues of the states.

I think phase four will most likely be what we need. I think based upon what we're seeing and the reopening of the economy and the amount of money we're putting in, and working with the Federal Reserve on 13(3), I think you're going to see a lot of liquidity. And we look forward to business rebounding, especially later this summer.

Q And just real quick to follow up: In the PPP program, is this the last tranche of money you think you're going to need for small businesses?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: We would expect this is the last tranche, but obviously we can always reconsider that. But this is a lot of money going out.

Again, let me just be clear: You know, it's -- it's another \$310 billion here and another \$300 billion of loans. That's over \$600 billion putting into small businesses, which are the backbone of the economy: 50 percent of the private payroll.

Q How much do you think phase four will cost? And it will include all of those things? Payroll tax --

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: It would be premature for us to comment what the cost is. We'll work with Congress on that, and we'll consider it.

Q And it's going to have infrastructure and payroll?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Infrastructure could be a big investment.

Q That's going to be huge (inaudible) --

Q Mr. Secretary, given the size of the taxpayer dollars that are going out the door, have you fellows come to a different way of thinking about the need for oversight -- independent oversight on behalf of the taxpayer?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: We have independent oversight. We supported it in the last legislation. Let me be very clear: We have a new inspector general. The President has already picked someone for that position. We look forward to the person being confirmed. We have an oversight committee of Congress that many of them have already been appointed.

And let me just say, we put up last week, for full transparency -- we had no obligation to do this. We put up -- you can go to Treasury.gov -- full transparency on the money that had been sent out on the PPP across states, showing all the big lenders, how it was distributed. No one lender did more than 4 percent. Showed the businesses.

So, again, the President and I very much believe in full transparency. We're spending a lot of money, and we want to make sure that it's done effectively and fairly.

Q Sir, Secretary, thank you. You started by thanking the leaders in the House and the Senate. Can you tell us more about how easy or hard it was to deal with both sides?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, we've been working around the clock. I think there's been very good bipartisan support to get this done. The Congress is coming together, understanding the importance of this. And we've been working around the clock for days.

So this is important legislation. It was a lot. We spoke to a lot of people. Mark Meadows has been fantastic, as I said. It's great to have him here in the White House. I couldn't have done this without him working on this with me. And the President and Vice President have been available to us around the clock. So this was a big team effort.

Q And collaboration of the Democrats?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Absolutely. We couldn't have done this today without unanimous consent and the Democrats being onboard. And we look forward to this being passed on a bipartisan basis tomorrow. This is a real example of the country coming together to fight this virus.

Q What is your best understanding of what Mitch McConnell wants from an infrastructure package?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Again, I think we're not -- we're not at the point of designing that. Like every other bill, we will work with senators on both sides, on a bipartisan basis.

I can tell you, there's a lot of support, particularly for things like broadband and especially what's going on today. But the President has talked about -- you know, I was on the campaign with

the President. We've been talking about bridges and tunnels and rebuilding this country for years. So the President wants to make a big investment in this.

Q But does Mitch McConnell?

Q Thank you, Mr. Secretary. When will we see the 17- billion-dollar portion of CARES reserved for companies -- critical for national security? And also, will oil companies fit into that at all, per the President's tweet?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: So we're in the process of putting out guidance. That part was really designed for national security companies that are either major suppliers to the Department of Defense or companies that have top-secret clearance.

So, this -- that national security provision was very clear when we did that. The President has asked me to work with the Secretary of Energy. Obviously, the energy business is very important to us. This has national security issues, but different. And we look forward to both looking at both existing capabilities we have, and that will be something we may need to go back to Congress and get additional funding for.

Q Will that look similar to an airplane -- or airline bailout at all? Or what --

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: A completely different situation. I mean, what you have with the airlines is -- you know, we had a very, very good airline industry. Because of the virus, they basically shut down.

We have a situation now, with the oil business -- partially because of the virus, okay, for less demand, but partially also because of too much supply. But, you know, the President is determined: We want to maintain our energy independence. And the President has asked me to look at all of our options, and we're doing

that. Obviously, it's a pretty extraordinary situation where you saw the front month of oil futures trade negative.

Q Hi. On the issue of the fourth stimulus bill and aid to state and local governments, any thoughts on whether that money should be proportionate to the rate of infection in states so that harder-hit states --

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, wait -- interesting, but way too early to consider that. Whatever we do, we'll do on a bipartisan basis. The President has listened to the governors. I've had the opportunity to be on multiple video conference calls with the President and the Vice President. We're reaching out to a lot of people. There's a lot of states that have been impacted, but way too early to figure out that level of design.

Q You mentioned if a large company applies for one of these loans and maybe manipulates or works the system or works the loopholes to get it, what are some of the consequences to a -- you know, if a large company tries to get one of these PPP loans? What can you do?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, you used the word "manipulate"; I'm going to give people the benefit of the doubt. Again, we're going to put up very clear guidance so that people understand what the certification is, what it means if you're a big company.

Again, there is a provision for -- you know, where there are multiple affiliates that people can access this, but the intent was not for companies that have access to plenty of liquidity and other sources.

And again, if, to the extent these companies didn't understand this and they repay the loans, that will be okay. And if not, there'll be potentially other consequences.

Q But can you talk about what those consequences could be?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Again, you can look at the certifications. They're quite significant.

THE PRESIDENT: One more. Jon.

Q Do you have an estimate on how many jobs have been saved all with the money that's gone out in PPP so far?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Well, I can tell you the PPP, so far, is over 30 million jobs. And again, that doesn't account for other money that we've sent out.

And again, we're very pleased the direct deposits have gone out. We started sending out the checks. We're also going to be supplementing our capability and sending prepaid debit cards so we can get money out quickly to people.

So everything that the President has had us working on is providing significant stability in the economy while we're dealing with this difficult time when, for medical reasons, we've closed down major parts of the economy.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: That was a very nice question. Very good.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Steve. See you later.

That was a nice question, actually. It's a good question, too.

So the noble fight against the invisible enemy has inflicted a steep toll on the American workforce. As we all know, millions of

Americans sacrificed their jobs in order to battle the virus and save the lives of our fellow citizens. We have a solemn duty to ensure these unemployed Americans regain their jobs and their livelihoods.

Therefore, in order to protect American workers, I will be issuing a temporary suspension of immigration into the United States; you heard about that last night. By pausing immigration, we'll help put unemployed Americans first in line for jobs as America reopens. So important. It would be wrong and unjust for Americans laid off by the virus to be replaced with new immigrant labor flown in from abroad. We must first take care of the American worker -- take care of the American worker.

This pause will be in effect for 60 days, after which the need for any extension or modification will be evaluated by myself and a group of people, based on economic conditions at the time. This order will only apply to individuals seeking a permanent residency. In other words, those receiving green cards -- a big factor -- it will not apply to those entering on a temporary basis.

As we move forward, we'll examine what additional immigration-related measures should be put in place to protect U.S. workers. We want to protect our U.S. workers. And I think, as we move forward, we will become more and more protective of them.

This pause on new immigration will also help to conserve vital medical resources for American citizens. A short break from new immigration, depending on the time we're talking about, will protect the solvency of our healthcare system and provide relief to jobless Americans.

Today, Vice President Pence visited the hardworking men and women of General Electric Healthcare in Madison, Wisconsin, who are working three shifts a day to quadruple their production of ventilators.

We're way ahead of schedule on ventilators, as you know. That's why it's never brought up by the media. They don't like to bring things up when we're doing so well. GE is also working with Ford to make 50,000 ventilators in the next 100 days -- more than our entire country typically produces in a very long period of time. Doing that in a matter of a few weeks and a few days.

Earlier today, I had a very productive meeting with Governor Cuomo, as you probably saw, to discuss his statewide testing strategy and how we can work together to help expand it, with the goal of doubling testing in the next few weeks. And New York State will be continuing to control the testing of their citizens and will also manage the state and local laboratories. They have a lot of great laboratories there -- more than anybody would ever have known, frankly.

The federal government will work along with the state on the national manufacturers and distributors. Together, we'll all work together to help them secure additional tests, and we hope that this model will work with the other states as well. I think it will, for the most part. New York has a lot of very exceptional laboratories, but most of the states do. It's -- you saw the chart yesterday. Most of the states do.

I'm proud of the relationship my administration has forged with New York and, I can say very honestly, with New York State and New York City. They've been terrific to work with. The New York metropolitan area has been the epicenter of the outbreak here in America, and the federal government has spared no expense or resource to get New Yorkers the care they need and the care they deserve. We've sent over 5 million masks. We had 5 million masks. And now that number, as of about two days from now, will be more than doubled.

Thousands of ventilators -- in fact, so many ventilators that the

governor is going to be sending up some to -- to Massachusetts and a couple of other locations. We have a great deal of ventilators, which people thought would be impossible about a month ago.

Thousands of hospital beds and the USNS Comfort was sent, as you know, to New York. And it was originally for more of a normal medical purpose, and we changed it over so that it could take care of people that had the unfortunate circumstance of going through the problem that we -- that we know so well; unfortunately, that we know so well.

I said from the beginning that no American who needs a ventilator would be denied a ventilator and we have kept that promise all over the United States. Think of that. Other countries are desperate for ventilators. They have many deaths because they don't have a ventilator.

And I've asked Andrew if we could bring the Comfort back to its base in Virginia so that we can have it for other locations, and he said we would be able to do that. Javits Center has been a great help to them, but we'll be bringing the ship back at the earliest time. And we'll get it ready for its next mission, which will, I'm sure, be a very important one also. But it was -- it was an honor. They -- they reconverted it after it got there into handling an event that they were not expecting to be handling.

The FDA has now authorized more than 50 diagnostic tests, including, as of late last night, the first test -- test that a patient can take home. You can take it at home and it's highly accurate. LabCorp intends to make the home collection kits available to consumers in most states with a doctor's order in the coming weeks.

We also have four different antibody tests already authorized. Tests will help identify individuals who can donate convalescent plasma, thus providing potentially lifesaving

antibodies to American patients.

Dr. Hahn will be providing you with an update on these developments in a few moments. He's done a great job at the FDA.

We continue to gain ground in the war against the unseen enemy and I see light at the end of the tunnel. I actually see a lot of light at the end of the tunnel. And we're starting the process. We're starting a very, very powerful, important process. You see that people are getting very anxious. They want to get going. They want to get back to their jobs. They want to make money. They want to take care of their families. So, the light is getting brighter and brighter every day.

And, with that, if I could, I'll ask Dr. Birx to come up and then Dr. Hahn.

Thank you very much.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. President. So, looking at all of the information across the United States, we do see improvement across all the large metros. I know you know that we've been talking about the New York metro area, New York City, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Long Island. And, really, we do start to see improvement there, and we see improvement, even now, in Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The Detroit metro is doing quite well with significant declines now. New Orleans is nearly back to their baseline of where they started for new infections. We also are seeing improvements in Chicago and Boston. And that has been a great concern for us over the last several weeks. They appear now to be flattening.

Both also Philadelphia and Houston, Atlanta, Nashville, Baltimore, Indianapolis, and St. Louis also appear to be flattening. The D.C. metro area, we don't see a decline yet, so hopefully all of you are still social distancing and doing everything that you can.

I wanted to remind everybody of two points: When we brought up -- and the President put out the guidelines for opening up America again -- it was very clear to use data and to really work together to mitigate against any resurgence and also, critically, to protect the vulnerable.

And what we're seeing across rural America and in some of the smaller population states is we're still seeing outbreaks in long-term care facilities. And we asked everyone in phase one to make sure that they continued their social distancing in public, to ensure that the vulnerable with comorbidities and other conditions and among the elderly were staying at home, and making sure we're still providing service to them.

But as individual Americans, as we begin to open up, we also made it very clear that individual Americans need to continue all of their hygiene pieces: ensuring social distancing, washing hands, not touching their face, and making sure that they're not bringing the virus home to vulnerable individuals within the household. And remember, those were to continue through all three phases.

And so we really want to call people's attention again to the guidelines. We are continuing to see outbreaks in nursing homes and in confined spaces. And I think, as Americans, we want to stop that. And we have the ability to do that by really paying attention to the guidelines that were to be in all three phases.

And so I'm calling on the states again to note that an informed community, a knowledgeable community is a protected community. So make sure all of your states have your cases visible to the communities so they can make decisions and understand where the virus is in their community and understand how to tackle it with their state and local governments. This will be absolutely critical.

And there's surveillance that we called for to find asymptomatics before people get sick. As an early warning signal, we asked for those to be in the federal clinics in our inner city, more vulnerable areas, among indigenous populations, and of course, in our long-term care facilities and prisons, we really want to support state and local governments to move forward on these critical monitoring to protect individuals that may be in the most critically vulnerable states.

We will continue to see mortality and deaths among our American citizens, particularly in the cities, as they begin to move past peak because deaths will lag. And so we really need to continue to unite and really, really, really support our healthcare providers who are still on the frontlines. They have been on the frontlines now for weeks and weeks and weeks.

And so no matter what city they have been in, they have not seen the relief that we've been able to talk about at the light of the end of the tunnel because of the delay in hospitalizations and death.

So to our healthcare providers, to our respiratory therapists, and to everyone in the labs: Thank you for the work that you're doing to protect Americans and give us one of the lowest mortality rates in the entire world. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Doctor, please.

DR. HAHN: Thank you, Mr. President, and I just want to echo what Dr. Birx said just a few -- few short months ago. I was one of those doctors on the frontlines and I know how terrific they're working and how well they're doing for the American people, and a shout-out to them for just the wonderful work that they -- that they do every day.

So President Trump asked the FDA to remove all unnecessary barriers

that were in place to help with the development of both diagnostics and therapeutics, and we have done that. I'm here to give you an update on FDA's efforts around serologic tests, which, as you know, are antibody tests which detect, in the blood, the natural immunity that someone might develop in response to infection -- in this case, COVID-19.

These aren't diagnostic tests, but these are tests that actually detect the antibody, so an indication that one has had the infection and has responded. And I think it's important for everyone to understand that the timing of the response of the antibody to the infection isn't completely known, but we know that it takes some time to actually develop that. And there's two types of antibody responses that can be detected.

And the antibody tests are just one piece of the larger response that you've heard in the America returning to work plan that the President has, with the task force, has developed.

And this pandemic is truly unprecedented in nature, and you'll see reports around the world of different antibody tests that have been used. And I think that's a reflection of the fact that we're just learning and beginning to understand what that response looks like. And many of these tests have different characteristics that allow to detect at different points in the infection.

I do want to address one issue that we are laser focused on at FDA, and that is: In an effort to provide laboratories and healthcare providers the early access to tests, we issued a policy earlier in March that allowed test developers the opportunity to quickly get their test to market and address the needs of the nation as posed by the epidemic.

In March, we provided this regulatory flexibility to manufacturers, and here's what we required of them: The manufacturers had to validate their tests; we call it self-validation, similar to what

many test developers in the world have done. They had to notify FDA that they had performed that validation. And then they had to label their products appropriately in the package insert with information about the validation, as well as the fact that it's not a diagnostic test, that it's an antibody test.

And the bottom line here is that FDA still expects manufacturers and test developers to validate their antibody tests, even under this revised policy.

Now, we've done a couple of things to actually help end users, to help laboratories, providers, et cetera, states, in terms of their use of these antibody tests. One is that we're working with CDC and NCI to actually validate some of the more than 90 manufacturers who have notified us that they brought their test to market to do an independent validation. And that process is going. We expect to hear more information this week about that, and we will provide that information in a transparent manner.

And we also want to go after anyone who is saying that that test has been authorized or has been approved by the FDA but actually hasn't. And we've authorized for applications for antibody tests, and 140 test developers are pursuing applications for us as we speak. So it's not okay for someone to say that a test has been authorized or approved by FDA when it hasn't. And we are pursuing them both by -- in direct contact with the manufacturers, but also at the border.

And so we have increased these interdiction efforts, and we will continue to outreach and do -- and do that with the manufacturers to make sure that we provide the most up-to-date information to the end users of these products. And we will continue to do -- make all of our efforts, both in the diagnostics and the therapeutics, to help America open up again.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Q Dr. Hahn?

THE PRESIDENT: Please, go ahead.

Q Dr. Hahn, you're speaking of 140 different developers, more than 90 manufacturers. How many of these tests actually work?

DR. HAHN: So, as I mentioned, the 90 that have come forward and said they're marketing in the U.S., they are required by us to have self-validation, and they're required to label that appropriately in their package insert.

And I also said that we're -- what we're doing is we're working with folks around the country, but here at home, the U.S. government and with the NCI and CDC, to validate some of those tests that have come forward to us. So we're actually doing some independent validation.

Q And what have you found so far?

DR. HAHN: So we don't have those results yet. I expect to have more results this week, but we will be transparent about those results because you'll think it's very important.

And your question is superb in that if someone wants to use a test that's come to market, really, it's important to read the information that's in the package insert, but often in some of those cases, it's also important for the independent labs to do the validation also.

And you may have seen reports in the press of labs around the country that have done that. We've actually reached out to them -- many academics -- and we will be including that information and the

information that we generate as well to provide to the American people.

Q Dr. Hahn, while have you here: There was a study out of the VA today on hydroxychloroquine that found a higher mortality rate compared to those who got standard of care. And I know this isn't a large-scale clinical trial, but since this drug is out there and people are using it, can you give some takeaways from that study? Did that change your thinking at all on hydroxychloroquine?

DR. HAHN: So this study is a small retrospective study at the VA. And similar to the data we talked about before with the French study, this is something that a doctor would need to consider as part of a decision in writing prescription for hydroxychloroquine.

And as I've mentioned from this podium and in other venues before, what FDA is going to require is data from clinical trials -- randomized clinical trials -- hydroxychloroquine placebo, to actually make a definitive decision around safety and efficacy.

But the preliminary data are helpful to providers. And doctors, I want to ask them to incorporate the data as we have come forward. And it's not definitive data; it doesn't help us make a decision from a regulatory point of view. But doctors should incorporate that in the decision making they make on a one-on-one basis.

Q And just the timeline on the clinical trials and when we will be getting a readout of that data?

DR. HAHN: So the good news is we have over 30 clinical trials. Now, the settings are very different. They're in the outpatient setting, they're in the inpatient setting, and also, I think very importantly, in what we call the post-exposure prophylaxis, meaning if you're a healthcare worker or a frontline

provider and you've been exposed to the virus, take the drug for a period of time to see if you can prevent the development of illness related to the virus. So all those trials are in progress and will probably be early summer before we get a readout.

Q And, Mr. President, if I can pick up on that?

THE PRESIDENT: And all of these tests, I want to say, are in addition to the test that we already have. And we have tested more people than anybody anywhere in the world, by far -- by very far.

Q Mr. President, if I can --

THE PRESIDENT: Bret, do you have a question?

Q Well, I think you wanted to follow up on the hydroxychloroquine and the --

Q Yeah, the hydroxychloroquine. I'm wondering if you're concerned -- this VA study showed that actually more people died that used the drug than didn't. And I'm wondering if Governor Cuomo brought you back any results on --

THE PRESIDENT: No, we didn't discuss it, and I don't know of the report. Obviously, there have been some very good reports and perhaps this one is not a good report. But we'll be looking at it. We'll have a comment on it as soon --

Q And a panel of experts at the NIH is actually now recommending against the use of hydroxychloroquine in combination with Z-Pak, which is something you've --

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Well, we'll take a look at that.

Q -- been recommending.

THE PRESIDENT: I'm always willing to take a look.

Bret?

Q Another subject. Your signing the executive order. When do you plan to do that?

THE PRESIDENT: The executive order will be -- it's being written now, as we speak. Probably tomorrow sometime.

Q So will have exemptions in there for certain --

THE PRESIDENT: We'll have certain exemptions, because you're going to need certain exemptions. But we'll be notifying you tomorrow. We'll sign it, most likely, tomorrow. Being drawn now and tonight. And it's something we have to have in this country. We have to have it.

Q So for the people who say it doesn't track with opening up the country to shut down immigration across the board for companies that and -- and the pipeline that's already in place, what do you say to them?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it really does, I think it's very strong, obviously. And it's countrywide, as opposed to specifically, like China or some of the other ones that I've shut down. We're going to see. And you'll see a very accurate definition tomorrow after it's completed by the attorneys.

Q Last thing from me: North Korea. What do you -- what can you tell us about the status of Kim Jong Un?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, these are reports that came out, and we don't know. We don't know. I've had a very good relationship with him. I wouldn't -- you know, I can only say this: I wish him well. Because if he is in the kind of condition that the reports

say, that the news is saying, that would be a -- that's a very serious condition, as you know.

But I wish him well. We've had a good relationship. I've said it -- I've said it many times: If somebody else were in this position, we would have been right now at war with North Korea. And we're not at war, and we're nowhere close to war with North Korea.

So I just have to say to Kim Jong Un, I wish him very -- you know, good luck. Good luck. I mean, they came out with very, very serious medical reports. Nobody has confirmed that. It's -- it was CNN that came out. So when CNN comes out with a report, I don't place too much credence in it.

Q In your meeting with Governor Cuomo, did he convince you of a need for expanded testing? Or how did that (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we had a great talk on testing. And we have an agreement -- we have an understanding on testing. They have labs -- tremendous labs, as you know -- in New York, especially in the Manhattan area, but all over the state, and great, great medical schools and federal labs. So we have a very good understanding. We're going to do very significant testing.

You know, not everybody wants to do such significant testing. Testing is good in some cases and, in some cases, it's not. You have governors that don't want to go all out on the testing because they think they can do it in a different manner and do it better. But we had a very good meeting today. The governor and I had a very good meeting.

Q Is there more federal aid that can be used to help governors who want to expand testing? Because we keep hearing that, all day long, governors want more --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, well, we have -- we have \$25 billion. And

that's a tremendous amount of money. That's far more money than, in my opinion, than we'll need.

And again, already we're testing more, by far, than any country. I think I read yesterday a report that we've done more than everybody else, every other country combined. And I think our people should be getting a lot of credit for that. We've done a lot -- more than everybody else combined -- and you never hear that in the news. It's, you know, unfortunate.

Yeah, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Just back on the executive order for a second. You mentioned the -- that there are going to be some exemptions. We're reporting right now that it only applies to employment and green -- green cards for employment, but not those for immediate family.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it is green cards. But we're going to be reporting on that later on. It might be tonight or tomorrow. We'll give you an exact report.

Q Is there anything you can say to people who may be worried about the ability to bring immediate family members into this country?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think it's been covered pretty accurately, in this case. I think most people know what it is. And some people will be able to get in. We have to do that, obviously, even from a humane standpoint. But there'll be -- there'll be some people coming in. But it's a -- it's a strong order. It's a strong order. It involves a big, big circle, as you know.

Please.

Q Are immigrants who are already in the country, are they at

greater risk of deportation based on this order?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think that. Well, I don't think so. They're not supposed to be here. You're saying they're here illegally? Is that what you're saying?

Q Well, for example, if an immigrant is here for a court order, right, are they at risk of deportation based on this?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if a court order, then you have to go to court. So then the judge would make a determination as to whether or not they're going to be staying. But if they have a court order, they won't have to leave until they go through that process. So we'll see what happens. But with the court -- and there are some with court orders. That means they have a trial coming up.

Please.

Q Yeah, so, obviously, on the immigration executive order, you've raised concern for a long time, even in good economic times, about immigrants taking Americans' jobs. So under what conditions would you consider lifting this halt on immigration? And --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to -- yeah.

Q Or is this sort of an opportunity to address what you've seen as a problem for a long time?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think -- look, right now, obviously there's never been -- we had the greatest economy in the world and then, one day, we had to shut it down. They said, "You have to shut it down." We did the right thing, because I think we would have had a million or maybe even 2 million -- and maybe more than that -- deaths. So we did the right thing.

But certainly, this would pertain. I mean, when you look at it, right now the last thing we want to do is take American workers' jobs. It's one thing when we were at essentially -- they used to call it "full employment." And it's another thing right now. Right now, we have people that have lost their jobs and we hope they're going to come back and come back fast, and then we can have an even deeper discussion. But, right now, we have to have jobs for Americans.

Q Would you have any sense of, like, if unemployment gets to 4 percent or 5 percent -- you know, people who are looking to come to --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we'll have to see. I mean, I hope we're in that position to have that debate. Right now, we're not in that position. Right now, we closed down a -- the largest economy, the greatest economy in the history of the world. It's the most successful economy. When you look at the stock market, we were breaking records virtually every week, sometimes every day. And the stock market is still not doing badly, considering what this country has been through, which really tells you how strong it was in the first place.

But, no, I hope we're going to be able to have that discussion. I hope we're in a position -- that's like a good discussion to have. But that'll be a little bit later.

Bret.

Q I have a question for Dr. Birx about -- the CDC director said in an interview that perhaps this second wave of coronavirus in the fall could be worse because it is timed with the seasonal flu. Just wondering if you could talk about that in context of -- as you're opening up the country and these guidelines that you've laid out.

DR. BIRX: Yeah, so we were very clear in the guidelines that we believe we can monitor -- again, monitor communities at the community level by using the influenza-like illness and the syndromic respiratory and gastrointestinal components of this -- of this particular virus.

Obviously, when we have flu, we're going to -- and we're working on an algorithm that you test for flu, and then you test for COVID, and making sure that we are building the testing capacity to be able to do that. Because I think it's very important that you're going to be able -- on the surface, a patient, when they come in with early flu and early COVID, can look very close to identical. So we need to have testing in place to be able to separate and ensure those patients receive the best treatment.

We're also hoping, by that time, that we have additional treatment options for people with COVID-19, so that there will be additional treatment available in the fall.

Q But your -- your message would be to prepare for that time, thinking that it'll come back together?

DR. BIRX: The President has made it clear that we have the emergency, which we have been working on -- the opening up guidelines. And just like he talks about phase four, he has us very much working on the next 60, 90, and for all on with fall. And that's why he's not stopped any of the ventilator orders.

It's very important that we have a completely refreshed and a comprehensive stockpile going into the fall. And I think that's why we've continued to bring in those shipments and work on the ventilators so that those would be available not only for the United States, but certainly if other -- other partner countries have this level of tragedy.

Q Dr. Birx, a follow-up on that. So you agree this could come back actually worse in the fall? And what you need --

DR. BIRX: I don't know if it will be worse. I think this has been pretty bad. When you see what has happened in New York, that was very bad. I believe that we'll have early warning signals, both from our surveillance that we've been talking on -- about in these -- on the vulnerable populations. We're going to continue that surveillance from now all the way through the fall, to be able to give us that early warning signal.

I think what we've learned is how good Americans are about immediately reverting to all of those issues that they need to do in order to ensure that they are protected and their families.

Q And Mr. President, what -- what do you say to the concerns -- like, Georgia is opening up barbershops and bowling alleys and the like? And you saw Lindsey Graham is saying he's concerned that Georgia may be going too far too fast, and it could affect people in South Carolina. Obviously, people travel back and forth between states. How do you protect the people of South Carolina, for example, from a potentially bad decision by a governor in Georgia?

THE PRESIDENT: So he's a very capable man. He knows what he's doing. He's done a very good job as governor -- Georgia. And -- and, by the way, and South Carolina. Governor McMaster also. So you have two very capable people. We're going to find out.

And, in fact, I'm scheduled to speak to the governor of Georgia in a little while. But we'll -- we'll find out.

Q But what about Lindsey Graham's concern that what happens in Georgia can affect someone in South Carolina?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, everybody -- I have a concern about what happens everywhere. I mean, we've got those concerns. And as far

as coming back, if they do come back -- and they could come back together with heavy on the flu and much lighter on -- because I really believe we'll be able to put out the fires. You know, it's like fires.

And we've learned a lot. You know, we've become very good at this, when you look at what's happening, when you look at the numbers coming down. A lot of states are in really great shape. You're going to see a lot of openings.

But I'll be speaking to the governor of Georgia in a little while. Okay?

Q Mr. President, should the American people need to be prepared for going back to social distancing, even if things relax over the summers -- over the summer, but come the fall, if the virus comes back in coincidence with the flu?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I could see them -- and I'll speak for the doctor, and, if you'd like, either of you, to say -- but I would say that you keep away until this thing is gone. It's going to be gone at some point. It's going to be gone, gone. And I would say you keep away and you do the social distancing until such time as you know it's gone. We'll know when that time is.

Q Your executive order is to last for 60 days. How will you decide whether to extend it? Does it depend upon --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll look at the economy. We'll see where we are with the economy, basically. And I think I'll have a very easy decision to make. I hope -- I hope that the economy is going to be great by that time, but we'll see. But, right now, in light of the fact that Americans are out of jobs, I can't be hav- -- I can't be taking in.

Q And then, would you roll it for another 60 days or a different

period?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I could, or I could roll it for 30 days, or I could roll it for much more than 60 days. We'll have to take a look at the time. But we'll be looking at 60 days and we'll see what it is.

Yeah, in the back. Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. On your immigration order --

Q And there is reporting that you --

Q On your immigration order --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, that's all right. You go. Why don't you go and then you. Okay?

Q Okay, on the immigration order -- we'll continue with that -- there is reporting that you may actually sign a second order to even limit more of those exceptions that you were just talking about. Can you confirm that you are considering --

THE PRESIDENT: It could happen if I want. But I won't be doing it tomorrow. I'll be signing the primary order. And then we have a secondary order that, if I want to do that, we'll make that determination.

Q And is that --

THE PRESIDENT: We can do that. Yeah, we can do that at a little bit different time if we want.

Q But that is under consideration at this time -- a second order?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, sure. Sure. Secondary orders, yeah.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I have two questions: one from me and one from a reporter who couldn't be in the room because of social distancing.

THE PRESIDENT: You always that: one from him and one from her.

Q That's this seat. This is the print pooler's seat.

THE PRESIDENT: That's okay. Good. That's good. Fine.

Q So my first question is about your immigration order. You campaigned on reducing legal immigration. I remember your speech in Phoenix in 2016 on reducing legal immigration.

THE PRESIDENT: I campaigned on legal and illegal. But, no, I've always said you have to come into the country legally. So, not legal. What I campaigned on was people just flooding our border and stopping. And, by the way, speaking of that, we have 170 miles -- almost 170 miles of -- of very powerful border wall up, and it's moving rapidly, very quickly, and it's having a tremendous impact. And it's making our job a lot easier.

Plus, Mexico has 27,000 soldiers right now on our southern border that we share with them. And Mexico has been terrific. They've really helped.

Q You also campaigned on reducing legal immigration. And I'm wondering if -- some critics are saying that you are using the virus now and this crisis to follow through on that promise to reduce legal immigration in the country.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not doing that. No, no. Well, I want

people that are in this country -- I want our citizens to get jobs. I don't want them to have competition. We have a very unusual situation where something came in that nobody has seen for many, many decades. Probably 1917 would be the closest analogy, if you look at it -- when you look at the contagion, the kind of contagion we're talking about.

So, no, I'm not -- I'm not doing that at all. I want -- I want the American worker and the American -- our American citizens to be able to get jobs. I don't want them to compete right now. There's a big difference when we have a full economy, and frankly, where some of the companies -- we have many companies moving in, where they need actually -- they need workers. That's a big difference between that and where, all of a sudden, a lot of people lose jobs.

Q As you know, a lot of farmers rely on seasonal migrant workers that come in on the H-2A.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, that's not going to be affected. The farmers will not be --

Q Are you going to (inaudible) carve-out --

THE PRESIDENT: That's an important point.

Q -- for the seasonal H-2A workers?

THE PRESIDENT: The farmers will not be affected. Yeah, that's a very important point. I mean, it's a great point, actually. I'm -- I'm glad you brought it up. No, the farmers will not be affected.

Q Your EO will have a carve-out for those workers (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, they've had cases where they -- where they stopped everybody from coming in, and all the farmers went out

of business. They were literally out of business. You remember that, Bret. It was not so long ago. But they -- it's easy -- you know, it's easier to stop everything cold than it is to plan it so that the farmers have the people that have been working on those farms for many years. And -- and that's what we're doing.

No, the farmers will not be affected by this at all. If anything, we're going to make it easier, and we're doing a process that'll make it better for those workers to come in, to go to the farm where they've been for a long time.

Q And now for a question from a reporter who's out of the room. This is from the Washington Times, Tom Howell: Why hasn't the CDC, the federal government's main disease-fighting agency, had a more public-facing role amid the pandemic? It was holding regular media calls early on but has not held one since early to mid-March.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can't tell you that. The CDC has been terrific. We've worked with them very closely. They were very much involved, even in the border decision that I made last night. And the director is --

Q (Inaudible) CDC to hold more media calls?

THE PRESIDENT: -- the director is doing a good job. And we have always -- whether it's Tony or Deborah or Steve -- we have always a lot of people up. And certainly, as you've seen, the director has been here a lot. Right? He's been here, he's been sitting here. He's been speaking a lot.

No, no, CDC is very much involved in everything we've done.

Yeah, please.

Q The director of the CDC said that protests against stay-at-

home orders are not helpful. You've encouraged some of these protests. What are your thoughts on the CDC director saying that these protests are not a good idea?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, people -- look, it's not a question of helpful or not. People want to get back to work. And I've watched some of the protests, not in great detail, but I've seen that. And they're separated, they're -- a lot of space in between. I mean, they -- they're watching, believe it or not, social -- they're doing social distancing, if you can believe it. And they are. And they're protesting, but they -- they're -- the groups I've seen have been very much spread out. So I think that's good.

Look, people -- they want to get back to work, they got to make a living. They have to take care of their family. They don't want to do this. It's, you know, unfortunate, maybe, one way or the other. Both are unfortunate. Both are unfortunate. But you have a lot of people out there that are anxious to get back.

Yeah, please.

Q Surveys seem to be indicating that people are actually more concerned. More people are concerned about the virus spread and they don't want to go out. They don't want to go to work; they don't want to go outside.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. No, that's true. They're -- they're both -- there are two groups. They're both -- they're big groups, both of them.

Q So my question is: What -- what good is it for these businesses that would reopen if the customers are afraid to go outside?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, at the same time, we have to build back our country. And I'm going to make our country bigger and better and

stronger, and we have to get started. There's a big difference, though, because people have really been through a lot. And they understand what to do now.

Before, nobody had ever heard of a thing like this, wouldn't you say? I mean, nobody ever heard of a thing like this -- distancing -- social distancing. What does that mean? Washing your hands every 15 minutes. What does that mean? I mean, people had never seen or heard about anything like this. Now they really are. They've -- they've -- not only have they done it, but they've done a good job of it.

But you have people -- you can't break the country. At some point, you have to go back. Now, hopefully the governors are going to do, because I want the governors -- and I've always wanted that. You can call it federalism, you can call it whatever you want.

But the governors -- I want them to do it. If they -- if we see them doing something we don't like, we'll stop it very quickly. But they're doing a good job. They're being careful. Some of the governors, frankly, they're in a position where they can do it sooner or they can do it a little bit later, and that's okay. But people -- they don't want to -- they -- they need money, they need help.

We're going to lose -- and we can't break our country over this. We can't do it. We have to get going. With that being said, some are going to go soon and some are not.

Yeah, in the back, please.

Q If I might just -- pardon me. Hair salons, nail salons, tattoo parlors. Dr. Birtx, can you weigh in on this? Because the people of Atlanta want to hear from you as well, as much as they want to hear from their governor and from you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I think -- I think it's fine.

Q What -- what about -- how do you success- -- safely have hair salons and nail salons and tattoo parlors where people apparently -
-

THE PRESIDENT: Where is that? Where is that?

Q This is in Georgia. Where people have to inherently be close together.

DR. BIRX: I think what I've been trying to communicate over the last several days is it's really important that the governors and mayors communicate critical information to their communities and show very clearly the data.

Remember we wanted this data and evidence-based -- the data that they utilize to make decisions and the data that the mayors should use in each of the communities, because it will have to be on a community-by-community opening because there are different communities in different places, even in Georgia.

And so I believe people in Atlanta would understand that if their cases are not going down, that they need to continue to do everything that we said: social distancing, washing your hands, wearing a mask in public.

So if there's a way that people can social distance and do those things, then they can do those things. I don't know how, but people are very creative. So I'm not going to prejudge, but we have told people, very clearly, and the President's guidelines made it very clear about the expectations of phase one.

And remember, phase one also included social distancing in restaurants, social distancing in every place that was entertainment, and keeping your own individual social groups to

less than 10. I mean, we've been very clear in the guidelines, and I think it's up to the governors and mayors to ensure that they're following the best they can each of those phases to make sure that both the public is completely protected.

But the governors and mayors also need to communicate very clearly on the data that was used for decision making and make that transparent and available to their communities.

THE PRESIDENT: And it also depends -- as an example that you just gave -- are they doing testing before they go in? We have to find that out. That's why I'm speaking to the governor in a little while, and I'll be asking him those questions.

Please, go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I'm just trying to get a sense of what you have left in the toolbox as it relates to oil. You hashed out the deal with OPEC Plus. You've ordered for purchases into the SPR. I mean, what else can be done?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the biggest thing in the tool -- the toolbox is to get our country open. That's, by far, the biggest thing there is.

If we can open pretty well -- and I think we're going to over a period of time; piece by piece, a puzzle, remember? If we can open well, I think that's your biggest part by far. That's where the engine is, more important than any other thing that we can work on.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Two New York-related questions. In your meeting with Governor Cuomo, was there talk about providing states, like New York, with aid in the fourth stimulus package? I'm wondering if you have any thoughts on whether that aid should be tied to infection rates; whether states like New York, New Jersey that have been hardest hit should receive more

money.

And also wondering if you have any thoughts on Mayor Bill de Blasio saying today that he'd like to host a ticker-tape parade of sorts, once this is all over, to honor the healthcare workers. As a New Yorker, do you have any --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, frankly, that sounds like a good idea to me, when it's all over. That sounds like a great idea. They deserve it. They're warriors. They've done an incredible job.

We mentioned briefly the state aid. We talked about that -- Governor Cuomo and myself -- and I agree with him on that. And I think most Republicans agree too, and Democrats. And that's part of phase four.

And I think infrastructure is going to be a big part. We have to rebuild our country. I mean, you take a look where we spend -- and we go over this all the time -- but \$8 trillion in the Middle East. We want to rebuild our country, and that means our bridges, our tunnels, even schools. We're doing something with schools. We have to do our roadways. They're -- what's happened? We spend so much money on other countries that don't even -- that they don't appreciate it. Okay? They don't appreciate it.

We're going to spend money now on our country, and we're going to have -- it's going to be our jobs, and it's going to be our equipment. It's going to be made -- much of it is going to be made here. Hopefully, at some point, all of it's going to be made here.

Jon?

Q Mr. President, at that podium back on March 9th, Vice President Pence said that over a million tests had been distributed. And then he said, and this is an exact quote, "Before the end of this week, another 4 million tests will be

distributed." As you know now, six weeks later, we still aren't at 4 million tests. What --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- I don't know what his statement --

Q What went wrong with the testing?

THE PRESIDENT: Ready? Are you ready?

Q Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: Again, I'll say it for the fifth time: We have tested more than any country in the world. And some of the countries are very big. Okay? More than any country in the world. We have one of the most successful -- if you call mortality -- rates because one person -- and I always say that for you in particular -- one person is too many.

But we've done very well -- our testing. If you add them all up, we've -- we've tested more. Now, I don't know what Mike Pence said, but I'm sure he could answer that question.

Q Well, he said 4 million -- he said 4 million tests, and we're -- six months later, we're not even at that point.

THE PRESIDENT: You know what? You ready, again? We've tested more than every country in the world, even put together. So that's all I can say. As far as Mike, he'll answer your question when he's here. He'll be back tomorrow.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. It's -- I just want to go back to the China deal and the phase one of this China deal.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q The flight ban is still in place. How confident are you that

the Chinese are not going to use -- invoke the natural disaster clause to just wait before getting into their --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're going to see. Look, there's nobody ever been tougher on China than me. And that means for 20 years. You go back 20 years. I probably got elected, at least partially, on the fact that I've been very tough. I said China has been ripping us off for years." I'd go into Michigan, I'd go into Pennsylvania, and make speeches unrelated to being a politician. I'd be invited. I'd be speaking to people -- which I like to do because I love the people, I love the people of this country. And I'd make speeches -- nobody -- I'd say, "How did you let this happen with China?"

I even asked the leaders of China, "How -- how did this ever happen where our country loses tens of billions of dollars a year?" And I don't mean just tens. Take a look: \$200 billion, \$300 billion, \$400 billion, \$500 billion a year. How did they ever let a thing like this happen?

Now, if you look at this last year, the deficit went way down. And I'm talking about even before; now it's much different. But a lot of things are happening. Great things were happening, except, all of a sudden, out of nowhere, came the invisible enemy. And we think we know where it came from, and we'll be talking about that probably a lot. But came -- the invisible enemy. There's been nobody tougher than me on China.

Q So you have no guarantee that they are going to go ahead with this phase one?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. But if that happens, we'll do a termination and we'll do what I can do better than anybody.

Yeah, please.

Q Mr. President, on China: Have U.S. intelligence analysts told you that they think that the virus escaped from a Chinese research lab, that it was -- infected someone?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can't tell you that. "Have U.S. intelligence agents told me..." I mean, what kind of a question is that?

Q Do you feel -- do feel confident about it, that that happened?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't -- I can't. You want me to tell you -- oh, let me tell you what they told me. Look, they told me plenty. They told me plenty.

Bret?

Q I wanted to follow up on -- you said about the small business program, Harvard is going to pay the money back. How confident are you that you can claw back money from places like Harvard?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm going to have to look. I don't like when Harvard -- that has, I think, a \$40 billion endowment or some incredible amount of money -- that Harvard gets this money. Harvard should pay that money back. I want Harvard to pay the money back. Okay? And if they won't do that, then we won't do something else. They have to pay it back. I don't like it. I don't like it.

This is meant for workers. This isn't meant for one of the richest institutions, not only -- far beyond schools -- in the world. They got to pay it back. I want them to pay it back.

Yeah.

Q Mr. President, your Florida clubs have had to furlough workers

--

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. That's true.

Q Have you thought about, you know, asking your family members to maybe keep some of those workers on the payroll to help -- sending them to the federal coffer? We've seen companies -- other companies do that.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I -- you know, yeah. In Doral, you're not allowed to have the golf courses open. You can't have the clubs open. You can't have anything. It's a -- it's a big hotel and resort. And I think there's probably 700, 750 people. So you can't have anything open. And you say, "What are we going to do? Have full payroll and have the whole place with..." You know, there's no income coming in.

First of all, everyone's home and they're supposed to be. Second of all, in Florida, you can't use golf courses. That one, I'm not sure I agree with. You know, you have parks and golf courses where you have open space. But that's what it is.

So I have others also. Then I have others in different states. I have a lot of different properties. But again, my children run them, and I love my children and I wish them well. I look forward to comparing my numbers to my children's numbers. I think I'll do better.

Q You haven't thought about asking them to keep these --

THE PRESIDENT: You understand that. It's called closed property, it's like, you know, you have to close them up and then hopefully when things get better, we'll just open it up. But you can't have, you know, many hundreds of employees standing around doing nothing. There's no customer. You're not allowed to have a customer.

So, in some places, it's very strict. New Jersey is strict. New York is strict. And you have to do what you have to do. And it's too bad. I feel so badly when I see that. I think that it's a tough policy, but I go by whatever the policy -- that's a state policy, in the case of Florida.

Please, Steve.

Q You've communicated -- you've communicated regularly with Kim Jong Un, the North Korean leader.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Are you going to try to reach out to him to check on his condition and call him?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I may. But I -- look, I just hope he's doing fine. I mean, I've had a very good relationship with Kim Jong Un, and that's to the benefit of the country. That's not a bad thing; that's a good thing. And I'd like to see him be well, and we'll see how he does.

Again, I don't know that the reports are true.

Q And do they have a line of succession, as far as you know? Is --

THE PRESIDENT: I -- I don't want to ask him that. I have asked him that, but it's not -- it's not -- it's not my purpose to tell you that, in all fairness. But, you know, I hope he does well.

Please.

Q Can I get a follow-up with Dr. Birx for a moment. Dr. Birx, if you don't mind, I just wanted to follow up on the question we

were asking you about, with social distancing in some of these states. So, you know, with Georgia opening back up, you know, things like tattoo parlors, getting a massage, social distancing -- maybe there are some creative ways, but it seems very difficult to do social distancing. So, do you have a message for people in Georgia who are soon going to have a choice about going to the hair salon or the nail salon or getting that tattoo if they're not six feet apart and they're not able to follow these social distancing guidelines? What's your message to people in a state like Georgia?

DR. BIRX: Well, we made it very clear in a message to all of the American people with Opening Up America Again. The criteria that we wanted states to follow, those were careful criteria. There were only six. They were carefully, carefully selected, in conversations with epidemiologists around the world and with CDC, to really pick things that people could understand and use platforms that people have utilized in the past.

But it was built on the premise that it needs to be data-driven and it needs to protect those who are most vulnerable. And then it went through the phases. And the very first thing it says, in all phases, "all individuals need to continue to wash hands, protect the vulnerable, ensure the safety of others." But in phase one, it made it clear that social distancing was absolutely key. And I think it's on the White House website. We ask every American to read it and to use that as their guidelines.

Now, we've also asked governors to create county-level information so that communities can see the information and understand why they may be different than a different county, so that it's very transparent and understandable.

I had a question here a couple of days ago on a Jacksonville Beach. And Jacksonville is dramatically different than Miami. And I think that was reflected in why Jacksonville had a different set of information and regulations.

So I'm not going to second- -- you know, judge anyone about their decision-making. What I'm going to say is: We were very clear in what we really believe protects the safety of Americans. And that is clearly laid up -- laid out in the Opening Up America Again.

Q Dr. Birx, if I may, I have question, because we got data from Tokyo. An increase of cases and it doubled -- of the cases in Singapore. What we've been, you know, looking a lot at Europe after China, and then we're back into this area of the world. Here we're talking about a plateau and then cases going down. Any lessons to take out of what we -- what's happening in this area, in Asia, after having put our attention somewhere else for so -- for so long?

THE PRESIDENT: The lesson is to be careful.

DR. BIRX: Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: We've got to be very careful. We don't want that to happen; it could happen. I think we stamp it out if it does happen. We're not going to be doing any mass closings, I hope. So I think we could. You know, I call them "some burning embers," and we put them out. And I think we've gotten very good at that, but we'll see. But we don't want that to happen. No, absolutely.

Q So are you concerned, Mr. President, once the reopening happen, we won't need to go back into reclosing?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to do that. You don't want to do that. Nobody in this room wants to do that. You look forward -- I think, Bret, very soon, and Jon -- sitting next to a lot of your fellow reporters. Right? The room seems so empty this way. But it's one of those things.

Yeah, go ahead, please.

Q Mr. President, thank you. On the topic of public support for your immigration freeze --

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q An Ipsos/USA Today poll just came out and found 80 percent of Americans are supportive of the immigration halt -- the temporary freeze.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I know that.

Q Did that have any -- did public support have any effect on your decision making here? And are you surprised by those numbers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, it's a high number. I did not see that number. I heard there was a poll. I'm sure there'll be a lot of polls.

No, look, I think the American people want to make sure that they have jobs for the American people, not for people that come in, in many cases, illegally into our country. So we're doing that. I don't know what the numbers are, but I think just common sense tells you that's where we should be, and that's where the American people want to be.

And we're going to build our country back. And I'm telling you, with all the -- the things that we're doing and infrastructure, which we desperately need, it's going to be an incredible thing taking place. I think it's going to be a renaissance. And we're going to have something that will be -- a lot of people going to go to work building those roads and bridges and tunnels and highways and all of the other things we're going to be building -- and broadband for the Middle West.

I mean, the farmers haven't been treated fairly. Let's face it,

the farmers have been treated terribly, when it comes to the Internet. So we're going to take care of that. We're going to -- we're going to make them very happy.

So we'll see you all tomorrow. And we'll have some interesting things to put out tonight. And I appreciate you being here. And it's an honor to have Bret Baier here.

I've used his slot a lot, Jon. I've used that slot a lot.

Q It's the only way I could get on, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Huh? It's -- no --

Q It's the only way I could get on.

THE PRESIDENT: We want to have you back soon. Thank you very much.

Thank you, everybody.

END

6:56

P.M. EDT

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
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Subject: In-town pool report #4

From: Niels Lesniewski <niels@cqrollcall.com>

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:23 PM

Subject: In-town pool report #4

According to a tweet from the president, today's coronavirus task force briefing is now scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

I'll let you know if that is delayed. Otherwise, I will provide color that you can't see on TV.

--



Niels Lesniewski

Chief Correspondent, White House & Congress | CQ Roll Call

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Subject: Pool Report No. 7

From: Thomas Burr <thomaswburr@gmail.com>

Date: April 19, 2020 at 9:09:15 PM EDT

Subject: Pool Report No. 7

Passing on from the White House:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch. The President expressed his best wishes and prayers for a blessed Easter, particularly during this challenging time, to His All Holiness and to all Orthodox Christians celebrating around the world. The President thanked His All Holiness for the Orthodox Church's charitable response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Thomas Burr

Washington bureau chief The Salt Lake Tribune tburr@sltrib.com O: 202.662.8732 C:



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Subject: In-town pool report #3

From: Niels Lesniewski <niels@cqrollcall.com>

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 1:28 PM

Subject: In-town pool report #3

Deputy Press Secretary Judd Deere passes along the following:

Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump spoke by phone with Governor Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma to commemorate 25 years since the Oklahoma City bombing of April 19, 1995 where 168 were tragically killed, including 19 children. President Trump offered his full support for the victims and their families who still grieve for the loss of their loved ones. The President and the Governor also discussed the Federal-State partnership and response to COVID-19. The President praised the work of Governor Stitt, local officials, and all Oklahomans to slow the spread and keep numbers low. The Governor thanked the President for his attention to Oklahoma and pledged to continue to be a good partner with the Administration.

--



Niels Lesniewski

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Subject: Print Pool report #2

From: "Collins, Michael" <mcollins2@gannett.com>

Date: April 22, 2020 at 11:33:16 AM EDT

Subject: Print Pool report #2

From the White House

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The leaders discussed developments in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to continue working together on a coordinated response to defeat the virus and minimize its economic impact. The two leaders also discussed regional security and other bilateral issues.

Michael Collins

White House Correspondent

USA TODAY

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/21/2020 1:07:04 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-town Pool Report #3 - Lunch lid until 2:30 pm

From: Brian Bennett <brian.bennett@time.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:01 PM

Subject: In-town Pool Report #3 - Lunch lid until 2:30 pm

The White House press office has called a lunch lid until 2:30 pm.

President Trump is scheduled to meet at 4 pm with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in the Oval Office. As of now, that meeting is closed press.

The coronavirus task force is scheduled to brief the press at 5 pm.

So far, there are no signs the President will hold an event today to unveil the immigration executive order he tweeted about last night. Your pooler will let you know if that changes.

It started as an overcast day with temperatures hovering around 60 degrees. Now the sun has come out. I had my temperature checked as I walked in the gate around 11 am this morning. The person taking my temperature wouldn't tell me what it was but allowed me to enter the White House grounds.

--

Brian Bennett

Senior White House Correspondent

Time magazine

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From: Davis, May M. EOP/WHO (b) (6)@who.eop.gov]
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To: Amin, Stacy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb3764b7438648838c22881a06fc6afb-Stacy.Amin]
CC: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]; Sherk, James B. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]; Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]; Bonner, Maria K. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]
Subject: Re: OSHA guidance issue

When was yesterday's call? I'm having some difficulty with (b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2020, at 10:53 AM, Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

I'm circling up with our device center. 3 is probably better.

From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Date: April 23, 2020 at 10:26:04 AM EDT
To: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Sherk, James B. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>, Davis, May M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>, Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>, Bonner, Maria K. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: Re: OSHA guidance issue

Thanks, Stacy.

(b) (5)

I am available for a call at 11 am or after 3:30 pm, if helpful.

James

On Apr 22, 2020, at 8:16 PM, Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Best,
Stacy

Stacy Cline Amin
Chief Counsel
Food and Drug Administration
Deputy General Counsel
Department of Health and Human Services

<Guidance for COVID-19 Respirator Disinfection - 2020-04-22 1730.docx>

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Subject: Pool Report No. 6

From: Thomas Burr <thomaswburr@gmail.com>
Date: April 19, 2020 at 8:27:17 PM EDT
Subject: Pool Report No. 6



Passing on from the White House:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey. President Trump and President Erdogan discussed the latest efforts to defeat the coronavirus pandemic and reopen global economies. The leaders also discussed critical regional and bilateral issues.

--

Thomas Burr

Washington bureau chief The Salt Lake Tribune tburr@sltrib.com O: 202.662.8732 C:
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To: 'Pitts, Kara (CMS/CMMI)' [Kara.Pitts@cms.hhs.gov]; Chandran, Priya [Chandran.Priya@bcg.com]; Newman, Carl I CIV DTRA CT (USA) [carl.i.newman.civ@mail.mil]; Guram, Jeet [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ef73bea97e2b477b847ea302c4730ccf-Gurjeet.Gur]; Nair, Suma (HRSA) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=71227a9a69e24c45a655d677054aa27c-HHS-SNair1-]; Bante, Katie (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8abd9d9ceb7c4ebfba6da1cdabb56db4-HHS-Katie.B]; Sartin, Shannon (CMS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=fc5e37eddc874d6da74067589dfc93c0-HHS-Shannon]; Overton, Heidi N. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]; Smith, Brad (CMS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8533621f52844739852d5dd666488303-HHS-Brad.Sm]; Giroir, Brett (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee4c234d3834c77a4a1a7b1a7c176a2-HHS-Brett.G]; dcaluori@gmail.com; Beckham, Tammy (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8b3c038e4917469dbb5666f0464192b3-HHS-Tammy.B]; Jernigan, Daniel B (CDC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=83b3dd3de35d489aa4012b73d93f133f-HHS-dbj0-cd]; blythejane@gmail.com; Adamson, Blythe (OS/IOS) (V) [Blythe.Adamson@hhs.gov]; jasoncyung@gmail.com; dcsellersjr@gmail.com; Rachael Baitel [rbaitel@usaid.gov]; Fulmer, Brendan (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3a4f4f84b75243b3af90cf1ea4fe1ada-HHS-Brendan]; Dasher, David (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a56626cc3fe049fb88c26e56991755ae-HHS-David.D]; Coleman, Mary (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ec303d41f0bf46f5b22f1d66a3a9e4f5-HHS-Mary.Co]; Cash, Lester (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=367e72e3a24b42e686a0ad88ededaca5-HHS-Lester.]; Gelbmann, Jane M (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a27892f2dad94e558032bad3aca2e500-HHS-Jane.Ge]; Stone, Jessica [Stone.Jessica@bcg.com]; Moughalian, Jen C (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1227fced76ad4092bb5f1395d24c0d74-HHS-Jen.Mou]; Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]; Baum, Jeffery Scott (Scott) SES OSD OUSD A-S (USA) [jeffery.s.baum2.civ@mail.mil]; Petersen, Lyle R (CDC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=86e045ba633049f9827fe7c77bce1c67-HHS-lxp2-cd]; Kellogg, Rachel (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6dc3e53a06f5451cad9facbb50d54576-HHS-Rachel.]; Zhang, Huadi [Zhang.Huadi@bcg.com]; apatel7@cdc.gov; Cohn, Amanda C (CDC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d4cbff30d34c4611a2e973fcb192de37-HHS-anc0-cd]; Egge, Sean M (MIL US NDU/ES) [sean.m.egge.mil@ndu.edu]; O'Brien, Sean (Col USAF NDU/ES) [sean.b.obrien.mil@ndu.edu]; Crain, Nicole (CIV US ES FAC) [nicole.v.crain.civ@msc.ndu.edu]; Duncan, Curtis B (CAPT USN NDU/ES) [curtis.b.duncan.mil@ndu.edu]; Cardo, Denise M (CDC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4dc15bb1e3a74f7888e1305cc5337b07-HHS-dbc0-cd]; J. Hunter Jackson [jhjackson18@gmail.com]; Eric Scott [eric.lewis.scott@gmail.com]; Mead, Paul S (CDC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5ff194704d8a4d74a09964add75e2655-HHS-pfm0-cd]; Srinivasan, Arjun (CDC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=af2edf18ecb14b1bb2f8e9ecf6172129-HHS-beu8-cd]; Huang, David T (CDC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0586659e676f4731be7896f9a9b90b3a-HHS-iwh4-cd]; Joseph Dellamura [joseph.dellamura@fema.dhs.gov]; Strom, John (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4a2f4d6abdbc4eec80dfd3aed4998ab8-HHS-John.St]; Hayes, Jonathan (OS/ASPR/IO) [Jonathan.Hayes@hhs.gov]
CC: Heck, Mia (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=656b2fa5aca84a18851397d417a16672-HHS-Mia.Hec]; Carrucciu, Spencer (CMS/CTR) [Spencer.Carrucciu@cms.hhs.gov]; Schwartz, Erica (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative

Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=440146143d6a4020a4860bf0ad52edc1-HHS-Erica.S]; Fine, Joshua B. [Joshua.Fine@tunnellgov.com]; Smith, Michael Aaron CIV OSD OUSD A-S (USA) [michael.a.smith215.civ@mail.mil]; Kang, David [david.kang@fema.dhs.gov]; Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]; Berger, Sherri (CDC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2b1ac8b1b9ba4abe8ef7b1d7abcd8d71-HHS-sob8-cd]; Bartee, Michael [michael.s.bartee.civ@ndu.edu]; Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]; Scher, Adam A. EOP/OMB (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6); Rigas, Laura K (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6451888579b14794808bc7a69ca43650-HHS-Laura.R]; Haddad, Carla (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8627be6986b64424883e696551c54187-HHS-Carla.H]; D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6); Alley, Dawn (CMS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a9f02be7305a4df285c0d6501ed5fe5f-HHS-Dawn.AI]; Herring, Noelle [Herring.Noelle@bcg.com]; Broido, Tara (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b1ed7d3dee614eda879e4e5e8641601b-HHS-Tara.Br]; Hargarten, Eric (CMS/CMMI) [Eric.Hargarten@cms.hhs.gov]; Asad, Sara [Asad.Sara@bcg.com]; Alhassani, Ali [Alhassani.Ali@bcg.com]; Afman, Jeffrey [jeffrey.afman@fema.dhs.gov]; Zachar, Frank [frank.zachar@fema.dhs.gov]; Roach, Jessica (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e0cee220eb8a4394a7da419f7d3dc799-HHS-Jessica]; Acciani, Thomas (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e158fe8ee07c4ac896b8c72b66aca196-HHS-Thomas.]; Overman, Lauren R. [Lauren.Overman@tunnellgov.com]; Toedt, Michael (IHS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d03bbf5205d341ae941dbb55ad243a29-HHS-Michael]; Nolan, Eamon [Nolan.Eamon@bcg.com]; Kan, Derek T. EOP/OMB (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6); brian.c.lein@gmail.com; Le, Xuan (HRSA) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8db135da74304d1c929e03b51aaad487-HHS-XLe-hrs]; Smith, Amanda (fema.dhs.gov) [amanda.smith@fema.dhs.gov]; Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]; Patel, Anita (CDC) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8c06ec0295ce4ea4985d72c66e086749-HHS-bop1-cd]

Subject: RE: Testing at Scale Task Force - Moving to 10:15AM

Attachments: Testing Overview 042220 D#2.pptx; 50 Script_tab D#2.pdf

Good morning –

Please see attached a power point for discussion and a draft script for the individual state calls.

Thank you,
Quellie

Special Assistant to the President
Director of the Office of Policy Coordination

(b) (6)(b) (6)

From: Pitts, Kara (CMS/CMMI) <Kara.Pitts@cms.hhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:26 AM

To: Chandran, Priya <Chandran.Priya@bcg.com>; Newman, Carl I CIV DTRA CT (USA) <carl.i.newman.civ@mail.mil>; Guram, Jeet (FDA/OC) <Jeet.Guram@fda.hhs.gov>; Nair, Suma (HRSA) <SNair1@hrsa.gov>; Bante, Katie (OS/OASH) <Katie.Bante@hhs.gov>; Sartin, Shannon (CMS/OA) <Shannon.Sartin@cms.hhs.gov>; Overton, Heidi N. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov>; Smith, Brad (CMS/OA) <Brad.Smith@cms.hhs.gov>; Giroir, Brett (HHS/OASH) <Brett.Giroir@hhs.gov>; dcaluori@gmail.com; Beckham, Tammy (HHS/OASH) <Tammy.Beckham@hhs.gov>; Jernigan, Daniel B. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID) <dbj0@cdc.gov>; blythejane@gmail.com; Adamson, Blythe (OS/IOS) (V) <Blythe.Adamson@hhs.gov>; jasoncyeung@gmail.com; dcsellersjr@gmail.com; Rachael Baitel <rbaitel@usaid.gov>; Fulmer, Brendan (HHS/IOS) <Brendan.Fulmer@hhs.gov>; Dasher, David (HHS/ASFR) <David.Dasher@hhs.gov>; Coleman, Mary (OS/ASFR) <Mary.Coleman@hhs.gov>; Cash, Lester (HHS/ASFR) <Lester.Cash@HHS.GOV>; Gelbmann, Jane (HHS/ASFR) <Jane.Gelbmann@hhs.gov>; Stone, Jessica <Stone.Jessica@bcg.com>; Moughalian, Jen (HHS/ASFR) <Jen.Moughalian@hhs.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan (FDA/OC) <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Baum, Jeffery Scott (Scott) SES

OSD OUSD A-S (USA) <jeffery.s.baum2.civ@mail.mil>; Petersen, Lyle (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD) <lxp2@cdc.gov>; Kellogg, Rachel (HHS/OASH) <Rachel.Kellogg@hhs.gov>; Zhang, Huadi <Zhang.Huadi@bcg.com>; apatel7@cdc.gov; Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <anc0@cdc.gov>; Egge, Sean M (MIL US NDU/ES) <sean.m.egge.mil@ndu.edu>; O'Brien, Sean (Col USAF NDU/ES) <sean.b.obrien.mil@ndu.edu>; Crain, Nicole (CIV US ES FAC) <nicole.v.crain.civ@msc.ndu.edu>; Duncan, Curtis B (CAPT USN NDU/ES) <curtis.b.duncan.mil@ndu.edu>; Cardo, Denise M. MD (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <dbc0@cdc.gov>; J. Hunter Jackson <jhjackson18@gmail.com>; Eric Scott <eric.lewis.scott@gmail.com>; Mead, Paul (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD) <pfm0@cdc.gov>; Srinivasan, Arjun (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) <beu8@cdc.gov>; Huang, David T. (CDC/DDPHSS/NCHS/DAE) <ihw4@cdc.gov>; Joseph Dellamura <joseph.dellamura@fema.dhs.gov>; Strom, John (HHS/OGC) <John.Strom@hhs.gov>; Hayes, Jonathan (OS/ASPR/IO) <Jonathan.Hayes@hhs.gov>

Cc: Heck, Mia (HHS/OASH) <Mia.Heck@hhs.gov>; Carruciu, Spencer (CMS/CTR) <Spencer.Carruciu@cms.hhs.gov>; Schwartz, Erica (HHS/OASH) <Erica.Schwartz@hhs.gov>; Fine, Joshua B. <Joshua.Fine@tunnellgov.com>; Smith, Michael Aaron CIV OSD OUSD A-S (USA) <michael.a.smith215.civ@mail.mil>; Kang, David <david.kang@fema.dhs.gov>; Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Berger, Sherri (CDC/OCOO/OD) <sob8@cdc.gov>; Bartee, Michael <michael.s.bartee.civ@ndu.edu>; Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Scher, Adam A. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)>; Rigas, Laura (HHS/IEA) <Laura.Rigas@hhs.gov>; Haddad, Carla (HHS/OASH) <Carla.Haddad@hhs.gov>; D'Angelo, Gregory B. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)>; Alley, Dawn E. (CMS/CMMI) <Dawn.Alley@cms.hhs.gov>; Herring, Noelle <Herring.Noelle@bcg.com>; Broido, Tara (HHS/OASH) <Tara.Broido@hhs.gov>; Hargarten, Eric (CMS/CMMI) <Eric.Hargarten@cms.hhs.gov>; Asad, Sara <Asad.Sara@bcg.com>; Alhassani, Ali <Alhassani.Ali@bcg.com>; Afman, Jeffrey <jeffrey.afman@fema.dhs.gov>; Zachar, Frank <frank.zachar@fema.dhs.gov>; Roach, Jessica (HHS/OASH) <Jessica.Roach@hhs.gov>; Acciani, Thomas (HHS/OASH) (CTR) <Thomas.Acciani@hhs.gov>; Overman, Lauren R. <Lauren.Overman@tunnellgov.com>; Toedt, Michael (IHS/HQ) <Michael.Toedt@ihs.gov>; Nolan, Eamon <Nolan.Eamon@bcg.com>; Kan, Derek T. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)>; brian.c.lein@gmail.com; Moorhead, Quellie U. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Le, Xuan (HRSA) <XLe@hrsa.gov>; Smith, Amanda (fema.dhs.gov) <amanda.smith@fema.dhs.gov>; Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Patel, Anita (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) <(b) (6)@cdc.gov>

Subject: Testing at Scale Task Force - Moving to 10:15AM

Good Morning All,

The Testing at Scale Task Force meeting will be at 10:15AM today. Thank you!

Best,
Kara

Kara Pitts

Management Analyst, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Kara.Pitts@cms.hhs.gov

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/22/2020 5:02:31 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Print pool report 8

From: Collins, Michael <mcollins2@gannett.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:57 PM

Subject: Print pool report 8

POTUS just tweeted that today's coronavirus briefing will begin at 5:45 p.m.

Michael Collins

White House Correspondent

USA TODAY

Email: mcollins2@gannett.com

Cell: (b) (6)(b) (6)

Twitter: @mcollinsNEWS

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/19/2020 8:26:25 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 20, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: CNN

Print: Roll Call

Radio: BBC

EDT

11:00AM

In-House Pool Call Time

1:00PM

THE PRESIDENT has lunch with the Vice President

Private Dining Room

Closed Press

Briefing Schedule

5:00PM
briefing

Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press

James S. Brady Briefing Room

On Camera

###

[Unsubscribe](#)

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From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 4/23/2020 12:08:22 PM
To: Amin, Stacy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb3764b7438648838c22881a06fc6afb-Stacy.Amin]
CC: Sherk, James B. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]; Davis, May M. EOP/WHO (b) (6)@who.eop.gov]; Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]; Bonner, Maria K. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]
Subject: RE: OSHA guidance issue

No problem at all.

From: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Sherk, James B. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Davis, May M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Bonner, Maria K. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: OSHA guidance issue

I just had follow-up conversation with our Device Center and we are ok with OSHA's revised guidance. I'm very sorry for the misunderstanding and for diverting your time.

I had a fundamental misunderstanding about the science and the status of our EUAs that has been clarified for me.

Again, I'm very sorry. FDA is going to clear the guidance and we don't need to have any follow-up discussion.

Best,
Stacy

From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Sherk, James B. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Davis, May M. EOP/WHO (b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>; Bonner, Maria K. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: Re: OSHA guidance issue

Thanks, Stacy.

(b) (5)

I am available for a call at 11 am or after 3:30 pm, if helpful.

James

On Apr 22, 2020, at 8:16 PM, Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)(b) (5)(b) (5)(b) (5)

(b) (5)
(b) (5)

Best,
Stacy

Stacy Cline Amin
Chief Counsel
Food and Drug Administration
Deputy General Counsel
Department of Health and Human Services

<Guidance for COVID-19 Respirator Disinfection - 2020-04-22 1730.docx>

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/20/2020 9:07:53 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 19, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 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 19, 2020

6:28 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I'd like to begin by saying that we're continuing to negotiate with the Democrats to get our great workers and small businesses all over the country taken care of. I think we -- we're getting close to a deal. It could happen. It could happen. A lot of good work has been going on, and we could have an answer tomorrow. And we're going to see what -- what exactly does take place.

We're also looking at helping our hospitals and our rural hospitals, who have been hurt very badly. The rural hospitals, for a long time, have not been treated properly. We're looking

to help them, and beyond. So we're looking at hospitals also, as part of the package. And we'll see how that all comes out.

But a lot of good things are happening. Some very good negotiations. I just got off the phone with the Secretary of the Treasury, and we have some very good negotiations going on right now. And I think you could have a nice answer tomorrow, but we'll see.

America continues to make steady progress in our war against the virus. As of today, we've tested 4.18 million Americans. That's a record anywhere in the world. The United States has now conducted more total tests than all of the following nations combined: France, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, India, Austria, Australia, Sweden, and Canada.

And our testing is expanding very rapidly by millions and millions of people. So we've -- we've done more testing than all of these countries combined: France, United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, India, Austria, and Australia, Sweden, and Canada. That's something. Right?

We're doing a great job. We're -- we are. This team is an incredible team, and that includes Army Corps of Engineers, a lot of our military people, our admirals, our generals. Got one of our great admirals here, who's done an incredible job. You haven't slept too much in the last two months either. Look at him. (Laughs.)

ADMIRAL GIROIR: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: That's -- somebody said to me, "President, you look tired." I said, "I should be tired." We should all be tired. But we have to win, right?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Tomorrow, the President -- the Vice President will lead a call with our nation's governors from FEMA headquarters, Mike --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: -- to review what more they can do and do together to develop locally tailored testing strategies. Working very hard with governors now on testing. We want to help them out.

Before the call, we'll send them a full list of all of the large laboratory machines in the states. They have a lot of machinery in the states that some aren't that aware of, but they're there, and they're really high-quality machines, by the way. And the potential capacity of those machines, if they're fully utilized -- a couple of them didn't know that they could be utilized in a different manner. They're only up to 10 percent, and they can go 90 percent more.

Many governors are still relying on their state laboratories rather than the full and much larger capacity that is available to them. As an example, commercial laboratories, such as Quest and LabCorp -- these are massive laboratories that can handle a lot more than they're being sent. A few days ago, it was at 30 percent. They're only at 30 percent capacity now. I don't know -- probably the same, but they have a lot of capacity.

In addition, academic laboratories, big research labs -- there's tremendous capacity out there. And some of them want the fast -- you know, the instant Abbott machine, which just came about due to the research during this little short period of time. And it's very quick, but these labs can do them very quickly also, and they're -- they're massive. They can handle much more -- much more than the machine, the small machine, can handle.

We continue to procure millions of swabs, test collectors. I have something here. Just happen to have it. It's a swab. It looks innocent. Not very complicated. Anybody like to see what it looks like? Should I open it? Does everybody?

Q Open it up.

Q Yes, please.

THE PRESIDENT: "Open it up." I will. I will. This is what it's about. Right? Is it -- does it remind you of something? It reminds you of this, right? One is a swab and one is a Q-tip. It's actually different. It's very sophisticated, actually. But it's a little bit like -- so this is the swab.

And we've ordered a lot of them. They have a lot of them. Some of them -- some of the states -- they were shipped to states, and the states don't know where they are. And -- but that's -- that's it.

Why don't we give this to Karen? Perhaps she'll take an extra test. (Laughs.) Right?

But this is a big deal. And we're working on it, and we're working with the companies. And I think, in the end, we're going to have -- we're going to have -- we're going to have a tremendous -- a tremendous success.

No -- nobody is close to us. No country is close to us. In fact -- and I appreciate it very much -- the Wall Street Journal wrote a fantastic piece, a highly respected gentleman: Christopher DeMuth. And this piece was just in the Wall Street Journal Weekend Edition. And "Trump Rewrites the Book on Emergencies." That's what's happened too. And we -- I'll just read one paragraph:

"He's given pride of place to federalism and private enterprise, lauding the patriotism and proficiency of our fantastic governors and mayors" -- meaning, I do call them fantastic when it's appropriate -- "and our incredible business leaders and genius companies." I guess I probably use those terms too, when they're doing a good job. When they're not doing a good job, I don't use those terms.

"Our heroic doctors and nurses and orderlies and our tremendous truckers" -- they have all done good jobs -- "by shouting out many of them by name and documenting their deeds on a fully daily basis, he has vivified the American way in action (once [it was] reluctantly aroused)." It was hard to get it aroused, and it is hard to get it aroused, but we got it aroused. "When asked why he has not issued orders for nationwide home and business lockdowns, he has emphasized that the intensity of the epidemic varies widely and is best met by calibrated state and local judgments." That's the judgments of governors and local people. And added pointedly that "such steps would conflict with the Constitution."

But very importantly, he's just a very respected gentleman. To see this was a very nice feeling -- not for me, necessarily, but for all of the people that have worked with us. I mean, they've -- they have worked so hard.

And we've developed tests that are so fantastic. We've -- we've come up with things that nobody had ever heard of, and we did it during -- during this pandemic. We did it under pressure. It's called "reaction under pressure." It's pretty amazing what our people have done. And that includes all of our military people, and our CDC -- just about everybody you can imagine -- including Tony and Deborah. And they've worked long hours. There's nobody that's getting a lot of sleep.

We're close to finalizing -- I want to thank the writer, Christopher, of this article, and it's a great article. That was, frankly -- at least of what I read, it was a great article. We appreciate it.

We're close to finalizing the second partnership through which a U.S. manufacturer would convert its existing plant to produce over 10 million additional swabs per month. And we should be ready to announce this in a very short period of time.

We also are going to be using, and we're preparing to use, the Defense Production Act to increase swab production in one U.S. facility by over 20 million additional swabs per month.

We've had a little difficulty with one, so we're going to call in -- as we have in the past, as you know -- we're calling in the Defense Production Act, and we'll be getting the swabs, very easily. Swabs are easy. Ventilators are hard. Ventilators are a big deal, and we are now the king of ventilators. We have so many ventilators. You know, I said nobody that needed a ventilator has been turned down. It's pretty amazing. Nobody.

We're working with the world-class team at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to use its injection-molding capacity to potentially produce over 10 million collection tubes per week. That's tremendous numbers.

In the meantime, the Supply Chain and Logistics Task Force continues to surge testing and needed supplies all throughout America. Mike's team and the task force, they just met; they've been meeting virtually every day. And it's a great team. Right? It's a great team. They've been doing a great job, Mike. You've been doing a great job.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: They are.

THE PRESIDENT: Many governors are doing this incredible work, and they're working with us very closely on testing and working in their states. And again, it should be a local thing because it's point. It's all these points within a state. But we're helping them a lot, and we want to help them a lot. We're going to help them more than a lot, actually, if you think about it, with what we've done. Think of it: We've done more than all those countries combined.

We're encouraging them to share their successful strategies with other governors. Some of the governors are doing a better job than others. The robust capacity that we've brought online will empower governors to deploy sophisticated strategies so they can safely reopen their states.

Some people believe in testing very strongly, and other people believe in it less strongly. But still, it's a very good thing to have. I think we can say that. Some people believe in it like they can't exist without testing, and other people don't believe in it nearly as much. They can see how they're doing, and they feel how they're doing. And they've been pretty vocal about that. I think you know pretty much who I'm talking about. But I believe if they want it, we should give it to them and get it get it for them and work with them.

You must remember that the governors wanted to have total control over the opening of their states, but now they want to have us, the federal government, do the testing. And again, testing is local. You can't have it both ways. Testing is a local thing. And it's very important. It's great. But it's a local thing. And we're going to get -- we're going to get it done to a level in a very short period of time, because all of these -- all the swabs are coming in, all of the necessary materials. A lot of them, as I said, are already there, but a lot of people don't know that yet.

But we'll be doing testing at a level -- already, we're doing testing at a level nobody has ever done before, but we'll be doing testing at a level that the biggest tester in the world will be very happy, very soon. And it is -- it's very much like ventilators. You don't hear the word mentioned, and that's much tougher -- much tougher -- when you have to build these machines. We built thousands of machines.

We'll more than help the governors, and we'll make sure that everything goes well, just like it did with ventilators; just, frankly, like it did with face masks -- on a much easier subject, the face masks. Again, everything is easier than a ventilator. Ventilators are tough.

But, now, I spoke yesterday with the President of Mexico and with various other countries. We're going to be helping them with ventilators. We have tremendous numbers of ventilators.

In fact, I -- I hear -- I understand that Governor Cuomo is going to be sending up to Massachusetts some of the excess ventilators that we were able to get, and that's great. I think that's a great thing.

The number of new hospital admissions is also significantly down. When you look at these numbers, it's a good thing to see -- other than the fact that we also know how people have been just ravaged by this -- by this curse, by this horrible scourge, plague, call it -- it's got many different names. In many of the hotspots, including a 50 percent decline over a nine-day period in New York City. That's a fantastic decline. It's a beautiful thing to see after going through the opposite.

We continue to see improvement with declining trajectory of cases in Seattle, Detroit, New Orleans, Indianapolis, and Houston metro areas. More evidence that our aggressive strategy is working. And I thank the American people for their selfless

devotion. The American people have done a hell of a job. We're saving countless lives, though.

And again, I'll say it -- because I always wanted to say, "Well, can you leave it open?" Nobody ever heard of anything like this. Not since 1917, more than 100 years ago, has anything like this happened. And in those days, they had no real communication so you couldn't say, "Go inside. Don't..." You know, people just died. Almost 100 million people, it's reported. It's tough.

So, you know, the American people, what they've done is -- is incredible. And they've learned a lot, you know. You see people picketing a little bit, and they want to get out. They want to get out and get back with their lives, and that's good. But they have learned a lot. They've learned about distancing, even now, at least until this thing totally goes away. They've learned about their washing their hands and all of the different things that we've been talking about ad nauseam for so long. And they get it. They get it.

In some places, the governors are ready to go; in other places, they can't go yet, and they won't go. They want to -- they have to have it safe. I want it to be safe too. It has to be safe.

And again, I have to say this. I can't emphasize it strongly enough. I'm probably going to show you charts of some of the countries that are really having trouble, and one in particular is having a massive problem, where they said, "Let's go. We're just going to keep going." Well, they're the lines that you're -- we're famous for now. Some are flat and some are up.

This is like a rocket ship. This country is -- and they didn't. They decided, "Let's go and let's wing it." It's -- you know, they thought it was okay, but it's -- it's a problem. It's a big problem.

And there's another couple. There's one in particular that everybody thinks did it, but the people are staying in. Okay? You know, the head of a country doesn't have to say "stay in." These people are smart people. They know what's going on. They see what's going on. So they don't have to say. They can say they're not doing that, but the people are staying inside. There are not a lot of people outside sitting at cafes, despite what the mode of a country is.

But if you look at Europe, most countries have done this. A couple tried not to. Italy tried not to, and they held it. And Spain tried not to; they went that way. France tried not to. I mean, nobody wants to do this. It's a brutal step. "We're going to close down your country." Who ever heard of a thing like this?

But we would have had millions of people die if we didn't do this. Millions of people. And I believe that, Mike. I think -- you know, in looking at things that we've been looking at over the last couple of days, I think -- and, really, over the last couple of weeks -- from the time we did it, shortly thereafter I said we made the right decision in closing down. We made the right decision on borders, banning people coming in from China; banning, ultimately, people coming in from Europe.

But we would have had millions of deaths instead of -- it looks like we'll be at about a 60,000 mark, which is 40,000 less than the lowest number thought of.

So this isn't a case where people would say, "Oh, we would have had that number. It's similar to a flu." It's not the same thing as the flu at all, because if we wouldn't have done anything, you would have had -- so a flu would have 35, and that goes from 27 to 35, 40, 50 sometimes. It's over a long period of time. Much different. It's even a much different death, to be honest. It's a much different death. This is violent.

CMS is finalizing new guidelines for doctors and patients to resume elective surgeries. It's a big thing. A lot of hospitals were closed. They couldn't do any elective surgeries. They'll be able to start doing that. Procedures and medical care that needs to be done in person -- as long as the rate of infections remains low in a community, we want patients to be able to go to the doctors, get clinically tested, and have work done, surgeries, receive treatment for chronic conditions, and resume preventative care. So we'll be allowing that to happen very soon.

We had no capacity in the hospitals with what happened with the -- with the plague. We had no capacity to do it. If your doctor believes you need a treatment in person, you can get a treatment now. You can and should get a treatment now.

We are asking that healthcare facilities have plans in place to keep patients safe during their visit. Some places like New York, New Jersey, where they really got hit hard, it's going to be a little bit tougher. They've done a great job, but they really were a center. I mean, they were a center. I was watching that; it was incredible. But now they're -- they're leveling off, and I think there'll be coming down very soon.

Administrator Seema Verma will be telling you a little bit more about it. Mike is going to say a few words. Seema will then speak and tell you a little bit more about that.

My administration continues to execute our massive military operation to supply our hospitals with equipment they need, and beds, if necessary. But it looks like we're totally covered on beds. We have plenty of beds. It's highly unlikely -- that would be bad news if we needed more beds. But it looks like it's going just the opposite direction.

I want to thank Governor Cuomo -- the relationship there -- for this whole thing. We're building hospitals. It was very good. We built a little bit more than we needed, and that's good, as opposed to building a little bit less. That's not good. But he's worked very well with us.

The governor of Louisiana has been great on the bed -- on that whole situation with the beds.

Frankly, the governor of Michigan was very good with us on -- on beds. You know, it's a very complex subject. You need buildings or you have to do tents, or you have to do a lot of different things, a lot of different ways.

But the Army Corps of Engineers was fantastic. They were fantastic.

Florida likewise -- Governor DeSantis. And I could name probably six other locations.

I'll tell you one: California was fantastic. He was really good. He was really good. And I appreciate the fact that he -- he said what he wanted to say, and he wasn't letting the press force him into saying something that he didn't want to say. So I appreciate it very much. Governor of California. He really -- he worked very hard. We worked together, and he worked very hard.

The federal government is currently procuring more than 100,000 ventilators through new production or purchases, with thousands already delivered. We've delivered thousands of brand-new ventilators all throughout the country. New York would be, I guess, the biggest user. And they are now taking some of their excess ventilators, which is great, and they're sending them up to Massachusetts. I think it's 400. And that's -- that's a great thing.

Our total supply of ventilators continues to exceed, by a lot, total expected demand. Governor Cuomo said today that no one who needed a ventilator was denied a ventilator. That's a beautiful statement, I appreciate it. And all governors are in that same position.

We do have a clip that I thought would be appropriate to put up today. It'll take two minutes, and I think you'll find it interesting. But we appreciate it.

And let's see if we can do that. You'll turn out the lights, and we'll see if we can do that. Thank you.

(A video is played.)

We actually had something else. Are they finished with it? They left out the good part. Great -- great job, fellas.

Q What was the good part?

THE PRESIDENT: They did a better job on ventilators. No -- Andrew had something else to say that was really nice, but we won't go through that. But he really -- I mean, it was really a good statement.

Do you want to put the rest of it up, or do you not have it?

I just think it's so good because it's bipartisan. You know, this is not about Democrats, Republicans. This is about a thing that hit our country, the likes of which has never happened to us before. Wars -- those wars, Civil War. Sure. The First World War, the Second World War -- they're not fought on this country. This is being fought on this country. But it's being fought in 184 countries all over the world. It's terrible.

But I want to thank Andrew -- Governor Cuomo -- for the statement. He actually -- if you go a little bit further, it was -- it was even far beyond even that. So that was great. Do you remember?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Should we run it again?

ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: They're getting it to work --

THE PRESIDENT: Huh?

ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: They're going to try to work on getting the first part of that.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's okay. Whatever. But it's -- it's -- he said some really good things. And that's -- it makes people feel good. It's -- actually, the Wall Street Journal -- Christopher was saying, "I want to make people feel good too." I want to make -- when they're doing a good job, I want to make people feel good. I want the Admiral to feel good. He's worked so hard. Mike has worked so hard.

And it was -- it was very nice. You know, it was on this morning. It was all -- it was Andrew this morning. It's -- it's a little longer clip than that. But you'll see it was, really, a very nice thing that he said. And people really appreciate that because they've done a great job. The federal government has done a great job. I mean, we -- with all of it. And this is easy. The swabs are -- that's easy. We have them coming by the tens of millions. We have them coming at a level that -- you'll have so many swabs you won't know what to do with them. That's easy.

So they'll all -- they'll all be there. A lot of them are there already. They're learning about their testing capacity that they didn't know about that -- that we have in the various labs,

including academic, they have to remember. You have a lot of these big colleges that have labs that are totally ready to help. But I want to thank the Dynamic Ventilator Reserve, because what they've done is incredible. That's a capital D-V-R, by the way, an innovative public-private partnership. That's what we created.

We're gaining access to up to 65,000 additional ventilators and hospitals across the nation that can be redeployed very quickly to areas with the greatest need when they're not in use. And we, right now, have almost 10,000 in our reserve. We've been able to give away thousands, like we helped Andrew or we helped fill. And New Jersey is doing a great job. Andrew will tell you that too. They have a very good relationship, working together and working with us.

But we have -- now we're back up to almost 10,000, and this is after giving away tens of thousands of ventilators. And we're going to fill up the reserves of states. We're going to work with them, so in case this happens again.

But we're also going to help other countries. I was telling you, the President of Mexico -- we're going to be sending a pretty large quantity to Mexico -- they very much need them -- and to other countries where they need them. We've had -- I've had about six calls with leaders of other countries, and they need them. And they're hard to -- they're hard to get done.

We did -- was our companies stepped up, and they did an incredible job. Some of them were automobile companies, and they'd take an assembly line and they'd say, "Guess what? We're making ventilators now for a while."

But because of the historic steps that we've taken, I remain confident that every American who needs any of this equipment -- any of the things we're talking about -- we'll either have it

now, already has it, or we'll shortly have it.

Through the Project Airbridge, we've completed 64 flights carrying over 600 million pieces of personal protective equipment, such as gloves, gowns, and other medical gear, with 50 more flights scheduled in the very near future.

The team doing that is an incredible team of military people and young geniuses. Some are older geniuses, but mostly younger geniuses, I think I can say. Some people that made vast amounts of money in Silicon Valley. You know, these are very smart people. The job they've done is incredible. And I said, "Where do you come from?" "Well, I sold my company, sir." "Oh, really? How much did you get?" I think he said \$700 million. I said, "That's good. You want to work for the government?" No, I want to help our country, sir. And it's tremendous brainpower. It's a beautiful thing to see.

Young, incredible people that love this country, and they worked with the military. Admiral, you would say they were pretty smart, right?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Yes, sir,

THE PRESIDENT: They were in the upper scales of IQ?

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: They were the upper. They were the -- they were the top scale, I'll tell you. And they're great people.

But FEMA is working to commit another \$384 million to produce another 64 million gowns for healthcare. These are the highest quality, where they're very safe. When you put them on, they're safe. Very important. The quality of the gown is very important. People in different places, different countries,

they're wearing gowns with cuts in them. And these are very safe.

I want to thank America's textile manufacturers for their partnership in this remarkable undertaking. Two U.S. companies, Hanes and Standard Textile, are on track to produce 5 million gowns by the end of the month. And that's really moving. That's really moving. Two great companies. You know those companies.

Another great American company, Honeywell, recently began manufacturing N95 masks in Rhode Island, where they converted a factory in less than five weeks instead of the nine months it was normally expected to take. So they've already done it, and they did it so rapidly. Five weeks instead of nine months.

It's amazing the spirit of this country. It's really about the spirit of the country. We said, "Do it. Do it fast." But they did it in -- and this is -- this was a major conversion too. This is a different world.

Honeywell is hiring more than 1,000 American workers to produce 20 million masks per month. Twenty million masks a month. Thanks to the Defense Production Act, we'll be receiving another 40 million masks over the next few weeks.

And I also want to thank 3M because they really stepped up. We had a little dispute at the beginning, but that got worked out quickly, and they've been doing a great job -- 3M. They really have been. I want to thank their great CEO. We -- we had a little skirmish, but it worked out well. And they're doing a lot of work right now on masks and other things.

This production is in addition to the 55 million N95 masks my administration has already distributed. Plus, we ordered -- and it's coming in soon -- 500 million masks. You would think, "What are you going to do with them?" They get used rapidly.

In addition to that, as you know, we sterilize masks now. A great company in Ohio recommended by the governor of Ohio, strongly. And it's doing very well, and they're sterilizing. A lot of the masks can be sterilized up to 20 times, so that's like buying 20 masks. And I always wondered, "Why aren't they sterilizing these masks?" They're pretty -- some of them are pretty sophisticated masks. And some you can't, because of the material; others you can.

But we have actually two companies that do this, but one company I know very well in Ohio, and they're doing a great job. So they're sterilizing masks. Up to 20 times you can sterilize a certain type of mask.

To these numbers in perspective -- and to put them into perspective, American healthcare providers use an estimated 25 million N95 masks nationwide in a typical year. So, a typical year: 25 million. That means we've secured nearly four times as many N95 masks in recent weeks as we would an entire healthcare industry during a typical year. Over a matter of a couple of weeks, we had more masks than we would do in a year. Think of that. Over a couple of weeks.

Moreover, we're bringing supply chains back home, and we've learned a lot about supply chains. We've learned that it's nice to make things in the U.S. I've been saying that for a long time. One of the reasons I ran for office -- because we started making things everywhere but here. And if one thing comes out of this, more than anything else, is that we should make product in the United States.

And these supply chains, they sound wonderful, but if one country has a problem, the whole chain is ruined. And I've been saying it for a long time. I ran partially on that. I ran partially on that. I ran on that, and I ran very strongly against China. And

then we made a great trade deal where they buy \$250 billion. They're supposed to. And they're paying tariffs. They paid us tens of billions of dollars. I've given \$12 billion one year, \$16 billion another year, and \$19 billion to our farmers and ranchers who were targeted.

But, you know, I ran on China and other countries, the way they were ripping us off. They were ripping off our country. And China understood that. I mean, China fully understood that. And they're big, strong, smart people. And I wasn't friendly, and it wasn't a friendly situation. And we ended up making an incredible deal with China for tens of billions of dollars of product: \$40- to \$50 billion to the farmers. The most they ever spent was 15 to 16; now they're supposed to spend 40 to 50.

Now, of course, the -- the virus came along, and I'm not happy. I'm not happy. And I let him know I'm not happy. So, you know, we had a great relationship with -- we had a very bad relationship with China. Then we had a good relationship, because we made a great deal.

But we're not happy. This is not a good thing that happened. It came out of China, so we're not -- we're not in a position where we're going to say much yet.

But the deal itself is great. The deal is -- it's going to put many, many people to work in our country. But all of that has to be taken into account when you look at all of the people that are dying in our country, but all over the world -- all over the world. People are dying.

I had a G7 call and their economies are in tatters. They're shattered, the G7 countries. You have Japan and Germany and France, and the different countries. Italy -- look at what happened to Italy. Look at what happened to these countries. Look at what happened to Spain. Look what happened

to Spain, how -- how incredible. It's just been shattered. And so many other countries are shattered.

So nobody ever thought this could have happened, a thing like this. It's very, very sad.

But if we've learned something, it's about supply chains. I just saw yesterday where, when the auto industry gets back, they have a problem because there's a supply chain going through a different country. And this has been going on over for years, for decades. I always said it was no good. Why don't -- why don't we make it -- why do you need a supply chain? Make -- very simple: Make you parts here. They get one part from this country and one part from that country. It's all over the place. The problem is if one country has a problem, you have no car, or whatever it is you're making.

So we've learned a good lesson. I think a lot of smart people knew that before. But we've distributed many hundreds of millions of masks.

This pandemic has underscored the vital importance of reshoring our supply chains and bringing them back into the United States, where they belong, where they should have never left. What happens if you're in a war and you have a supply chain where half of your supplies are given to you by other countries? Who -- who are the people that thought of this? These are globalists. It doesn't work. It certainly doesn't work during rough times, bad times, or dangerous times.

So we're going to continue to fight the virus. We're talking to China. We spoke to them a long time ago about going in. We want to go in; we want to see what's going on. And we weren't exactly invited, I can tell you that.

If you look at some of the investigations that are going on in

terms of World Health Organization -- and I'll take it a step further: the World Trade Organization, too. World Trade. We -- we did years ago -- years ago, many years ago -- the World Trade Organization. From the day China came in, that's when China bloomed. They were mainlining it, and then, boom, they were up like a rocket ship because they took advantage of every little ridiculous clause in the World Trade Organization documents.

They were a developing nation. China was a developing nation. They make the cars. They make the plant. They make everything. They make everything. And they're a developing nation.

So we've had -- I might have gotten elected, to a certain extent, because of China and other countries. One of my big things was trade. The United States is getting ripped off on trade.

Now Japan is paying \$40 billion and buying a lot. That's before we even do the deal. U.S.-Mexico was a great deal. The NAFTA was one of the worst deals ever made in trade -- in trade history. And I would also put the World Trade Organization in that same group.

So I was very tough on these countries. With China, we made the deal, and we became friendly. But then this happened, and this is -- this is tantamount. This is something that's really incredible.

I do want to read the -- something that I just saw today on television. I was looking and I just said, "That's an interesting statement." We talked about the Democrats, and it was a statement made by Bret Baier -- a good guy, smart. "On February 19, there was a Democratic debate in Las Vegas." That was February 19. That's way after I closed entrance from China into our country.

So, Bret goes: "On February 19, there was a Democratic debate in Las Vegas. Three words weren't said during the debate: virus, coronavirus, or COVID-19. Those three words never came up."

That was -- I just thought it was very interesting, because, you know, you hear these people -- some of the people -- the Democrats said "Oh, this, that." It never even was a part of their dialogue. Now they bring it up because you see what happened. So now -- but they didn't bring it up, but I brought it up. I brought it up a long time before I made the trade deal. And I was not easy to deal with. I was not easy to deal with. They understand that.

We still have 25 percent on \$250 billion that they have to pay us. And it's a lot of money. We've taken in a lot of money, and we've had a lot of beneficiaries, including our farmers and ranchers.

So, in addition, we've launched an unprecedented effort to develop new treatments and therapies to battle the plague. Therapies, to me, are the most exciting. The vaccines are obviously so important, but the therapies are immediate, you know. And we have some things that are really looking good. Really looking good. We call it: COVID Treatment Acceleration Program. We're accelerating all of these great companies that are looking, and we have government agencies looking too -- NIH.

This extraordinary program is slashing red tape to speed in development and to rival and -- if you look at -- if you look at what we're doing in terms of the speed, it's unrivaled. It's totally unrivaled. There's never been anything like it. The FDA and Dr. Stephen Hahn -- a highly respected man from a great institution -- left that job to come here. The job he's doing is incredible. And we're working with Scott, his predecessor, who's terrific. We're working with a lot of people.

But the speed of development for antiviral, antibody, and immune therapies is at a level that nobody thought even possible. And I will say this: We're getting very good results. It's a little soon yet. But if we could find the therapies, that would solve the problem. If somebody has a problem, we can get it taken care of, so it's not so devastating as it has been.

With that, I'm going to ask Vice President Pence to come up. And I have to say it's a Sunday -- a Sunday evening -- and this man has not stopped. He's working -- we all are, in all fairness -- but he's been working with his task force and everyone else around the clock for months.

And I just want to thank Mike. Thank you, Mike.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. And let me echo your words about all the dedicated men and women on the White House Coronavirus Task Force, and the team that you assembled in January, some of whom are with us today: Seema Verma with CMS, Admiral Giroir with the U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. Steve Hahn of the FDA, and others represent a level of commitment and dedication. It's been inspiring for me to have the privilege to work with. And so I thank you for your gracious words.

That White House Coronavirus Task Force met today. It was reported to us that, at this moment, more than 746,000 Americans have tested positive for the coronavirus. Fortunately, more than 68,000 Americans have fully recovered. But sadly, more than 41,000 Americans have lost their lives to the coronavirus.

And we always want to express our deepest sympathies to the families in their loss, as well as to all the families who have loved ones that are struggling with this disease.

Today, we've seen encouraging news again about our progress as a

nation. President Trump reflected on those momentarily. But the coronavirus White House Task Force today learned that our large metro areas continue to stabilize and even see progress.

The New York metro area, including New Jersey, New York, Long Island, Connecticut, and Rhode Island all appear to be past their peak. The Detroit metro area also appears to be past its peak and is stable. New Orleans metro area actually is the most stable of all areas where we had a major metropolitan outbreak. And the Denver metro area is stable. We're dealing in Colorado with a meatpacking plant issue. And, of course, California and Washington remain low and steady.

Areas that we continue to watch carefully on the task force include the Chicago metro area, Boston metro, and the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

The progress that we are making is a tribute to the -- the American people. It's a tribute to state and local leaders in all of these areas and the partnership that our President has forged.

But we just want to encourage every American, as we see this progress, to continue to heed your state and local authorities. I think the American people know no one wants to reopen America more than President Donald Trump. But I want to assure you we're going to continue to work with governors of every state, with the President's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. And we're going to work in a way that we can consolidate the progress that we have made and help move our states toward reopening our country.

We also received a report today -- and the coronavirus task force, at this point: 5,528 military personnel have been deployed across 24 hospitals and facilities, and 28,700 National Guard are on duty.

On the subject of supplies, the President spoke about this at length, but at the present moment, we have more than 9,055 ventilators on hand. We actually added 91 ventilators to that supply because of the production that the President and our task force at FEMA has activated. And in the next seven days, we'll be adding 576 ventilators to the Strategic National Stockpile.

As the President mentioned, our Airbridge continues to work: 64 flights completed, with 50 more flights on the horizon, literally bringing in medical equipment from around the country and around the world and deploying it to critical areas.

Finally, tomorrow, as the President announced, we'll be hosting a conference call with all of the nation's governors, all the states and territories, from the headquarters at FEMA. And we'll be working with the governors to ensure them that we're -- we're helping them to review and evaluate the President's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again -- the criteria that we believe is appropriate and necessary -- before states can move into any phase one change in the mitigation strategies.

But also, at the President's direction tomorrow, we'll be providing all the nation's governors and all of their health officials with detail about the testing infrastructure that exists all around the country. We'll be specifically providing governors and state health officials with information about all of the lab capability that exists in their states. And also, we'll be updating them on our efforts to identify the kind of supplies the President just held up in our efforts to make sure that those supplies are at -- at all of those laboratories, as the need should arise.

Remember that, a month ago, we had done 80,000 coronavirus tests in America. This weekend, we cleared more than 4 million. And we're currently testing more than a million Americans a week. We

fully expect to actually have tested more than 5 million Americans before the end of this month.

But at the President's urging, we're going to continue to scale that testing and then work with governors to make sure that they can manage and implement and deploy that testing in the manner that will most support their efforts to move their states forward.

Remember that the testing that is contemplated in the Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, for phase one, are testing people that have symptoms that may be coronavirus, and then also having the testing resources to deploy to vulnerable communities: nursing homes or other vulnerable communities that we have identified as needing additional --what is called "monitoring" or "surveillance testing.

We believe we have the testing today around the country that would allow any state in America to move into phase one if they've met the other criteria: fourteen days of consistent declines and strong hospital capacity, so that their system would not be overwhelmed in the event of a flare-up.

But we're going to be working with governors tomorrow on the subject of testing and supplies. And as the President said again this evening: We're here to help. We've forged a partnership with governors around the country, and tomorrow we'll be building on that partnership to hopefully arrive at the day that we can make sure governors around the nation have the best advice and the best resources to put America back to work.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Very good.

Is Seema here? Seema, you've done such a great job. Please,

come up and say a couple of words. Thank you.

ADMINISTRATOR VERMA: Thank you, Mr. Vice President and Mr. President. So, just a few weeks ago, we stood here and asked the American healthcare system to delay elective surgeries and procedures. And the reason why we did this is we wanted to make sure that the healthcare system could deal with any surges. We wanted to preserve equipment and make sure that they had the appropriate workforce to handle any surge. And our healthcare system did a fantastic job. They very quickly stood up telehealth services. And under the President's leadership, we started paying for these services under the Medicare program.

But the reality is, not everything can be addressed by telehealth. And maybe a woman that needs surgery for breast cancer, somebody who has cataracts in their eyes that need to be able to see better, and sometimes the doctor just needs to be able to listen to their patient's heart. We've heard across the country that doctors' offices have closed and many healthcare systems are furloughing their staff, nurses and doctors.

Under the President's leadership, we've put out over \$90 billion in accelerated payments under the Medicare program, provided \$30 billion of grants, with more dollars on the way.

But thanks to the American people, we are in a much different place. You heard from the Vice President that there are many places around the country where they're seeing a decline in cases. And hospitals are reporting that they have unused capacity.

And so, as part of our opening up America, we are issuing guidelines today about how we can reopen the healthcare system. So these are recommendations around phase one.

Now, every state and local official has to assess the situation

on the ground. They need to make sure that they can still address surges. They need to make sure that they have adequate supplies and a plan for conserving supplies. They need to be able to screen patients and healthcare workers for COVID virus. And they need to make sure that patients feel safe when they come in to seek healthcare services by assuring that they have the appropriate cleaning in place and that they observe social distancing inside the healthcare facilities.

And this isn't going to be like a light switch. It's more like a sunrise, where it's going to be a gradual process. And healthcare officials across the country and healthcare systems need to decide what services should be made available. And, ultimately, doctors and patients need to make decisions about their healthcare services. And we want to make sure that systems are reopening so that they can stay open and doing that in a very measured way.

And I want to thank all the healthcare workers on the frontlines. They have done a fantastic job in providing care and comfort, serving as the liaison between family members. They've done a fantastic job, and we owe a debt of gratitude to them.

And to all those providers that did adhere to our guidelines: They did the right thing, and it has made an extraordinary difference.

I also want to take a couple of seconds here to talk about our nursing homes. Our hearts and minds are with the patients and the families of those living in nursing homes. This is an extraordinarily difficult situation. People living in nursing homes are of the most vulnerable patients: They're elderly; many of them have underlying health conditions. And this has been a very hard situation, and I really appreciate the strong efforts of governors and local communities that have shown great leadership in supporting nursing homes across the country,

particularly Governor Baker, Governor Hogan, that have had special efforts around supporting nursing homes.

FEMA is also working on a plan to make sure that nursing homes have the supplies that they need. And just last week, we increased the reimbursement in the Medicare program for high-throughput tests, and we are also paying for labs to go out to nursing homes to collect samples. And that's going to really support efforts on nursing homes in order to isolate patients.

Today, we are also announcing, under the President's leadership, an effort around nursing home transparency. It's important that patients and their families have the information that they need, and they need to understand what's going on in the nursing home.

And so, today, we are announcing that we are requiring nursing homes to report to patients and their families if there are cases of COVID virus inside the nursing home. We are also requiring nursing homes to report directly to the CDC when they have cases of COVID virus.

And this is very important. As you've heard Dr. Birx talk about, as we reopen the United States, our surveillance effort around the COVID virus will also begin in nursing homes. And so by having this reporting system, this will support CDC's efforts to have surveillance around the country and to support efforts around contact tracing so that we can mitigate the spread of the virus in those communities that show spread starting in the nursing homes.

So again, I want to thank all of the local officials that have done an amazing job in supporting the nursing homes, and would urge all state and local leaders to follow their lead and do everything that we can to keep nursing home residents safe.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Seema.

And Dr. Hahn is here. If you need, he'll tell you maybe a little bit later, if you want this -- but I can tell you that, very simply: The level at which they are approving things, tests, and being on top of the people that are doing the testing for therapies and for vaccines has never -- they've never seen anything like this. So I want to thank you very much. And stick around. Maybe they'll have some questions.

Okay? Please, go ahead. In the back.

Q Mr. President, thank you very much. If there were groups of people planning to protest tomorrow against the government shutdown, what would be your advice?

THE PRESIDENT: Against the shutdown?

Q Well, yeah. That they want the shutdown lifted. Should they go ahead if it's in --

THE PRESIDENT: They want it lifted? Yeah.

Q -- a state where there haven't been 14 days --

THE PRESIDENT: Please. I don't have any advice. People feel that way. You're allowed to protest. I mean, they -- they feel that way.

I watched a protest and they were all six feet apart. I mean, it was a very orderly group of people. But, you know, some -- some have gone too far. Some governors have gone too far. Some of the things that happened are maybe not so appropriate.

And I think, in the end, it's not going to matter because we're

starting to open up our states. And I think they're going to open up very well. We're going to be watching it. We're going to be watching it very closely. We're working with them on testing. We're working with them on whatever they need. I don't think they need ventilators anymore.

I believe the term the governor used was "phenomenal." We've done a phenomenal job. That was the term that -- that was the only sentence they left out, which is okay. But I -- I appreciate that that's what Governor Cuomo said. But we have -- they've done a phenomenal -- these people have done a phenomenal job.

As far as protesters -- you know, I see protesters for all sorts of things. And I'm with everybody. I'm with everybody.

Please, in the back. Go ahead. In the back. Go ahead. Are you ready? Yeah.

Q Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. President. Jenn Pellegrino with OAN. Yesterday, you pointed out that Iran was likely not truthful in their reporting of the virus. Meanwhile, Senator Dianne Feinstein and other Democrats are looking for \$5 billion in aid to Iran. Are you considering giving any aid to Iran?

THE PRESIDENT: If Iran needed aid on this, I would be willing to do something, if they want it. If they'd ask for it, I would be certainly willing. They were hit very hard. Obviously, those numbers weren't correct numbers that they reported. But if they needed help, if they needed aid, if they needed ventilators -- we have thousands of ventilators currently on hand, and ventilators under construction, under -- that are under construction.

That's a mosquito. I don't like mosquitoes. I don't like mosquitoes at all.

But if they -- yeah, we would certainly be willing to help. What they should do is be smart and make a deal.

It's only because of -- you know, you look at what happened. It's -- John Kerry, I guess, just doesn't want them to make a deal. And they're probably figuring they can wait and maybe it will be Biden. And they'll own America if Biden gets -- and they know, with me, doesn't work that way. It doesn't work that way. If -- if Joe Biden got in, they'd own America. Between them, China, Japan, Mexico, Canada, they'd own America. You wouldn't have a country left if he got in.

Go ahead, please.

Q Mr. President, the first question: You mentioned that you've seen some governors -- I think you said this yesterday too -- that some governors, you think, have gone too far. Which governors are you referring to, sir? Which states? And then --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to mention -- I don't want to mention names specifically. But obviously, one we can mention that's this, but really much beyond this, is Virginia with what they've done on guns. He is playing with your Second Amendment. We can't allow that to happen. And that is indirectly related to this, because you know what's happened with guns. People are buying guns at a level that you haven't seen before because of -- because of this surge of -- of plague. So what he did was totally inappropriate.

Other than that, I'm not going to mention governors. But I have a list: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven.

Q On money, sir, you mentioned at the top that you hope that a deal may come tomorrow on the small-business loan program.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope so.

Q But, you know, this morning, Mnuchin seemed like this was ready to go. It seem like any second now.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. Whatever it is, they're --

Q Is there any -- is there any changes there?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, every time you say it's ready to go, then they say, "Oh, we have a good negotiating position now because he just said it's ready to go. So now..." Let's see what happens.

But we want to put our -- we want to take care of our workers. We want to take care of our small businesses. They're really the engine of this country. We have to take -- when we open, we want to have those small businesses ready to go. We don't want to -- we don't want those businesses abandoned because they couldn't afford their employees, they couldn't take care. And I want to take care of those employees.

Q But what's the hold-up now, sir? Just in terms of this --

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you that. I can just tell you that we're negotiating with the Democrats. And, you know, they negotiate for things that we can't do, that we don't think are in the best interest of the people of this country. We are very close to a deal. I can't tell you whether or not we're going to get the deal or not.

Who would say that? You want me to say we -- we're going to have a deal before we have a deal?

Q But for people with businesses and --

THE PRESIDENT: We have a good chance of getting a deal. A lot

of good discussions were had today. And we have a good chance of getting the deal. We want the deal. We want to take care of our workers, and we want to take care of our small companies.

Q Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I have a question for you and also for Dr. Hahn, if I may, after I get to your question.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q In your remarks that you made just a few moments ago, in regards to reopening the U.S. economy, you said, "I want it to be safe." And that's a sentiment, obviously, shared by --

THE PRESIDENT: I do. No, I want it to be safe.

Q -- tens of millions of Americans.

THE PRESIDENT: I want it to be safe. Absolutely.

Q And it seems at odds, Mr. President, with the tweet that you had on Friday about liberating those three particular states -- Virginia, Minnesota, and Michigan -- because none of those states, Mr. President, have met the requirements that the Vice President and others on the task force have talked about, in terms of reopening the economy. Do you see those two --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if you take the -- if you take --

Q -- ideas at odds?

THE PRESIDENT: -- Michigan, there were things in the Michigan that I don't think they were necessary or appropriate. Everyone

knows that. I think the governor of Michigan -- and we're getting along very well, but I think the governor of Michigan probably knows that. I think she probably wished she didn't put some of them in. You can't buy paint. You can't buy seeds. You can't have -- I mean, where did this stuff come from?

No, no -- we're going to be safe. We have to be safe. And we don't want to close anything. We're not going to be closing. But we're going to be doing it beautifully, systematically. We're working very well with the governors. I mean, I would say, pretty much almost all of them. A couple of them, no matter what you do, you'll never satisfy them. You could -- you could find the cure tomorrow and they wouldn't be satisfied. They'd find a reason to complain. Wise guys.

But, for the most part, we're working very well with the governors. We have a great relationship with the governors.

I can tell you, I've been on numerous calls with governors, and during those calls -- I mean, without exception, they were friendly. And that's going back even a month -- a month from today.

So I think that we're going to do a terrific job. I think the governors are going to do a terrific job. And we're starting to open our country. And, you know, as you know, some -- I just spoke with Greg Abbott today, from Texas. He's fantastic. He's a fantastic governor. And he's going to be opening up parts of Texas. And you're going to be opening up parts of other countries. You know what they -- other states. And you know what that is.

And, by the way, other countries are at a point where they're starting. I see where Germany is starting to open up a little section.

So there are a lot of great things happening, and we're going to start to open our country. And we're going to do it -- it's like -- as they say, it's like a beautiful puzzle. The state -- it might even be a portion of a state. You know, there are states -- very big states, and you can have portions of states, Mike.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Counties.

THE PRESIDENT: You have a portion -- you have a county, which is perfect, and you have another county that's sort of still pretty far away, even if it's within the same state, and it's not doing so well. But they may open a part.

So we're going to do it very, very carefully. And I think it's going to be very successful. But when you say safe, I want it to be very safe.

Q For Dr. Hahn -- Mr. President, for Dr. Hahn.

Q Mr. President, thank you very much.

Q May I ask a question of Dr. Hahn?

THE PRESIDENT: Let him -- let him just do this one. Go ahead, please.

Q Thank you very much, Dr. Hahn.

THE PRESIDENT: Doctor.

Q There's a question that I don't know the answer to and I was hoping that you could provide an answer to. There's an epidemiologist at the University of Alabama, in Birmingham, who's actually a COVID-19 survivor, and his name is Michael Saag. And his question is this: Why would the virus suddenly be different? Why would people's susceptibility be any different on

May the 1st, or on June the 1st, or on July 1st? And this all relates to reopening the economy. Can you explain or give an answer to that particular question?

DR. HAHN: I don't think we have evidence that one would be more susceptible or less. What I think we can say is that the mitigation efforts have really helped with respect to this, and that what we've seen is the number of cases have gone down. And if we follow the gating criteria for the opening, we're then able to institute phase one and have the appropriate measures in place to actually reduce any chance of flare-up of the cases.

Q Is there a chance of a sort of rebounding if you reopen too soon without the type of mitigation efforts that we've had still in place?

DR. HAHN: Yes, there's a chance. And I think Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx talked about this at the podium. And the key here is the surveillance that is being put in place with the CDC. I think that'll be a really great help in terms of trying to reduce that risk.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: And I think they have the rest of that clip. I just thought it was a very good clip. I think it's a tribute to New York. I think it's a tribute to the federal government. And I thought it was nice. So I think they have that now. They can try it.

Go ahead.

(A video is played.)

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Ummm --

Q Mr. President, you had called on me.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I did.

Q Thank you, I appreciate it. Since you shared with us something else that you saw on TV today, I have a question about something you said on Thursday, which is that you were "angry" because information about the virus "should have been told to us" earlier and "a lot sooner." "People knew it was happening, and people did not want to talk about it."

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q Many Americans are saying the exact same thing about you, that you should have warned them the virus was spreading like wildfire through the month of February, instead of holding rallies with thousands of people. Why did you wait so long --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, who are you with?

Q -- to warn them?

THE PRESIDENT: Who -- who are you with?

Q And why did you not --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- have social distancing until March 16th?

THE PRESIDENT: Who are you with?

Q I'm Weijia Jiang with CBS News.

THE PRESIDENT: So if you look at what I did in terms of cutting off or banning China from coming in --

Q Chinese nationals. But, by the way, not Americans who were --

THE PRESIDENT: Nice and easy.

Q -- also coming in from China.

THE PRESIDENT: Nice and easy. Just relax.

We cut it off. People were amazed. These gentlemen, everybody was amazed that I did it. We had 21 people in a room; everybody was against it but me. Dr. Fauci said, had I not done that, perhaps tens of thousands -- and maybe much more than that -- people would have died. I was very early. Very, very early.

And we just saw -- you saw Bret Baier making a statement. They had a debate well into February and not even mentioned -- it wasn't even mentioned -- the Democrats.

Q And you're the President, sir --

THE PRESIDENT: We were very early. Oh, I -- I'm the President.

Q -- and you didn't warn people that it was --

THE PRESIDENT: And you what I just did?

Q -- spreading so quickly.

THE PRESIDENT: And you know what I just --

Q And, by the way, when you issued the ban, the virus was already here.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. And you know how many people -- when I

used the ban -- how many cases of virus were in the United States when I issued the ban? Do you know the number?

Q There was -- there were already --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no -- how many cases? Remember, I said, "one person." How many cases were here when I issued the ban? Tell me.

Q But did you know that it was going to spread and become a pandemic?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, no, you have to do your research. How many --

Q I did my research. On the 23rd of March, you said you knew this was going to be a pandemic well --

THE PRESIDENT: Can I tell you what?

Q -- before the WHO.

THE PRESIDENT: I did know it. I did know it. All I have to do is look.

Q So you know it was going to spread.

THE PRESIDENT: All -- anybody knew it. Just -- are you ready? How many cases were in the United States when I did my ban? How many people had died in the United States?

Q So do you acknowledge that you didn't think it was --

THE PRESIDENT: Keep your voice down, please.

Q -- going to spread?

THE PRESIDENT: Keep your voice down.

Q Did you not think it was going to spread?

THE PRESIDENT: How many -- how many -- how many cases were in the United States? I did a ban where I'm closing up the entire country. How many people died?

Q And that's a fair point.

THE PRESIDENT: How many people died in the United States? And yet I closed up the country, and I believe there were no deaths -- zero deaths -- at the time I closed up the country. Nobody was there. And you should say "thank you very much" for good judgment.

Go ahead, please.

Q Mr. President, you just mentioned Germany. Germany is allowing the small stores to open tomorrow.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, they are. I just spoke to them.

Q Does this give you confidence that some European countries are on the mend of recovery?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope so. I mean --

Q And will you --

THE PRESIDENT: -- we hope it works out. Look, I spoke to --

Q Will you lift some restrictions on them?

THE PRESIDENT: I spoke with Angela. I spoke with Angela. And

they're going to start a process of opening, very much like we are. We are too.

I spoke with numerous governors; they're doing it also. Areas that have been -- that were -- number one, they've done a good job and where they don't have much of a problem.

Germany is starting the process also, yes. And I'm very happy about that. Some places in Europe, as you know, can't start the process for a while.

Q Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, ma'am. Go ahead, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I have two Nevada questions. First one: The mayor of Las Vegas thinks it's "total insanity" for business to be shut down in Nevada, which the Governor, Sisolak, ordered. Who's right?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they shut one of my hotels down too. Okay? So, you know --

Q I am well aware.

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not involved in that. I couldn't be if I wanted to, I just chose not to be. By the way, just so you know, I could be if I wanted to, but I chose not. But they closed a very big hotel that I have in Nevada, down in Las Vegas.

It's a very severe step he took. I'm okay with it. I'm okay with it. But, you know -- I mean, you could call that one either way. I know the mayor is very upset with it. Some owners are very upset with it. Some of the developers out there very upset. Others, they say, "Hey, we got to get rid of it." I can -- I can see both sides of that.

Q And I'd like to follow up with one other question. I asked you recently about an SBA rule that said the Paycheck Protection money could not go to small casinos. You said you'd look into it. Clearly, something happened.

THE PRESIDENT: They are looking into it right now because they - - they do have -- you know, they have small casinos that don't have too many people. And they are looking, and they're going to make a ruling, I understand, next week.

Q They already did make a ruling, and they changed it from small casinos that make more than a third of their income couldn't qualify, to half.

THE PRESIDENT: I know, but they're looking at that. They're continuing to look at that. It's a big -- it's a big topic. Got a lot of people involved.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Let's give it a shot.

Q Thank you. You know, Governor Cuomo, as you played in that clip, has indeed praised a lot of what the federal government has done, but he and --

THE PRESIDENT: No -- excuse me. Excuse me. He didn't say "a lot." He said we did a phenomenal job.

Q But let me say, he --

THE PRESIDENT: He didn't say "a lot." He didn't say, "You did a good job on ventilators but nothing else." No, he said we did a phenomenal job. So, report accurately, because you are one of the most inaccurate reporters.

Go ahead.

Q What he has said is that -- and along with a bunch of Republican governors who have said what they need, though, is a national strategy when it comes to testing. Because on supplies, they say --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I know.

Q -- that they're competing against one another.

THE PRESIDENT: I know.

Q Why not --

THE PRESIDENT: They said the same thing with ventilators, and now we have so many that we're going to be able to send them and help other countries that are in need. We're doing great on testing. And we are, actually, using the Act, as you know, on a certain company.

Q On swabs. But what about on the reagents? They say that that's something that they can't get a hold of.

THE PRESIDENT: We have -- we're in great shape. It's so easy to get. Reagents and swabs are so easy to get. When you have to build a very expensive piece of machinery controlled by computers, that's a different thing. And, no, we'll have -- everything is going to be in very good shape, very soon. We're going to be in very good shape, very soon.

Yeah, please. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, just the latest stimulus package: Will that have funding for states and local governments? Mister --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't want to comment on it, but we will be saving that for another time.

Q Will you be willing to (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: And I -- and, by the way, some states and local governments need it. I'm the first one to admit that. We're going to be saving that for another little bit of a later date. It will probably be our next negotiation.

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: But they do. I'm in favor of it, I will say. And I told the Republicans today. I had a -- I think a great talk with Republican senators today, and all of them, I think. Just about all of them. And a conference call. And we are going to be -- that'll be a very big topic over the next couple of weeks. It's very important.

Q And what is the administration doing to make sure that, you know, hotel chains and hedge funds do not access funds?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's another one. Yeah -- no, that's another one. You have hotels that have big, massive buildings that are under-levered. But if you have no income at all coming out -- no income at all -- these hotels are -- they go from under-levered to they have to be closed down. It's a terrible thing.

I don't know that they're working on that specific problem, but it's a problem they should be talking about. I mean, you have people that own a hotel where they go from having a very successful hotel with, you know, many employees -- thousands of people -- to, all of a sudden, closing it down.

I read where my wonderful place in Florida, in Miami -- Doral -- they had to let a lot of the employees go because it's essentially closed. You can't use it. You're not -- you can't have the restaurants. You can't have the -- so, you know, you have to close it down. That's a -- that's an example of many, many hotels are closing down throughout the country. And hopefully they're going to be able to open up relatively quickly.

Q But the funds, sir, were specifically for small businesses.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Would you -- would the administration make sure that that's --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it depends how the hotel is considered. You know, is it owned by a big chain? But even if it's owned by a big chain, that's devastating. If they have 200 hotels in the country and they're closed, and it's not only in the country -- remember this: This is all over the world. You know, if they have -- they could have 2,000 hotels that are in other countries; they're also closed. We're in -- we're in better shape than most, when you think about it.

So I think we're going to be looking at it. I think it's a very big problem. And it's a lot of people employed.

Yeah, here we go.

Q Mr. President, 22 -- more than 22 million Americans are currently unemployed --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- as a result of this. Today we hit the grim milestone of more than 40,000 Americans now having died from the

coronavirus. Can you explain then why you come out here and you are reading clips and showing clips of praise for you and for your administration? Is this really the time for self-congratulations?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will tell you this: What I'm doing is I'm standing up for the men and women that have done such an incredible job -- not for me; for the men and women -- admirals, Vice President, if I might. But all of the men and women, thousands -- tens of thousands of them that built hospitals in New York and New Jersey and all over this country in record time. They'd throw up 1,000 beds in four days. I'm sticking up for those people. Those people have been incredible. I'm also sticking up for doctors and nurses and military doctors and nurses.

Q But the clips that you played and what you read earlier was praising you and your administration specifically --

THE PRESIDENT: All I played today was Governor Cuomo --

Q Why is now the moment to do that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: -- saying very positive things about the job the federal government has done. And those people --

Q On the day where more than 40,000 Americans have now died.

THE PRESIDENT: And those -- those people have been just absolutely excoriated by some of the fake news, like you. You're CNN; you're fake news.

And let me just tell you, they were excoriated by people like you that don't know any better, because you don't have the brains you were born with. You should be praising the people that have done a good job, not doing what you do. Even that question.

So just so you understand, if we didn't --

Q The question is: "Why now, sir?"

THE PRESIDENT: -- do a job --

Q The question is "why now," not "why are you doing it," but why now?

THE PRESIDENT: I'll tell you why now. Are you ready?

Q Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: Because these people are, right now, in hospitals. It's dangerous. It's going to a battlefield. And I want these people -- I want you --

Q This wasn't about hospital workers, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I want you and --

Q This wasn't about the doctors.

THE PRESIDENT: It's all about that.

Q This was about you and your administration.

THE PRESIDENT: It's not about me. No, nothing is about me.

Q That was what you read.

THE PRESIDENT: Look -- look, you're never going to treat me fairly -- many of you. And I understand that. I don't even know -- I got here with the worst, most unfair press treatment, they say, in the history of the United States for a President. They

did say Abraham Lincoln had very bad treatment too.

Q Sir, the Wall Street journal headline you just read has your name in it. It talks about "Trump remaking the playbook."

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's a positive thing, because that's an exercise in how to do it and what to do. And that's good for the future. People can learn from that. But I want the men and women of this country that are in danger -- the admirals and the generals that have done a job like they've never done before. They're in war. We're in war. You know, I call it the "invisible enemy." That's the war, and it's a dangerous war.

We're also at a level when you said "40,000 people" -- and you're right: almost 40,000 people. And --

Q More than.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, "more than." Okay, good. Correct me.

Q We're at 41,000.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Well, I'm really glad you corrected me, CNN.

But here's the story. Let me just tell you something: If we didn't do what we did, the 40,000 right now could be a million people. It could be a million people, not 40,000. It could be a million.

We're tracking at much less than the lowest possible estimate. And that's a great tribute to a number of people and a number of things. One of the things that it's a tribute to is what's taken place in this country with the American people, because they've gone inside. They've done it. They've done a job that nobody thought was possible.

And, in fact, when they did the models, as they call them, nobody thought it was possible. They did models not based on this kind of success.

I've seen New York streets, and I see it in the morning -- I've watched, all my life, New York streets -- and you can't even see the pavement, there's so many people. And you take a look this morning; you take a look -- even on Friday morning, I looked at it, I saw it through a camera -- there wasn't a person on Fifth Avenue; there wasn't a person on Madison Avenue. I've never seen anything like it. Because people have really listened to instructions, and they've listened to what we've had to say -- and the professionals. They've listened.

And those people -- people should really give them a lot of credit, including people like you, because you just don't have the sense to understand what's going on.

All right. Yeah, please. Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Should publicly traded companies like Shake Shack and Quantum Corp and Ruth's Chris -- should they have access to the PPP program?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it would depend. It would depend. A lot of those -- I don't know much about any of those companies, but a lot of times, they're owned by franchisees where they own one or two places, and, you know, they are small businesses. So a lot of that would -- that would depend on what the formula is.

But again, many of those companies are -- you know, they're out -- they're franchisees. A franchisee could open up one of the places that you mentioned. And so, yeah, I would say that's important, actually. That's like a restaurant.

Go ahead, please.

Q You know, these -- you referred to these protests earlier. You know, some of them are getting pretty intense and were actually getting some death threats to some governors who are reluctant to reopen.

THE PRESIDENT: You are, in the media?

Q No, the governors are getting death threats. You know, governors of Kentucky, Michigan, Virginia. They're getting increased level of death threats. And are you concerned that your talk about liberation and the Second Amendment and all this stuff --

THE PRESIDENT: No. No, no.

Q -- are you inciting violence among a few people who are (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: I've seen the people. I've seen interviews of the people. These are great people. Look, they want to get -- they call it "cabin fever." You've heard the term. They've got cabin fever. They want to get back. They want their life back. Their life was taken away from them.

And, you know, they learned a lot during this period. They learned to do things differently than they have in the past, and, you know, they'll do it hopefully until the virus has passed. And when the virus passes, I hope we're going to be sitting next to each other in baseball games, football games, basketball games, ice hockey games. I hope we're going to be sitting next to each other. I hope you have golf tourn-- the Masters is going to have 100,000 people, not 25 people watching at the course.

Q Are worried about violence though? I mean, some of them (inaudible) threats at them.

THE PRESIDENT: I am not. No, I'm not. I think these people are -- I've never seen so many American flags. I mean, I'm seeing the same thing that you're seeing. I don't see it any differently.

Q There are Nazi flags out there too.

THE PRESIDENT: They are who?

Q Nazis flags.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that I totally would say, "No way." But I've seen -- I didn't see that. I see all -- of course, I'm sure the news plays that up. I've seen American flags all over the place. I have never seen so many American flags at a rally as I have at these rallies. These people love our country. They want to get back to work.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Please. Go ahead.

Q Have you thought any more about pardoning Paul Manafort or Roger Stone so they're not exposed to coronavirus in jail?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll just tell you this: Roger Stone was treated very unfairly. Paul Manafort -- the black book turned out to be a fraud. We learned that out during the various last number of weeks and months. They had a black book that came out of Ukraine. It turned out to be a fraud. It turned out to be a fraud. They convicted a man; it turned out to be a fraud.

General Flynn was a highly respected person, and it turned out to

be a scam on him. The FBI said he didn't lie. And Mueller's people wanted him to go to jail. Okay?

Q So why not issue a pardon?

THE PRESIDENT: So what am I going to do? You'll find out what I'm going do. I'm not going to say what I'm going to do.

But I will tell you, the whole thing turned out to be a scam, and it turned out to be a disgrace to our country, and it was a takedown of a duly elected president.

And these people suffered greatly. General Flynn -- I mean, what they did to him. And even the FBI said -- and they had some -- and nobody a bigger fan of the FBI than me, at the level of the people that really matter. But the top of the FBI was scum.

And what they did to General Flynn -- and you know it, and everybody knows it -- was a disgrace. He was in the service for over 30 years. He ends up being a general and respected. Respected. And almost his first day in office, they come in with papers; they want to investigate him. It never happened before. And now the tables are turned. Investigate the investigators, I guess.

These were crooked people. These are bad people. These are very dangerous people. You know what they are though? They're scum. They're human scum.

All right. Do you want to have one? In the back, please.

Q Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. President. The CDC has finally admitted to profound failures with testing kits from the beginning of the outbreak. Is this a function of lax oversight from the Obama-Biden administration?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's not from me. I mean, they came in and they had some problems early on, but we've straightened it out. But yeah. I mean, look, I told you we inherited a lot of garbage. We took -- they had tests that were no good. They had -- all of this stuff was no good. It came from somewhere, so whoever -- whoever came up with it.

But I'm proud to tell you that now we went from having a lot of bad things happening in CDC, to having great things happening where they're doing a very good job now.

But, no, initially -- look, our stockpiles were empty. We had horrible stockpiles. We had horrible ventilators. We had very few of them, too. And so did the states have very few of them.

But all of these things are -- now we're at a level that we've never been. The same with our military. Our military is the strongest it's ever been. We spent one and a half trillion dollars on our military. We've totally rebuilt our military. It's never been in a position. We even have Space Force. Mike and I were talking about what an achievement that is. The first time in 72 years, we have a new force.

So, yeah, CDC had obsolete tests, old tests, broken tests, and a mess. But they've -- they've done a very good job. And they've done it under pressure. The pressure is, you know, this -- they had to do this under pressure. So we're very proud of the job they've done.

Please.

Q Mr. President, you said "swabs are easy," and this has been something that hospitals and the states have been saying there are shortages for more than a month now. Why wait to use the Defense Production Act until now?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we already have millions coming in. We have one company that we have to -- we're forced to use it with. And probably, by tomorrow, we won't be. You know, it's a tremendous hammer. Probably, by tomorrow, we won't be.

But we have millions of them coming in. They're very easy, by comparison. And in all fairness, governors could get them themselves -- they really could -- all of this. But we're going to do it. We're going to work with the governors, and if they can't do it, we're going to do it. If they do it, we can do it maybe cheaper, better. We're going to get a very -- we're getting very high quality. With us, it's all quality too.

Even if it takes a little bit longer, we want the highest quality -- and all of it, including the ventilators.

So, yeah, we're going to -- we have millions of them coming in very soon. And many of them already have been ordered, and the governors don't know quite where they are, but they'll be finding them fairly soon.

Q A question on that --

Q On President Xi --

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q On President Xi, you now talk about the missteps that China made early on in this crisis and how it put you -- put the United States behind the curve.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, based on an investigation. We're going to find out, yeah. Sure.

Q So when you repeatedly praised Xi in January and February --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, this guy doesn't stop.

Q -- you said he will "solve the problem." You said he was doing a "great job." Were you duped by President Xi?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, no, no. I made a deal that's phenomenal for the United States. No, you know who was duped? You --

Q This is after the deal.

THE PRESIDENT: You and the Obama administration were duped for years because China was ripping off this country. Like in the history of any country, nobody has been ripped off like the United States by China -- and many other countries. And we stop it. And we've done --

Q (Inaudible) why you praised him at the time?

THE PRESIDENT: And we've done -- we've done a deal where they're paying us 250 -- they are buying 250 -- they didn't do anything for us. You know, we didn't even have a deal. It was so bad --

Q This is after the deal. These comments are after the deal.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. No, no. It's -- it is about a deal, because the deal started a long time ago, before anybody heard about this. The deal was finished a number of months ago. Very happy -- I was very happy. I hope they were happy.

Billions of dollars came in, in tariffs. Billions of dollars. They're going to be purchasing billions. And then, all of a sudden, long after that, I find out about this.

And I told you --

Q Right. But why, on February 23rd --

THE PRESIDENT: I told you I'm not --

Q -- did you say, "I think he's doing a very good job --

THE PRESIDENT: Listen. Listen, CNN.

Q -- it's a big problem, but" --

THE PRESIDENT: Listen, CNN. I told you I'm not happy about it. And this was after the deal. So we have this wonderful deal. And I was very -- nobody has been tougher before the deal ever, on China, than Trump. Then I made a deal. I was very happy with the deal. It's a great deal. Great for our farmers. The farmers have been paid a fortune already. Then what happened --

Q Was it a mistake to take his word for it?

THE PRESIDENT: Then what happened -- no mistake. We made a great deal.

Now I find out after the deal -- after the deal, not -- after the deal --

Q Right. I'm talking about February 23rd.

THE PRESIDENT: I find out that I'm not happy -- you people are so pathetic at CNN. Let me just tell you --

Q I have the quote here from February 23rd.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. I was very happy with the deal, very happy with everything. Then we find out about the plague, right? The

plague. And since we found out about that, I'm not happy.

But I closed it up long before Pelosi --

Q Right. This is after the --

THE PRESIDENT: Listen. Long before Pelosi. You know, she was having parties in San Francisco. "Let's all go to Chinatown." And that was a long time after the first --

Q This was after the travel restriction, sir. This was on February 23rd.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

Q The first -- the first of the month is next week --

THE PRESIDENT: That's why your ratings are so bad, because you're pathetic.

Go ahead. Let's go.

Q I'm reading you your quote, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Your ratings are terrible. You got to get back to real news.

Go ahead.

Q The first of the month is next week, so for people that are worried about whether or not they're going to see a stimulus check again next month, will there be another stimulus check going out?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're looking at it. We're talking about it. It's the -- the delivery has been very good, as you

know. People are getting them, and they're happy.

Q How much money --

THE PRESIDENT: It's saving lives.

Q How much money would this -- would it be --

THE PRESIDENT: We will let you know when it's appropriate. But we're not going to let our people suffer. And you've seen that. By the way, you've seen that better than anyone. And you people have actually covered it, with -- you know, within -- eh, okay.

But you've seen what's going on. And we got those checks out to people; it saved their lives. Nobody else could have done it. Nobody else could have done it.

Q (Inaudible) see another stimulus check?

THE PRESIDENT: And I'm very happy --

Q Should people plan ahead for another one?

THE PRESIDENT: If we -- if we get this new check out to the workers in these small -- essentially, to the workers in these small businesses -- the PPP -- we are going to be -- we're going to be very happy. Because as we open, those businesses are going to open along with us.

Yeah, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, as you start reopening the country, do you plan to coordinate with Mexico and Canada to ensure that the U.S. manufacturers have --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. I could see that. Sure. We're coordinating right now with both. I spoke with the President of Mexico yesterday. I spoke with the Prime Minister of Canada a lot -- Justin. And we're in very good coordination right now.

Q Just in terms of just the supply chain, as companies here are coming online --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we're -- we're doing the supply chain. It's not going to affect trade. That's part of trade, and it's not going to affect trade.

And if it does, I will tell you: If a supply chain based in Mexico or Canada interrupts with our making a big product and an important product, or even a military product, we're not going to be happy, let me tell you that.

Go ahead. One or two more.

Q Mr. President, on state responsibility --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. In the back. You didn't go. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Who are you with?

Q I'm with the Salt Lake Tribune.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Good.

Q Thank you, sir. On Thursday, the White House announced a congressional task force for reopening America. It included every Republican senator but Mitt Romney.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Does that show that you're still holding a grudge against Mitt Romney?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, it does. Yeah. No, I'm not a fan of Mitt Romney at all. No, I had 52 Republican senators.

Q He was a governor. You don't want his advice?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I just don't think -- you know, I'm not a fan of Mitt Romney. I don't really want his advice.

Go ahead, please.

Q Mr. President, why on that task force did you include Senator Kelly Loeffler? There's some questions about whether she may have --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, because she's the senator from a great state, a state that I love: Georgia.

Q But there's some insider trading issues with her.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I -- that, I don't know. I really don't know about that. But she's a senator from Georgia, and she was included in the list, absolutely.

Go ahead. A couple of more. Go ahead, please. Yeah.

Q Yeah, Mr. President, you spoke -- you said you'd spoken to Angela Merkel on the progress being made in Germany. And you spoke about --

THE PRESIDENT: Many of the leaders, yeah.

Q Yeah, many of the countries that maybe have taken their eye off the ball and let coronavirus let rip in their countries. Which ones were you talking about? The UK?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean some of the ones that didn't do well?

Q Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not -- I don't say that. But you just have to look. And some of them just got hit hard.

When I closed up our border, when I did the ban on China, they say a lot of the people that didn't come in here went to Italy. You've heard that. That's why Italy was hit so hard.

I don't think it was because of government. I will say, Italy is locked down probably more than any other country right now. It's just absolutely locked solid down. But they got hit very hard because people that were coming to the United States couldn't come because I closed the country in January. And they went to Italy, they say. It had to do with trade. It had to do with the purchase of certain materials. And Italy was another alternative. And so many, many people went to Italy, instead of coming here. And Italy has suffered greatly.

No, I spoke with the Prime Minister a lot. He's a great friend of mine. And what's happened to Italy is very, very tough.

Thank you all very much. We appreciate it. We'll see you tomorrow. Thank you.

END

7:57 P.M. EDT

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From: McBride, Emily J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Sent: 4/20/2020 9:08:04 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: FW: UPDATED: Governors' Video Teleconference - Tomorrow, 4/20/20
Attachments: 4-20-2020 Event Memo - Governors' Video Teleconference_v1.7.docx
Importance: High

Hi Keagan! Just circling back this morning – any idea of Dr. Hahn will be able to make this today?

Emily J. McBride
Director of Agency Outreach
Office of Cabinet Affairs
The White House
C: (b) (6)(b) (6)
D: 202-395-8594
(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov

From: McBride, Emily J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 8:32 PM
To: McBride, Emily J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Connor, Cameron M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: UPDATED: Governors' Video Teleconference - Tomorrow, 4/20/20
Importance: High

Hi everyone,

Updated EM attached. Thank you to those who have responded! To those who have not, please let me know whether your principal will be there ASAP.

Thank you,

Emily J. McBride
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From: McBride, Emily J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 3:13 PM
To: McBride, Emily J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Connor, Cameron M. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: Governors' Video Teleconference - Tomorrow, 4/20/20

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached event memo for a video teleconference with governors tomorrow morning at 11:00 AM at FEMA HQ. Please reply and let me know if your principal is able to attend.

Thank you!

Emily J. McBride

Director of Agency Outreach

Office of Cabinet Affairs

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From: Obenshain, Tucker T. EOP/OVP (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@ovp.eop.gov>

Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 2:44 PM

To: McBride, Emily J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>

Subject: 4-20-2020 Event Memo - Governors' Video Teleconference_v1.3

Emily – happy Sunday. Could you assist in securing the following participants for tomorrow’s Gov call? Chad Wolf and Adm. Gaynor are already aware, as it’s being held at FEMA. 10:45 Thank you!

From: Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov [Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: 4/18/2020 5:24:08 PM
To: Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]
CC: Caccomo, Stephanie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=950c32cebc4b4f80b302c50cf31c8524-Stephanie.C]; O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP (b) (6)(b) (6)@ovp.eop.gov]
Subject: Re: FDA statement on serology statement?

No worries.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2020, at 5:19 PM, Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov> wrote:

That was obviously a spellcheck mishap Keagan. Did not mean to refer to you as Megan.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2020, at 4:09 PM, Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

Adding Stephanie - did we rework?

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On Apr 18, 2020, at 3:48 PM, Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov> wrote:

Megan, looping you in with Devin. (b) (5)

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On Apr 18, 2020, at 3:18 PM, O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@ovp.eop.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)



(b) (5)



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On Apr 18, 2020, at 2:37 PM, Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov> wrote:

I see what you're saying. Let's let them get it though for now.

Sent from my iPhone

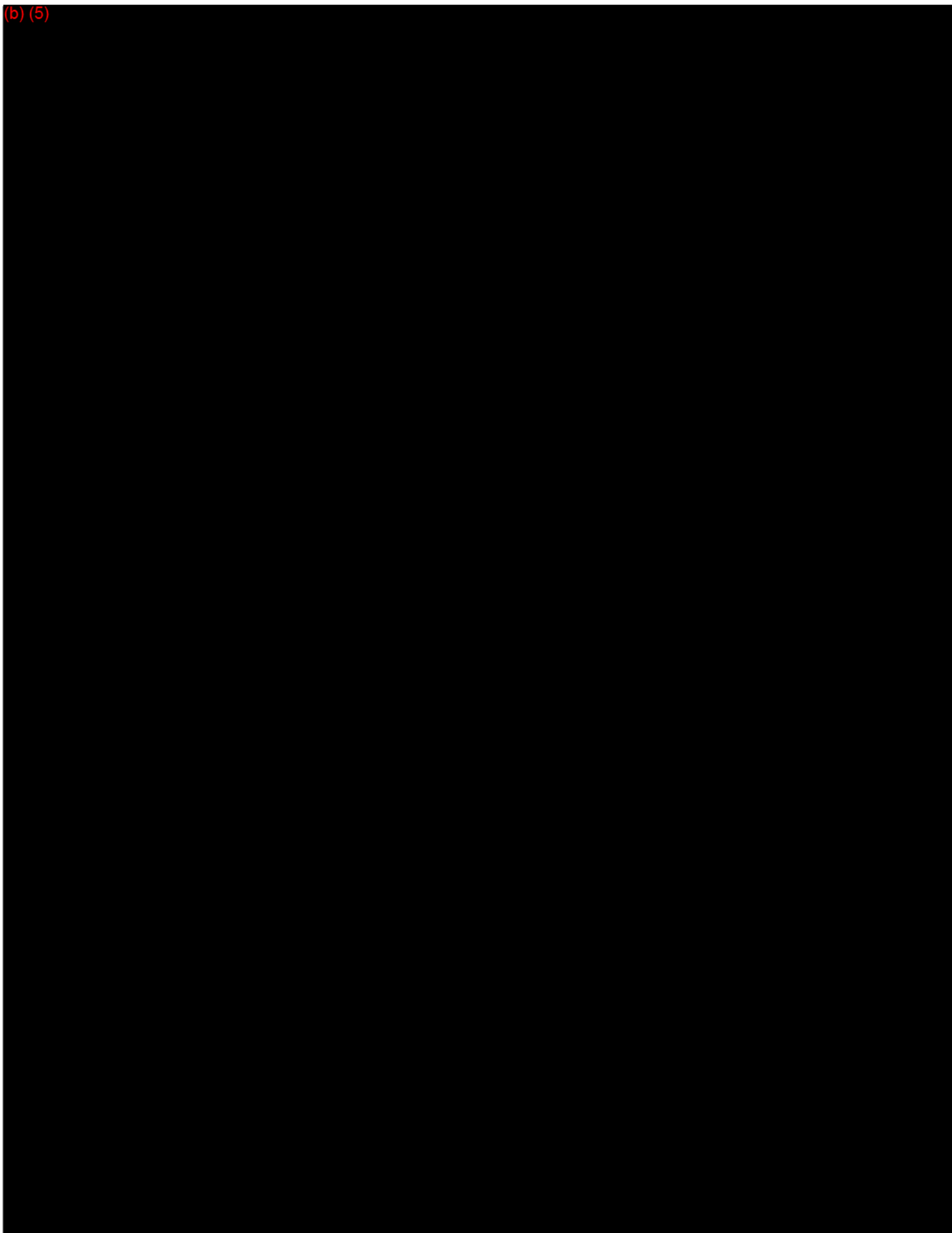
On Apr 18, 2020, at 2:21 PM, O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <(b) (6)(b) (6)@ovp.eop.gov> wrote:

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(b) (5)





(b) (5)

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On Apr 18, 2020, at 12:51 PM, Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/18/2020 4:55:55 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-Town Pool Report #6: Call with President of Poland

From: Philip Wegmann
<pwegmann@realclearpolitics.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 4:39
PM
Subject: In-Town Pool Report #6:
Call with President of Poland

The White House passes along the following:

"Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Andrzej Duda of Poland. President Trump and President Duda discussed the latest developments on and efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic. President Trump thanked President Duda for committing to send supplies and Polish doctors to Chicago to assist in America's fight against the virus. President Duda thanked President Trump for the presence of American service members stationed in Poland. The two leaders agreed to work closely together, including with the EU, to defeat the virus and stimulate the global economy. The leaders also discussed critical bilateral and regional issues. President Trump thanked President Duda for his strong action on 5G

security."

Philip Wegmann
White House Reporter
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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/17/2020 10:24:23 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 17, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2020

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

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

6:22 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much. I just had a great conversation with the leading faith leaders of our country. It went extremely well. We learned a lot. I learned a lot. And we're working on some things that are very interesting and very positive. I thank them all for being on the call.

And yesterday, we unveiled detailed guidelines for America's governors to initiate a phased, safe, and gradual reopening of America. That's what's happening. The guidelines provide governors with the fact-driven and science-based metrics they will need to make the decisions that are right for their own

particular state.

To view the guidelines, you can go to the website at [Whitehouse.gov/OpeningAmerica](https://www.whitehouse.gov/OpeningAmerica). So that's [Whitehouse.gov/OpeningAmerica](https://www.whitehouse.gov/OpeningAmerica).

Treasury has sent out economic relief payments to more than 80 million Americans who have their direct deposit information on file with the IRS. And an incredible success it has been. If you have not received your check, please visit [IRS.gov/GetMyPayment](https://www.irs.gov/GetMyPayment). How about that one? [IRS.gov/GetMyPayment](https://www.irs.gov/GetMyPayment). That way, the IRS can get you your payment in days -- and they've done a fantastic job, I have to say -- and you won't have to wait for a check in the mail.

I have some very good news: We sent out 80 million deposits, and less than 1 percent had even little problems. A couple had minor glitches, but it's substantially less than 1 percent. So out of 80 million deposits, less than 1 percent. And that gets corrected immediately. So just please do as I say. You'll get that very quickly, very easily.

Today, I'm also announcing that Secretary Perdue -- who happens to be right next to me; handsome man -- and the Department of Agriculture will be implementing a 19-billion-dollar relief program for our great farmers and ranchers as they cope with the fallout of the global pandemic. Very honored to be doing this. Our farmers, ranchers -- we have -- these are great people, great Americans. Never complain. They never complain. They just do what they have to do.

The program will include direct payments to farmers as well as mass purchases of dairy, meat, and agricultural produce to get that food to the people in need.

The USDA will receive another \$14 billion in July that will have

funding to continue help our -- helping. And this will help our farmers and our ranchers, and it's money well deserved. So not only were they targeted at one point by China -- and that was over a period of time, and you saw that happening. And they never complained, but that worked out very well. Twelve billion dollars they got, and sixteen billion dollars they got. And now it's \$19 billion.

And I'm just going to ask Secretary Perdue to explain exactly how we're going to handle it. Thank you.

SECRETARY PERDUE: Well, Mr. President, you may remember earlier this year, you tweeted a message to our farmers and ranchers that, no matter their circumstances, you pledged to stand behind them. And while none of us could ever have anticipated this type of pandemic that we're currently in, I think today's announcement is proof that you've put our -- you have our farmers' backs and that you will continue to do what it takes to support them. And they are very grateful.

We've heard a lot recently -- all of you -- about our food supply chain. I think America now knows that, more than ever, the wholesome food that our families depend upon, it starts with America's farmers and ranchers. America agriculture has been hard hit, like most of America, with the coronavirus, and President Trump is standing with our farmers and all Americans to make sure we all get through this national emergency.

So today, thanks to your direction and leadership, Mr. President, USDA is announcing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. As you mentioned, this new 19-billion-dollar program will take several immediate actions to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in response to the COVID-19 national emergency.

The program is really divided into two parts. One is a direct payment -- \$16 billion in direct payments to farmers, ranchers,

and producers who have experienced unprecedented losses during this pandemic.

Since we wanted to get the payments out to producers as quickly as possible, we decided to use the funds in the CCC -- the current funds of 6.5 million -- billion dollars, combined with the 19.5 of COVID money, rather than wait for the replenishment of the CCC funds in July. Based on industry estimates of damage, Mr. President, it is becoming apparent that we'll need the additional CCC funds as we continue to track the economic losses.

Secondly -- and this is really important as well -- the USDA will be purchasing \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat products to be distributed to Americans in need through our food bank networks, as well as other community and faith-based organizations. Having to dump milk or plow under vegetables ready to market is not only financially distressing, but it's heartbreaking, as well, to those who produce them.

This program will not only provide direct financial relief to our farmers and ranchers, Mr. President, who will allow for the purchase and distribution of our agricultural abundance in this country to help our fellow Americans in need.

So in recent weeks, we've seen -- all of us seen the heroic patriotism of our food supply-chain workers, and they've shown, day in and day out, doing the work to serve the needs of fellow Americans.

Our farmers have been in the fields planting and doing what they do every spring to feed the American people, even with a pandemic, as we speak.

I want to thank you, Mr. President, for your unwavering support. They want to thank you for your unwavering support for America's farmers and ranchers. And I want to commit to you, Mr.

President, and to the American people that USDA will do everything in our power to implement this program as quickly and as efficiently as possible to help our farmers, ranchers, producers, and consumers during this great time of need.

So thank you very much for having me here today. And God bless you. God bless America. God bless American agriculture.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Sonny. Fantastic job. Thank you, Sonny.

So, our great Secretary of Agriculture was the governor of Georgia for eight years, and the only reason he isn't still there, frankly, is that he was term limited. And I said, "Let's get him for agriculture." And you've done a fantastic job. We want to thank you very much. Eight years at Georgia. We really appreciate it. Great job.

Even as we prepare to rebuild our economy, America continues to wage an all-out medical war to defeat the invisible enemy. To date, we have conducted more than 3.78 million coronavirus tests -- by far, the most of any country; it's not even close. In the hardest-hit areas, such as New York and Louisiana, we've also tested more people per capita than South Korea, Singapore, and every other country.

The United States has the most robust, advanced, and accurate testing system anywhere in the world. As of yesterday, we have distributed nearly 660,000 Abbott IDs. Now, that's a -- an incredible test. It's called the ID NOW point-of-care diagnostic test. And it's fantastic. It's a hot -- it's the hot one. The problem with this business is it's the hot one until about two days from now, because we do have a saliva test that just came out, and that can be self-administered, and it's said to be fantastic.

I want to thank Abbott Laboratories. They have been incredible. I want to thank Roche. They've likewise been incredible.

Over the last several days, we've seen a dramatic increase in the number of tests conducted by hospitals and academic institutions, which have now performed nearly 600,000 tests. There is a tremendous amount of unused capacity in the states available for governors to tap. We have tremendous unused capability within those laboratories, and I hope the governors are going to be able to use them. The governors are responsible for testing, and I hope they're going to be able to use this tremendous amount of available capacity that we have.

It's up to 1 million additional tests per week -- when you think of that. In the next few weeks, we'll be sending out 5.5 million testing swabs to the states. Swabs can be done easily by the governors themselves. Mostly, it's cotton. It's not a big deal. You can get cotton easily. But if they can't get it, we will take care of it.

Yesterday, the FDA announced a new collaboration with United Health Group, the Gates Foundation, Quantigen, and U.S. Cotton to greatly expand the supply of essential swabs, including a new polyester Q-tip-type swab for the coronavirus testing. All of these actions will help our testing capability continue to grow dramatically.

So we're helping people, even with swabs. We get ventilators. We're now the king of ventilators. We have hundreds of thousands under construction. We don't need them ourselves. The governors are in great shape. If we do, we have a great stockpile that we'll immediately send to the state in need. But we've handled that situation incredibly well. I hope people understand it. I wish the media would get the word out. What we've done in ventilators is amazing, because they're

big, expensive, and highly complex.

We're speaking to other countries. I spoke to the President of Mexico today -- a great gentleman -- and I told him that we are going to be helping him out with ventilators, helping Mexico out. And we'll be helping some other countries too. We have a lot of very high-level, high-quality ventilators. And they're here, and they're also being manufactured as we speak.

Following the announcement of our reopening guidelines, there have been some very partisan voices in the media and in politics who have spread false and misleading information about our testing capacity -- it's totally false and misleading -- demonstrating a complete failure to understand the enormous scope of the testing capabilities that we've brought online. And we started, really, from ground zero. We started from really being very, very outdated and obsolete as a country, from the past.

And I will say this: If they didn't understand it, it's just really -- unfortunately, I hate to say this because we've been getting along very well, but it would be false reporting, because they understand the capability. And it's going to be up to the states to use that capability. The states have local points where they can go -- a governor can call the mayors, and the mayors can call representatives, and everybody -- everything is perfect. And that's the way it should work and always should work.

We'll help New York and all of the other states get even better on their testing. We have to get even better. And some people think a little bit differently. There are areas where you have vast amounts of area where you have very few people and almost no people are infected. And those places will be looked upon differently by different governors. And I think you're going to have a lot of news coming out about that over the next few days. I think certain states are going to come online, and

they're going to start the early stages of the puzzle that we're putting together. And it's going to be together sooner rather than later. A lot of really incredible things are happening.

And at some point in the not-too-distant future, we're going to have our country back. And it's going to be, I think, really -- with what we're doing on stimulus, and helping people keep their businesses together and their lives together and their jobs, it's going to be better than ever before. I hope so. I really do.

The current conversation is reminiscent of what happened on ventilators -- you remember that -- when requests were made far beyond what was objectively needed. We were hearing from a certain state and we were hearing from a lot that they needed far more ventilators. In one case, they wanted 40,000 ventilators -- 40,000. It turned out that they had plenty and they had a number of about 7- or 8,000, and that was plenty. We supplied them with a lot. But that was the right number; we got it just about right. And if they did need more, we're ready to give more, but I think the surge seems to be over.

And there are a lot of governors just doing a great job. And they're working with us, but we're all working together.

The research and development that we've done at the federal level has been absolutely incredible. The media will be accepting of these figures when they get to see the end result. I think they're going to see it and I think they're already seeing it. That includes not only ventilators, but beds. We've built, in most cases, far more than they even needed, but we wanted to err on the side of caution.

This is what the governors wanted. They wanted a certain amount in Louisiana. I spoke with the governor; I had a long talk with him. And I said, "Do you think you'll need that final hospital?" And they actually didn't need it. We built a lot of

-- a lot of beds. So, I appreciate it, from the governor.

And we saved -- building a hospital in New York, we did a -- I think, just a spectacular job at the Javits Center. And even sending the ship up became -- we brought it into COVID, but they didn't -- they didn't really need it. It didn't get much use, but it was there and ready. It wasn't supposed to be used for that purpose; we changed it into that purpose. And it was there -- ready, willing, and able. Same with Javits, but they didn't quite need the rooms that we -- the beds that we -- we produced.

So we produced almost 2,900 beds, and I think I'd rather tell you that we were over-prepared that we were -- than we were underprepared. And that was a good-faith effort by New York, I have to say that. A very good faith effort. But it's nice that we didn't need that, instead of needing it. It was not very occupied, but it was ready to go. It's still there should something happen, but I think they have it under very good control.

As you'll hear from our experts today, we've already built sufficient testing capacity nationwide for states to begin their reopenings. And I think you'll be hearing a lot about reopenings in the coming weeks and months. Most excitingly, in the coming weeks, I think you're going to see some very, very dramatic steps taken and very safely. We're putting safety first. We may be opening, but we're putting safety first.

And when you look at the numbers, when you look at the possible number of death -- deaths at 2.2 million people -- and it could have very well been that. It could have been more. Frankly, I've been looking at numbers where it could have been higher than that -- 2.2 million people dying. If you figure we lost 500,000, maybe 600,000 in the Civil War. 2.2 million people.

A minimum, if we did nothing, would have been 1.6 [million]. If

you cut that in half, you're talking about 800,000, 900,000, a million people dying. But we did a lot of work, and the people of this country were incredible, I have to say. And I think we're heading to the other category, and that would be if we did work and if it was successful, they had between 100,000 and 220,000 to 240,000 on the upside. And I think we'll be substantially, hopefully, below the hundred number. And I think, right now, we're heading at probably around 60-, maybe 65,000.

And one is too many. I always say it: One is too many. This is a horrible thing that happened to our country. This is a horrible thing that happened to 184 countries all over the world. This is a horrible thing, and there was no reason for it. It should never, ever happen again.

In a few minutes, you'll be hearing from Dr. Redfield, Dr. Fauci, Dr. Birx, and Admiral Giroir to explain these facts in -- in really great detail.

Earlier this week, the FDA authorized two new antibody tests -- which is very exciting -- that will determine if someone has been previously infected with the virus, bringing the total to four authorized antibody tests already. This will help us assess the number of cases that have been asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic, and support our efforts to get Americans back to work by showing us who might have developed the wonderful, beautiful immunity.

Ultimate victory in this war will be made possible by America's scientific brilliance. There is nothing like us. There is nobody like us. Not even close. I wish I could tell you stories -- what other countries, even powerful countries, say to me -- the leaders. They say it quietly and they say it off the record, but they have great respect for what we can do.

And our country is at a point -- a few weeks ago, think of it --

four or five weeks ago, we were at a level that nobody had ever attained: the best job numbers we've ever had, the best economy we've ever had. Every company virtually was doing better business than ever before. The stock market was at all-time highs.

And then one day, they said, "You got to close it up." And we did the right thing. We saved maybe millions of lives by doing it the way we did it. But we're paying a price, but that price is very unimportant compared to the number of lives we're talking about.

The NIH and others are conducting clinical trials of 35 different therapies and treatments -- therapies being so exciting to me, because that's really like -- if something happens, you're going to get better reasonably quickly and without such a horrible deal, as some people have to go through.

To that end, today NIH announced that it is launching a public-private partnership with more than a dozen biopharmaceutical companies. They're -- HHS, FDA, CDC, and the European Medicines Agency, they're all working together. We're working together with a lot of other countries.

The partnership will marshal and coordinate the vast resources, knowledge, assets, and authorities of more than a dozen organizations and agencies to accelerate development of the most promising therapies and vaccines. The vaccines are coming along really, really well. Johnson & Johnson is very well advanced.

One thing is they have to -- we're having great, great success, but we have to test them and it takes a long period of time. It takes probably over a year, unfortunately. But therapies likewise are coming along very, very well. Therapies are immediate. When we get that, that'll be a big day.

We're also equipping our medical warriors on the frontlines. In total, we have the Project Air Bridge -- and the air bridge has been incredible; the National Strategic Stockpile; and every other channel the federal government has deployed. If you think about this: 44.5 million N95 masks, nearly 524 million gloves, 63.5 million surgical masks, and more than 10 million gowns. And we have 500 million masks coming in very soon, between manufacturing and orders -- 500 million masks.

The last few months have been among the most challenging times in the history of our nation. This invisible enemy is tough and it's smart and it's vicious. But every day, we're getting closer to the future that we all have been waiting for. I talk about the light at the end of the tunnel; we are getting very, very close to seeing that light shine very brightly at the end of that tunnel.

And it's happening, and I want to thank everybody in the room. I want to thank -- I actually want to thank some of the media. We've had some fair coverage -- some really fair coverage -- and I appreciate it.

What I'm going to do is I'm going to introduce our great Vice President, Mike Pence, and he's going to take over for a little while. I'm going to leave and I'm coming right back, and we'll take some questions. They're going to go over our tremendous testing capabilities. And again, I'll be right back.

Thank you. Thank you very much.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon all.

Today, as the President just reflected, it remains a challenging time in the life of our nation. But because of the extraordinary efforts of the American people, because of the strong partnership

the federal government has forged with states across the country, we're making progress, America.

Despite the -- the tragic loss of more than 36,000 Americans, according to our best data reporting this morning, we continue to see new cases low and steady on the West Coast. And we continue to see cases and hospitalizations declining in the Greater New York City area, in New Orleans, and Detroit, and elsewhere.

This is a tribute, first and foremost, to our -- our healthcare doctors, nurses -- all of those working on the frontlines. But it's also a great tribute to the American people, who have put into practice the social distancing, the guidelines, the guidance of state and local officials. And we -- we hope that every American is encouraged by the steady progress that we are making.

We're continuing to bring, at the President's direction, the full resources of the federal government to bear. Today, the President approved a major disaster declaration for American Samoa, and now all 50 states and all territories are under major disaster declarations for the first time in American history.

At this present moment, 33,000 National Guardsmen are on duty; 5,500 active duty military personnel have been deployed to 9 states, including 716 medical professionals, doctors, and nurses who deployed out to 14 different hospitals today. Among those were 10 hospitals in New York City. And military personnel were also serving today in hospitals in Connecticut, Texas, Louisiana, and New Jersey.

Yesterday, as the President reflected, we unveiled the President's Guidelines for Opening up America Again. There were two parts at the beginning of those guidelines. First, the criteria that we hope will guide governors in their decisions about reopening their states on either a statewide level or a county level. And then also, we outlined what we believe would

be the most important state responsibilities to have in place before moving into a reopening plan.

For phase one, the President's guidelines, you'll recall it advised that states that have a downward trajectory in cases over a 14-day period of time and ensure that they have proper capacity in their healthcare facilities could move to phase one with the easing of some of the social distancing and the criteria that have been in place.

But for states that meet the criteria, we outlined specific responsibilities protecting workers in critical industries, particularly protecting the most vulnerable, those who live and work in senior care facilities. And we also encouraged states to have a plan for testing symptomatic individuals and ensuring testing to our most vulnerable populations.

As the President has made clear, governors will decide the time and manner that their states reopen, and we will look to support them in that effort. But as we assured the American people yesterday, at the President's direction, our administration will continue to work with governors across the country to ensure that they have the equipment and the supplies and the testing resources to reopen safely and responsibly.

On the subject of supplies, today we issued a letter to our nation's governors summarizing all the medical equipment and supplies that have been distributed to their state from FEMA between the first of this month and April 14, through Project Airbridge and through the commercial supply network. We'll be speaking with our nation's governors on Monday and detailing that information at that time.

As of April 16th, as the President reflected briefly, FEMA has coordinated the delivery of millions of pieces of medical equipment, including 44 million N95 respirators, 63 million

surgical masks, more than 10,000 ventilators, and of course, deployed more than 8,600 federal medical station beds.

On the subject of testing resources, we're going to take some time to speak about our administration's approach and partnership with states to continue to expand testing across the country at this briefing.

But from the very outset of this epidemic, President Trump made efforts to essentially reinvent testing in America. The traditional testing in this country that takes place at CDC or at state labs was designed for basically the kind of diagnostic testing that is routinely required. But the President, early on in this effort, brought together the leading commercial labs in America, and we forged a public and private partnership. And six weeks ago, we had performed some 25,000 tests, and at this day, we have performed 3.7 million tests.

We believe that labs and hospitals are now performing more than 120,000 tests a day. And we've actually stood up a team from Walter Reed, under the direction of Dr. Deborah Birx, that is working around the clock to identify additional testing capacity across the country. We believe that states could actually more than double the amount of daily testing that is happening today by simply activating all of the labs. And Dr. Birx will detail some of those resources today, and we'll be going over those very specifically with governors on Monday.

We've also been promoting the development of new and innovative tests. We all know about the 15-minute Abbott test, but the FDA is currently working on an antibody test that literally could add 20 million new tests to our supply, even before the end of April.

I want to assure the American people that we're going to continue to work with your governors and with your state health officials to scale testing in the days ahead. But as you'll hear from all

of our experts tonight, our best scientists and health experts assess that states today have enough tests to implement the criteria of phase one, if they choose to do so.

Let me say that again: Given the -- given the guidance in the President's new Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, states that meet the criteria for going into phase one, and then are preparing the testing that is contemplated by going to phase one, our best scientists and health experts assess that, today, we have a sufficient amount of testing to meet the requirements of a phase one reopening, if state governors should choose to do that. And you'll hear more detail on that in just a moment.

At the President's direction, we're going to be presenting an outline of our approach to testing in partnership with states, during this briefing. Our approach will continue to be locally executed, state managed, and federally supported.

Dr. Fauci will give us a brief introduction to the overall approach to testing that is contemplated to deal with the coronavirus. Dr. Redfield and the CDC will describe our plan to mobilize CDC officials in all 50 states to specifically monitor coronavirus -- coronavirus incidents that occur in every state in the union.

Of course, Dr. Deborah Birx will describe not only our tests, but also the current capability and the capability that we could expand to very readily. And Admiral Giroir of the U.S. Public Health Service will summarize our approach.

But I want to assure the American people that, at the President's direction, we are going to continue to work every single day to make sure that our states and communities have the testing they need to reopen at the time and manner of their choosing. And we're going to work every day to make sure our states have the resources and the supplies to reopen their states and reopen

America in a safe and responsible way.

With that, Dr. Fauci.

DR. FAUCI: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. So, as the Vice President said, I'm going to give you a brief introduction to, kind of, answer the question that we've been asked a lot. In fact, we had a very productive teleconference with the Senate Democratic Caucus just a few hours ago, and they asked a number of questions which were really reasonable questions -- questions that are on the mind of a lot of different people. And one of them was the question that was just posed a moment ago, is: Are there enough tests to allow us to be able to go through this first phase in a way that is protective of the health and the safety of the American people?

So I just want to spend a couple of minutes clarifying a few things and maybe providing some information on a broad 40,000 foot, which you'll hear some of the more granular details from my colleagues who will be following me. I think they -- they asked me to give the "40,000 foot" one because I'm not a testing person; I didn't run a testing lab, but I'm part of a team that is looking at this of how we can best make sure that this happens in the right way.

So, first of all, let me say something that we've said before, and I apologize if I'm repeating things that you already know, but I think in some respects it's important to do that so that people have clarity in what we're talking about.

There are two general types of tests, even though within each general type there are different subgroups. One of them is to actually test for the infection: is a person infected. The other -- and I'll get back to that in a second. The other is to test, as we just mentioned, if someone has been infected -- usually someone who's been infected, who has recovered. And as I'll get

to in a moment, that you could assume -- although, we need to do some more work on that -- that that person is actually protected against subsequent exposure and infection with an identical organism.

So what are some of the pluses and minuses of each? Because the pluses and minuses are really going to impact how we best use the test and how the test actually should be used.

So let's take the test for whether or not you're infected. The test of whether or not you're infected is a test that, right now, is called a nucleic acid test. It's not an easy test to do. There are some that are more rapid. There are some that have a high throughput. There are different groups within that. The good news about that is that it's a sensitive and specific test, so that if you're infected, you know you're infected, so that -- as I'll get to in a moment -- if you need to do something with that -- get that person, put them in care, take care of them, get them out of circulation -- that's important.

The point about that that I think is often misunderstood is that if you get a test today -- like I did today; it's negative -- if you get a test today, that does not mean that tomorrow or the next day or the next day or the next day, as you get exposed, perhaps from someone who may not even know they're infected, that that means that I'm negative. Which means, if you take that to its extreme, in order to be really sure, you would almost have to test somebody either every day or every other day or every week or what it is to be absolutely certain. That's an issue.

Now, the problem that I talk about when I try and compare this to other situations, with what testing means to you -- I, as I think most people know, have been involved in HIV/AIDS for 38 years, 39 years -- from the very first week of HIV. So that's what I do. If you get a test for HIV and you are negative, and you do not practice any risk behaviors, you can be guaranteed that next

month, six months, one year from now, you will be negative if you don't have a risk behavior. So there's a big difference there about what testing actually means.

So the point I think you're getting is that, although there is clearly a place for needing to test somebody for a given reason, a test means you're negative now.

Now, the other test is an antibody test -- a test that tells you, in fact, that you've been infected. That's really good. You're going to hear about that -- a bit about that from my colleagues in a moment. Because that will give you a broad view of two things: one, what the penetrance of the infection had been; and number two, you can make an assumption -- though we still need to prove that. I mean, we are assuming that if you're infected and you have antibody, you're protected. And I think that's a reasonable assumption, based on our experience with other viruses.

But what we want to make sure that we know, and these are some of the challenges: What is the titer that is protective? How long is the protection? Is it one month? Is it three months? Is it six months? It's a year? So we need to be humble and modest that we don't know everything about it, but it really is an important test.

The other thing is the difference between testing and monitoring out there -- what's out there. The difference between what we really need it for, for phase one, is to be able to identify, isolate, contact trace. A very important part of when you're putting -- pulling back gradually and slowly on the mitigation, and you have people who might be infected -- you want to know they're infected; you want to put them in care. That is something that we absolutely need to do.

But there are other ways we -- I want to make sure people

understand that -- not to underestimate the importance of testing. Testing is a part, an important part, of a multifaceted way that we are going to control and ultimately end this outbreak.

So please don't anyone interpret it that I'm downplaying testing, but the emphasis that we've been hearing is essentially, "testing is everything," and it isn't. It's the kinds of things that we've been doing -- the mitigation strategies -- that are an important part of that.

Now, just a couple of things before I hand it over to my colleagues. No doubt -- no doubt that, early on, we had a problem. I had publicly said that we had a problem early on. There was a problem that had to be corrected, and it was corrected. It was a problem that was a technical problem from within that was corrected. And it was an issue of embracing -- the way we have now, and should have -- the private sector, who clearly has the capability of making and providing tests at the level that we will need them for any of the things that I've just spoken about.

So, having said that, right now, I totally understand -- and I am not alone; my colleagues understand -- that although we say there are X number of tests out there -- and you're going to hear from Admiral Giroir about that -- the fact is there have been and still are situations that are correctable, and will be corrected, and some of which have been corrected.

I know -- I get on the phone a lot with my colleagues, because, believe it or not, some long time ago, I was where they are in the hospitals, in the emergency room, looking at very sick individuals that you need to take care of. And I know what it means when someone tells you, "Hey, you have what you need," and you look around and you say, "Well, maybe you think I have what I need, but I don't really have what I need." So we have to figure

out: How do we close that gap?

And there are a lot of things that I think we've learned, and that we are correcting and going to correct. Namely, you have a situation where tests are needed and appropriate. And either people have found there's no tests or there's no reagents or there's no swabs -- or a person needed a test and were told that there was a restriction; they couldn't get a test. These are all the things that I'm telling -- you already know because you've heard them. So right now -- or there's a delay of five to seven days. And what does that mean if you want to do -- if you want to get somebody out of circulation?

We understand that that existed, but upon careful examination, what you are going to hear: that many of those have been already corrected and other of those will be corrected. Because what I think people don't appreciate, through no fault of their own, is that there's -- that there are two issues: There's supply and demand. And if you have a supply that can meet the demand, but the supply is not connected to the demand, then supply/demand falls apart.

What do I mean by that? I mean there is an existing capacity that we have that, for one reason or other, maybe has not been fully communicated as to the availability of that existing capacity. And you're going to hear about that now. There's production capacity that gets better and better and better. And that's what we're talking about, because for what we need now, we believe that, with better communications, we'll be able to make that happen.

So I know there's going to be a lot of questions about that. I didn't want to go on too long, but let me just finish by saying, given what I've just said and what I believe what you're going to hear, that, for what we need in the first phase -- if these things are done correctly, what I believe they can -- we will

have and there will be enough tests to allow us to take this country safely through phase one.

Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Tony.

Dr. Redfield.

DR. REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. I want to make a few comments here. First, I want to talk a little bit about CDC has developed multiple systems to monitor disease outbreaks. I think many of you are familiar, for example, how we monitor for foodborne illness or how we monitor for antibiotic resistance in hospitals. But we've also developed a system to monitor for upper respiratory tract disease. If I can get the first slide there.

This is an example -- because when we talk about what we know about this current pandemic, the reality is we know a lot because we've developed these monitoring systems.

Up on the slide is a system that we've developed initially for flu. And what it does, as you can see, there's multiple different flu seasons, and they track them over the course of a year.

I want you to look at the red line. And that happens to be this year's respiratory season. And you see there's a peak there up over the 50-52 week. And that peak was when we actually had a peak of Influenza B.

This year was a little different because after that viral syndrome came down -- and you can see it -- that actually we had another peak. And that's when Influenza A was active through our country. And you can see Influenza A started to drop. But then

you saw a third peak. That peak was -- here, we're were looking at the coronavirus-19.

So we have systems, all the way down to the county level, that we can see where there's respiratory tract illness. And so it's not just -- just taking a test. It's monitoring these systems that have been developed over the last -- over decades. And we have multiple ones.

We have another one -- this -- that is monitored in emergency rooms, looking at syndrome diagnosis. And they show the same thing. So we're well equipped to monitor -- to see when respiratory tract viral disease will come. And it becomes a very good surrogate for when you can begin to understand that we need to start looking more at ideologically about what's going on.

You can see now, in week 15, we're really coming down to the baseline background, in terms of our flu surveillance system, from the overall coronavirus situation right now.

The second thing I wanted to say is that CDC continues to enhance the state's public health capacity to accelerate their ability -- as Tony talked about, and it's critical as we open America again -- to diagnose individuals that present with influenza-like illness or coronavirus-like illness, to diagnose them, to be able to isolate them, and to be able to contact trace around them, and then diagnose the contacts. And those that are coronavirus-positive, to go back and do their contacts.

This is the traditional public health approach, which was started in this outbreak in January, in February, and was quite successful. And as I mentioned before, through February 27th, this country only had 14 cases. We did that isolation and that contact tracing, and it was very successful. But then, when the virus more exploded -- got beyond the public health capacity.

But right now, CDC is enhancing that public health capacity. And if I can get the second slide, I want to show you that -- this is just showing, as we sit here today, that CDC has embedded, in these health departments and all of these state -- states across this country, more than 500 individuals. We also have an additional almost 100 individuals that are working on more than 20 coronavirus outbreaks that are going through all these states.

And finally, at the direction of the President, we've been asked to further enhance this deployment in each of the states, as the Vice President said, so that there's additional public health personnel to help accelerate the state's ability to basically move forward aggressively. And we assist them so they can operationalize the President's Guidelines To Open Up America Again.

So I just wanted to make those points for you today.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Great job. Thank you.

Dr. Birx.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. Vice President, and thank you, Dr. Fauci and Dr. Redfield, for all of that clarity.

If we can have the next slide, I'm going to go back to what Dr. Fauci was talking about just to emphasize those points about the two types of tests and I'm going to talk about a third one.

So first, we all know about sampling in the front of your nose. To all of the labs out there and to the providers, you don't have to use the nasal pharyngeal swab anymore; you can do front-of-nose sampling. And again, as Dr. Fauci talked about, is that is sampling for the virus itself that replicates in your nose and, as we know, throughout some of the respiratory tissues.

The second test is, of course, then your immune response to that infection that's in your nose. And so, that's the antibody test. And so those are the two tests we want to talk about.

But I want to come back to something that both Dr. Fauci and Dr. Redfield said and we covered yesterday: Testing is a part of the exquisite monitoring that needs to occur in partnership with CDC and state and local governments, utilizing the surveillance systems that are available -- what we just talked about: the flu surveillance system, because we no longer have flu, and the syndromic respiratory system. That is across the United States, and you can see it's going back to baseline so that we'll be able to see, at the community level, any deviation from that baseline.

In addition, what we talked about yesterday was adding that asymptomatic component. Because I think you'll see, as more and more articles come out for surveillance that other -- and monitoring that other states have done, higher and higher antibody in multiple individuals who don't remember having a sickness. And that will give us an idea -- that's our asymptomatic monitoring in these sentinel monitoring sites. And what we talked about yesterday -- we talked about nursing homes, we talked about indigenous people, and we talked about vulnerable people in the inner city, really ensuring that something that is so small, that can't even be seen on the surveillance monitoring, will be able to be seen in the asymptomatic.

And so those are the two tests that we have: one available now, two that have been approved -- or three, by the FDA.

I want to just leave you with my last concept on the antibody tests. Antibody tests have different specificity and sensitivities. The FDA, we've made that -- the FDA has been very cautious about the antibody tests because I see -- I know you see reports every day of countries that have ordered the antibody test and found that they were 50, 60, 70 percent faulty. So

we're taking that very seriously because you never want to tell someone that they have an antibody and potential immunity when they don't. And so those tests perform better when there's a high prevalence or a high incidence of disease.

So we want to work with mayors around the United States, as those antibody tests become available, to really see what it is in first responders and healthcare workers in the highest prevalence states, so that we can know about the quality and the real-life, real-field experience of those assays. Because things can look very good in the lab, and then when you take them into the field, sometimes they're not as good. I've learned this lesson repeatedly in working around the globe.

The next slide.

So this is what we have asked commercial and diagnostic companies to be working on, because when you talk about multi-millions' worth of tests, the way we do this in the United States today for strep, for influenza, and for malaria, is we test for the antigen. Now, we don't know, right now, if you shed antigen in the front of your nose. And so that is the question that scientists and companies are working on right now. Because that becomes a simpler test.

Now, the flu test -- I think many of you will look it up tonight -- you will see that outside of the flu season, because of the specificity of the test, it doesn't work so well. So these are tests we're working on today that would be like a screening test, because if you're positive on it, it's a good test, but it may miss that you actually have the flu. So then you would move into the -- what we call the "nucleic acid test."

So we're trying to build an algorithm of tests that bring the full talent of the science of the United States into the reality of the clinic. And so, bench to clinic. And so this is what

we're working on for the future.

Next slide.

So as I promised both the senators and the governors, this is the United States' current platform capacity, designated as high and low throughput. And what do I mean by that? There's -- we've talked about the high-throughput platforms of Roche and Abbott and others. And then we've talked about the gene expert and other machines that may be moderate to lower throughput.

I want you to see how it's distributed through the United States. So these are the current testing platforms available today throughout the United States for COVID-19. And as you heard from Dr. Fauci, everything has to be working, from the swab, to the transport media, to the laboratory, to really get those tests run and the results back to the client.

The next slide.

So then we've looked at all of the testing capacity from those platforms, and this gives you an idea of what that capacity is. The darkest red -- you can see, like, in Texas and New York, those are -- those are states that have lots of different platforms, as you saw on the prior slide, and the ability, if you just add up the platforms and the potential for test, of over a million tests per month.

And so this is what we're working with each of those states on unlocking that full potential. And how are we doing that? Well, we're call- -- we're calling on the American Society of Microbiologists. They have -- they work closely with 300 lab directors around this -- around the country; we talked with them this morning. And the Walter Reed team who developed the entire HIV testing program for the military 35 years ago.

I've called them back into service and they're calling lab by lab to find out what are the technical difficulties to bring up all the platforms that exist in your lab. Is it swabs? Is it transport media? Is it extraction? And I just really want to thank them. They've already worked through over 70-plus of those laboratories to really understand. And the American Society of Microbiologists and the academic societies of the laboratories are working together to ensure that all of this potential can be unlocked.

Next slide, please.

We talked a little bit yesterday about New Orleans, and we -- and the President talked about how many tests New Orleans has done during its outbreak, which you can see now is waning. They've done, throughout the last month, 27 tests per 1,000 New Orleans and Louisianians. So 27 per thousand. So that is a good mark, and that's what -- Italy has done about 20 per thousand.

So in evaluating an outbreak -- and really to get control of this outbreak -- they did about 27 tests per thousand. So using that as a measure -- next slide -- we then looked across all the states of the United States of America, and looked for states that had 30 or more -- ability to do 30 or more tests per thousand of their inhabitants in each state. And you can see that, across the country, except for Oregon and Maine and --

DR. FAUCI: Montana.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Montana.

DR. BIRX: (Laughs.) Montana. I worked overseas way too long. Thank you all. So those are the three states that we're working on building capacity in. So this is just to give you a perspective of how seriously we're taking the testing issue.

As we've described, we've measured every single platform and every single state. We know exactly where they are, by geography, by address, by zip code, what their capacity is, what their cumulative capacity is, what their roadblocks are on non-ability to run all their full capacity. And we're addressing those because each one of those is different and you have to address each of them one by one with the governors, with the state and local labs, and with all of the hospitals.

I have not come across one laboratory or one laboratory director or one society that doesn't want to contribute to solving this issue of testing and ensuring that this testing is available for everyone.

There is a strong -- just as all the Americans have social distanced, and behind everyone -- we don't often talk about the laboratories; we'll talk about the nurses and doctors on the front line -- behind all of them are the laboratory technicians and laboratory directors who are coming in every day and putting things together to ensure that every single person that needs to be diagnosed is diagnosed.

And hopefully you can see from these labs -- I mean these slides that, really, there is capacity out there. It is our job, working with the states and having the state in the leadership role, and the laboratory directors in the leadership role to provide support to ensure that all the potential for testing in the United States is brought to bear.

I just want to end with -- these are nucleic acid tests. There will never be the ability on a nucleic acid test to do 300 million tests a day or to test everybody before they go to work or to school, but there might be with the antigen test. And so that's why there's a role for nucleic acid test, there's a role for antibody tests, and there's a role for the future development of these other key tests to bring the full ability to the United

States.

And so, when we finish this, we'll be talking to all Americans because there's other tests that other Americans should have. And I think this has really brought to light the importance of diagnosis. And we'll talk to you further about hepatitis C and TB and other things that we can do to assure every American is healthy because I think this has really raised the awareness among all Americans about how you do test for different kinds and different parts of your disease state and what is long-lasting immunity, and what may be long-lasting immunity, and what is a nucleic acid test and what an antigen test is.

And with that, Admiral Giroir.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Great. And let me amplify one point, as the Admiral steps forward, to conclude remarks about our approach and the efforts we put underway.

Governors across the country have been working very closely with us to roll out the level of testing that we have today. And all the information we presented to you is going to be reviewed in the days ahead and with all of our governors. Our objective is to connect every one of America's governors and state health officials and to all of the labs that are currently able to do coronavirus.

And -- but Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci have both described, we believe today that we have the capacity in the United States to do a sufficient amount of testing for states to move into phase one at the time and manner that they deem to be appropriate.

And with that, I'll allow Admiral Giroir to complete our briefing on testing. And we expect the President to return.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Thank you, Mr. Vice President, and thank you to all my really great colleagues.

Can I have the -- my next slide?

So I wanted to start by where we are today and just to visit where we've come in such a short period of time. As everyone on the stage has said before, our testing right now is well over 3.78 million tests that have been completed. And if you are impressed by bar graphs, that's over 1.2 million tests reported just in the last week.

Ambassador Birx talked to me a little earlier, and she said, "You know, we only do about 2 million molecular tests a year for HIV" -- something that's been done for -- developed for 35 years. We're now doing twice that number of tests in a month for a disease that has never been known before, that there's never been a test developed before. And that's sort of where we are and where we've ramped up.

I also want to give you a little idea -- the lighter blue or lighter gray is our ID NOW tests. So we talk about them a lot because they are a point-of-care test that can be between 5 and 15 minutes. And they have a very specific role, but they're not for everybody. If you've got to screen a few thousand people, four tests an hour doesn't get you there on a machine; you have to use some of the larger, higher-throughput items. But they have a very important role. And, again, coming into the market at 50,000 per day is really an important adjunct to us.

She talked about the GeneXpert from Cepheid. Very important. We don't talk about that very much, but it is one of the backbone mobile point-of-care -- not as easy to do, per se, as the Abbott -- but it is a point-of-care test that really carries tuberculosis screening all through Africa. There are these machines -- you saw that on her slide -- every one of the 50

states has this in over 600 sites, and they've done over 700,000 tests just on that relatively low throughput, but very important platform.

Next slide, please.

I wanted to give you an idea of, sort of, how the tests are distributed and how they're changing over time. On the left are the state public health laboratories. And although their numbers are relatively small -- about 350,000 -- the state public health laboratories are absolutely critical. They're -- they're an absolutely critical core component of our testing. Not only were they there early and first, but they also do things like support outbreak investigations in nursing homes or investigations in certain plants that have close proximity with everyone because of their work environments. They also do testing on many people who do not have the opportunity to be tested elsewhere. And they are performing outstandingly well.

ACLA -- I know we hate acronyms, but the American Clinical Laboratory Association -- this is America's commercial industrial backbone that we're standing behind the President and the Vice President. And when I was there a few weeks ago in the Rose Garden -- this is the LabCorp, the Quest, the BioReference Laboratory, Mayo, Sonic, and ARUP. And you'll see they've done almost 2.3 million tests. This is the very large, high-throughput machines that Dr. Birx talks about.

And I want to be clear about -- about this group, is that it doesn't matter where you are. I just took one of the largest labs, and I said, "Map out for me where you are, within 10 miles of where you are, every site in the country." And when you do that, within 10 miles of a site of one of these, 93 percent of the U.S. population is covered.

These are truly national reference labs that cover almost

everybody within the United States. So if you cannot get a test at your hospital, the chances are overwhelming that you could send this to these labs that are fully caught up now. They have no backlog of tests. They've ramped up their production, so their turnaround time is about 48 hours -- because you may need to transport it from the middle of America, out to a lab, and result that. But that's really very, very, very good.

The American Hospital Association and also academic labs -- as the Vice President and the President have said, as more and more labs come online, they're increasing the amount of testing that are done just at the hospitals or at academic medical centers -- now almost at 600,000 tests.

And again, matching the other slide, I had the Abbott point-of-care tests -- just to give you a distribution -- and that point-of-care test is being used, very importantly, in very select populations where a point-of-care test is really needed. That could be in some hospitals, where someone needs to know exactly if a person is positive or not to go on a clinical trial, or in a nursing home investigation, or sometimes to get people screened to go back into the work environment.

Most people don't need a point-of-care test. In fact, a point-of-care test does not -- cannot replace the millions of tests that are here on the other slide.

Next slide.

I don't know how interested you are in swabs. I did not know a whole lot of swabs before a few weeks ago. But there's two points I want to make with these slides -- is, yes, there have been constraining elements, and they're constrained for a couple reasons. Number one, because this is an unprecedented scale-up of this type of very sophisticated molecular tests that has never put a demand on the system like we have. When we started out a

few weeks ago, there's very specific, one type of swab; only get it one place in the U.S., one place in Italy. And we were stuck with that for a while because it's not just the quantity, it's the quality.

What I don't want to do is put a lot of things in the system to make people believe that this is a good test, when it hasn't been validated by the FDA, to say that a positive is a positive and a negative is a negative. But over the past weeks, both the scientific community, the Gates Foundation, academic medical centers, the FDA, have really opened up our ability to not stick that all the way back in your nasal pharynx, but do the anterior nose, and to greatly broaden the amount of swab types that are available.

So we are really at a point, right now, that over the next -- by the end of April, will put another 5 million swabs, in addition to everything that's out there now, and, by the end of May, over 12 million new swabs in the system -- more than enough to obtain the capacity that we need.

Next slide.

For these molecular tests, you take a swab and you stick it in a test tube, and that test tube has to have a specific kind of liquid in it. And when we started, it was viral transport media -- a very special kind of media. The CDC has a "make your own recipe." If you're interested in cooking, you could probably do that, but it has a lot of ingredients that go in there, but still very limiting.

We've worked with many, many different laboratories. We've worked with the FDA. So now, PBS, phosphate-buffered saline -- a, kind of, just laboratory-grade saltwater -- can be used for this. This greatly opens the ability to expand the test to support all the capability that Dr. Birx talks about.

And again, by the end of April, we will have put well over 5 million new tubes of either viral transport media or saline into the system.

I am going to get to a conclusion here, but this was going to be more of a technical briefing.

Next slide.

So let's talk about the fact that the science tells us that we have and will continue to have enough tests to safely go into phase one. So let me be very granular about this: We've already heard that it is beyond the possibility to test everyone in this country every day. It's -- it's just not possible. But it's also a bad strategy because testing a person now just means they're negative now. Dr. Fauci could be positive tomorrow, because it's brewing in his system right now and we don't know it, or that he contacts that. That's not the way we go about things.

The way we go about things, as Dr. Redfield said, just -- just think of the weather radar, okay? If the weather radar is clear, you're not going to have a thunderstorm or a tornado. When something pops up, that's when you've got to go to where the action is or know that your warning system is up. So, sort of, think of that in the background, and I'll go specifically about that. So that's monitoring.

Let me talk about how much testing we need, just for overall testing. I'm just going to give you a number; I'm not saying that this is the number that's there. But let's just take a number that we are going to enter phase one when there are 200,000 new cases per month in the United States. Don't get hung up on that -- it's going to be much less than that -- but let's just say 200,000 cases. So, how many tests do we need?

Well, we need to test those 200,000 people to make the diagnosis, right? Everybody nod your head about that. We have to do that. Now, what's a safe number over that? You know, if everybody I test has the disease, I'm not testing enough, right? But if I test 100 people to have 1 person with the disease, that's probably over-testing.

So we kind of assume that a safe number that really gives us a good idea is if about 1 out of 10 people are positive, then we know we're over-sampling the population enough that we're getting all the positives. So if there's 200,000 cases, I need about 2 million tests. Okay?

Now, to go to Dr. Redfield's point, each one of those that are positive have contacts that need to be traced. And on average, the CDC tells me that for every positive, there are about five contacts that really need to be traced. So let's assume that those 200,000 people have five contacts. So now we have an extra million tests.

So 2 million tests out there to detect the 200,000 cases, an extra million out there to trace those contacts. So we're up to about 3 million cases. If you want to put a fudge factor -- say there's 4 million tests, okay?

Those are generally done at the main hospital labs, the commercial labs, state and regional labs. All this can be done - - as well as some of the labs talked about by Dr. Birx.

Next slide.

The second group of testing fits exactly perfectly with the influenza-like surveillance system that Dr. Redfield talked about. This is the monitoring. This is, sort of, the radar -- the weather radar that it would be out there -- that we're not

testing people who are symptomatic. We want to do testing on people who are asymptomatic because you can have asymptomatic carriage. You know, you could have this virus and shed it, and not have symptoms or only mild symptoms.

So what is the strategy here? The strategy here -- this is an unprecedented strategy, okay? This is -- this is really unprecedented. But we're going to do, prob- -- between three- and five hundred tests per week in the most vulnerable populations that we know that the virus could circulate.

And what are they? Number one, nursing home and long-term care facilities. We know that from the history of this -- of this virus, that that can circulate and be devastating. And it could circulate even in a way that you don't have symptoms. So we're going to survey, in a very controlled way, driven by the CDC, supervised by the CDC, surveys over -- we may not get to everyone, but surveying in the areas to cover, in a selective way, the 15,000 or so nursing homes.

Secondly, we want to work in vulnerable members in cities. And this is -- the way we think about that is community health centers. I'm a huge fan of community health centers that are led by HRSA. There are there are about 30,000 community health center sites. They take care of 30 million people -- children, adults, elderly. They care for about one third of Americans below the poverty level. They are arrayed to take care of our most vulnerable populations. So we want to survey asymptomatic people in those community health centers.

We also want to do in some of our indigenous population. And you know, very early, I was out here bringing machines to the Indian Health Service. And, in fact, 1,800 members of the Public Health Service provide care to the Indian Health Service, and their Director and Chief Medical Officer are both admirals in the Indian Health Service.

Plus, workplace monitoring, particularly for workplace environments that may have very close contact or may have a high risk. And some of those could be agricultural facilities.

So let's just total that up. We have 200,000 people who need a diagnosis. To make that diagnosis, we want to test 2 million. Okay? So that's 2 million. We're going to contact trace with a million. And let's just throw you a fudge factor of about 25 percent on that; so that's 4 million. And we have this background testing of about 400 -- of about 400,000 per month.

So to safely do the testing, we need to be in the range of four and a half million -- you followed my numbers, because I want you to understand -- per month that --

THE VICE PRESIDENT: For phase one.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: Pardon me?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: For phase one.

ADMIRAL GIROIR: For phase one. Right. For phase one. And I want to tell you that's really how it adds up, and that's where we are. Right now, we're doing about 1 million to 1.2 million per week. We're going to continue to push that farther and further, as we open up the laboratories and we're able to open all the supplies that we need for that.

And I think that's where I would like to end. Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Great. Thank you. I'll ask the team to step back up for questions. And we do anticipate, as his schedule permitted, that the President be returning momentarily.

Please.

Q Yeah, you talked about phase one. Will there be enough testing for phase two? Do you have to ramp up capacity for that? Or how do you deal with that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That's a very good question.

DR. BIRX: Yeah, that's a great question. And what we will be doing is monitoring how much we have to use in phase one to really help inform phase two, because it -- the really unknown in this, to be completely transparent, is asymptomatic and asymptomatic spread. And so if we find that there is a lot of asymptomatic individuals that we find in this active monitoring, in what we -- are very much concerned about the most vulnerable, then we will have to have increased testing to cover all of those -- all of those sites.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: And as we've made clear to the governors and other health officials, we're going to continue to scale the testing. As the President has made clear, we want -- we want governors and states to manage the testing operations in their states. We've given -- we've given criteria. We've given guidance for how we think that would best operate. But we're looking for the states, we're looking for the governors to manage it.

But in the midst of that, all these great experts, working with all these great facilities, are going to continue to use that great American ingenuity to scale and increase the availability of testing for states to be able to implement as they move closer and closer to that day the President speaks of often, where we reopen America and put all of America back to work.

Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: He did well? They all did well? I think. I'll

bet they did.

Please, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, thank you. Earlier today, Jay Inslee said that your tweets, encouraging liberation --

THE PRESIDENT: Who said this?

Q Jay Inslee said your tweets encouraging liberation in Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia, were fomenting rebellion. I'm wondering how that squares with the sober and methodical guidance that you issued yesterday in terms of --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think we do have a sobering guidance, but I think some things are too tough. And if you look at some of the states you just mentioned, it's too tough. Not only relative to this, but what they've done in Virginia with respect to the Second Amendment is just a horrible thing. They did a horrible thing -- the governor. And he's a governor under a cloud, to start off with.

So when you see what he said about the Second Amendment, when you see what other states have done -- no, I think I feel very comfortable.

Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Just to be clear, when you talk about these states -- Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia -- do you think that they should lift their stay-at-home orders? Or can you talk --

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I think elements of what they've done are too much. I mean, it's just too much.

Q Which elements?

THE PRESIDENT: You know the elements --

Q You cited Second Amendment.

THE PRESIDENT: -- because I've already said. But certainly, Second Amendment, and Second Amendment having to do with the state of Virginia. What they've done in Virginia is just incredible.

Okay. Please.

Q Sir, are you concerned, though, that people coming out in protest are going to spread COVID to other people? They're congregating in ways that health experts have said they should not.

THE PRESIDENT: No, these are people expressing their views. I see where they are and I see the way they're working. They seem to be very responsible people to me, but it's -- you know, they've been treated a little bit rough.

Please, in the back.

Q Thanks, Mr. President. I'm curious about some more of the dynamics we might see as the country begins reopening --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- as you put it, kind of like a "puzzle." So as you've mentioned, we have states where we're already seeing their curves begin to flatten, but then there are others, like Florida or more rural parts of the country, where they aren't projected to peak for weeks or even months.

So can you talk a little bit about some of the difficulties that those later-peaking states might face; if they need to stay locked down for longer, even as other places around them are starting to open back up?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're seeing great numbers in almost every state. We're seeing big drops. We're really seeing -- in terms of beds -- the numbers we have to look at are the beds -- the beds being occupied. People going -- which is essentially people going in. That means that you have fewer people that are sick; fewer people that feel they have to go to a hospital. And those numbers are dropping really precipitously. So I think that -- we're just seeing a lot of good signs.

Now, a place like New York, New Jersey, and certain parts of Louisiana -- Louisiana has been incredible lately when you look at that drop. That drop has really been great. Michigan has had a hard time, but it's -- it's starting to do well.

So, I just think -- Illinois is another one. You know, you look at some of the numbers. But everyone is -- is dropping, and they're dropping rather quickly. We don't have any hotspot that's developed where, all of a sudden, you say, "Well..." -- other than we did have a meatpacking plant or two where, incredibly, we had some -- you saw the number was rather incredible. It took place in that plant. People would ask about that. I wonder who owned that company. That was a weird situation. But, generally speaking, it's been very good. The numbers have been really improving greatly.

Please, in the back.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. U.S. intelligence is saying this week that the coronavirus likely came from a level 4 lab in Wuhan. There's also another report that the NIH, under the Obama administration, in 2015 gave that lab \$3.7 million in a

grant. Why would the U.S. give a grant like that to China?

THE PRESIDENT: The Obama administration gave them a grant of \$3.7 million? I've been hearing about that. And we've instructed that if any grants are going to that area -- we're looking at it, literally, about an hour ago, and also early in the morning. We will end that grant very quickly.

But it was granted quite a while ago. They were granted a substantial amount of money. We're going to look at it and take a look. But I understand it was a number of years ago, right?

Q So you are (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: When did you hear -- when did you hear it was -- the grant was made?

Q 2015.

THE PRESIDENT: 2015? Who was President then? I wonder.

Okay. Yes, ma'am.

Q Mr. President, we know negotiations are underway for the next round of funding for small businesses.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q If tens of billions of dollars went in a matter of days the first time, will this next relief package be enough?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it will certainly -- it's going to get us to a point that's going to be rather beautiful. We think that that will be the point -- and it could be they want more, but maybe at a certain point, we're going to stop.

It's been a tremendous success. It's been executed flawlessly. SBA has done a very good job. But the banks have done a great job, whether it was Bank of America or Wells Fargo. The community banks have been incredible. I think we had over 4,000 community banks. A lot of people didn't know you had that many banks. But 4,000 community banks -- they gave the money out. It's so organized, and it's been such a great program.

And so, essentially we're waiting for \$250 billion; the Democrats are refusing to do it. This is money that essentially is going to the workers. It's going to keep these companies whole -- the restaurants and a lot of great companies.

And it's a small amount of money relative to what it represents, because it represents small businesses; it represents them staying in business. And, you know, when you look at it -- people don't know -- small businesses represent approximately 50 percent of the power of our business enterprises. It's not all the big, monster businesses that you read about every day. It's all of these small businesses when added.

It's something that should be approved by the Democrats. The Republicans want it badly, and the people want it very badly.

Q If I could just follow up on that.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q Nearly 10 percent of the loans that were given out were for \$5 million, but some small-business owners say they can't even get a loan for \$100,000. Is that acceptable?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they would -- no. They would get that, but they have to approve -- nobody knew it was going to be this successful. Don't forget, when you say the money is gone it's

been a tremendous success as a program.

People are -- they really want it. And some people won't be able to get their -- keep their business open unless they get that money. It's been a tremendous success. It's been executed flawlessly. It's been -- I mean, with few exceptions, it's really been good. And I think the Democrats are going to do it.

Look, Nancy Pelosi -- she's away on vacation or something, and she should come back. She should come back and get this done. I don't know why she's not coming back. The fact is, she's not doing her job, and there's nothing unusual about that for her.

Go ahead.

Q And Leader McCarthy said they're now considering also adding more funding for hospitals included in this.

THE PRESIDENT: So they are thinking about hospitals, and hospitals --

Q Did you okay that compromise?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, hospitals are a good thing. Hospitals have been decimated by this. You know, they've given up their business -- which is good, because they did the right thing -- in order to take care of the COVID-19.

And, no, hospitals -- I'm with that all the way, if they want to add hospitals. We could also add it into phase four, if we do a phase four. Phase four would be, hopefully, infrastructure.

A lot of people are talking about the best thing we could do for this country would be the payroll tax cut that I've been suggesting. A lot of Democrats like it, believe it or not. The payroll tax cut.

And Art Laffer, who's tremendous -- he's a tremendous -- in fact, he recently got the Presidential Medal of Freedom -- economist. He was with Ronald Reagan, and he's been -- he looks like he's 25 years old, but I think he might be a little bit older than that. He looks so great. But Art Laffer said the single best thing you can do is the payroll tax cut. And I would just about agree with that, and I'd like to see that.

I'm not sure that we're going to get that, but I think that's something that could be done. It's simple. It's really good for both the company that employs these people and for the people that are employed. So we're going to see whether that happens or not. The payroll -- I put it out there -- the payroll tax cut would be a tremendous incentive for this country.

Steve?

Q China now says its coronavirus death toll in Wuhan is 50 percent higher.

THE PRESIDENT: Yep.

Q It went up to about 4,000. Does that sound like a credible number to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, when I listen to the press every night saying we have the most, we don't have the most in the world -- deaths. The most in the world has to be China. It's a massive country. It's gone through a tremendous problem with this. A tremendous problem. And they must have the most.

So, today, I saw they announced that, essentially, they're doubling up on the numbers. And that's only in Wuhan; they're not talking about outside of Wuhan. So it is what it is, Steve. It is what it is. What a sad -- what a sad state of

affairs.

Q The investigation into whether the virus escaped from this lab in Wuhan, how active is that? And when do you expect to hear (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're looking at that. A lot of people are looking at it. It seems to make sense. They talk about a certain kind of bat, but that bat wasn't in that area. If you can believe this, that's what they're down to now, is bats. But that bat is not in that area. That bat wasn't sold at that wet zone. It wasn't sold there. That bat is 40 miles away. So a lot of strange things are happening, but there is a lot of investigation going on and we're going to find out.

All I can say is, wherever it came from -- it came from China -- in whatever form, 184 countries now are suffering because of it. And it's too bad, isn't it? And it could have been solved very easily. When it was just starting, it could have been solved really very easily.

Yeah. Please. In the back.

Q Thank you, sir. So, about the 80 million payments that have gone out --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- that you mentioned, you said that less than 1 percent have had snafus, but that could be 800,000 snafus. So we've also seen reports of --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm just saying it's less than 1 percent, and the snafus are very minor. And they're -- and they were fixed.

Q They're not -- you're not talking about --

THE PRESIDENT: No. Excuse me.

Q -- massive numbers of dead people who have received checks -
-

THE PRESIDENT: No, they were -- they were -- 80 million payments
--

Q I mean, that could be -- that could be tens of millions of
people.

THE PRESIDENT: -- went out over a period of a few days. And
they caught certain mistakes that they made, but this is a tiny
amount of mistakes. I can tell you mistakes were made in
government where wrong countries were signed, okay?

Eighty million -- this has been a tremendous success. And any
mistake that was made, they've been caught. And it's less than 1
percent. That's a very good percentage. I can tell you, for
government --

Q If how --

THE PRESIDENT: -- I mean, how about -- how about the Obama
website? The Obamacare website, where they spent \$5 billion on
building a website that you could have built for -- for peanuts.

Okay.

Q If money went out to deceased people, is the government
going to get that back?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Anything -- anything that was sent out --
it's like, sometimes you send a check to somebody

wrong. Sometimes people are listed, they die, and they get a check. That can happen.

You're talking about -- I guess the number is about 80 million people. Yeah, sure. We'll get that back. Everything we're going to get back. But it's a tiny amount. They've done a fantastic job. This was done in a matter of a few days.

Yeah.

Q Your campaign said today that they are planning on resuming rallies before the election. Is there a timeline that you're looking at? Would it be restricted to certain states? Have you thought about how that would work?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope we can do rallies. It's great for the country. It's great spirit. It's great for a lot of things. It's a -- for me, it's a tremendous way of getting the word out.

If you look at our success rate, we've had tremendous success. We win where we have rallies, including endorsements of candidates. Our success rate is, I think, unparalleled. There's nothing like it.

So I certainly hope we can have rallies. We'll find out. I don't like the rallies where we're sitting like you're sitting. I mean, you got many reporters outside trying to get into this room. And I come in, I'm looking at this room and I see all this -- it loses a lot of flavor. It loses, to me, a lot of flavor.

But I hope we're going to have rallies. I think they're going to be bigger than ever.

I will say this: The rallies that we were having -- until we had

to stop, with regard to the problem that we had here -- the rallies were bigger than they were -- I think even substantially bigger. We'd go into the biggest arena and we'd turn away 20-, 30,000 people sometimes. In -- in one case, I think they said, in New Jersey, we had 175,000 people show up for an arena that holds 9,000 people. And they showed up. And the reporters even reported that. That was almost shocking to me.

But I hope we can resume rallies because I think they're an important part of politics, actually.

Yeah.

Q Mr. President, under your reopening plan, some workers can go back to work in phase one, but schools cannot reopen until phase two. Many parents don't have an option to work from home. So how can you get businesses back up and running as long as schools are closed?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the businesses are going to. And I think now we've given the businesses a real jolt. A real positive jolt. They're able to keep their employees. You know, without the employees -- if the employees leave that area, if they leave -- you know, who knows where they're going -- or if they get another job maybe someplace else, you're not going to have the same business.

So we gave them money to hold their employees. They're going to do that. We hope we can do \$250 billion more. It's -- it's absolutely so inexpensive compared to what it represents. And we hope that's going to happen.

But I think -- I really think -- look, you see it with the stock market. The market was up seven- or eight hundred points today. And if you would have told me that we would have a virus, the likes of which this world has not seen since 1917 -- which

was the Spanish flu, where anywhere from 75- to 100 million people were killed -- and then we'd have a stock market that's not far below its all-time high -- and it's starting to get a little low. You know, then you had 1,000-point increase and a 1,200-point increase.

So now we have a stock market that's at a point where it's not very far away from where it was. And we've gone through a closed -- literally, a closed country.

Remember this also -- I mean, we have had a closed economy. We had the best economy anywhere in the world by far. We had the best economy we've ever had. And remember this: The dollar is very strong. And dollars -- strong dollars are overall very good, but it does cause problems. It's harder to sell outside of the country, et cetera, et cetera. It's a little harder for manufacturers. Sometimes it's a lot harder.

Everybody wants to invest in our country. Everybody wants -- and, you know, we're paying almost zero in interest. Like, in some cases, zero. We've never had that before. People want the safety of our country. But if you would have told me that a market was where it is today -- and today we had almost, I guess, more than a 700-point increase, and we're at a point which is, you know, it's not what it was, but it's not that far off -- I would have told you that's got to be an impossibility. The reason that is, is because there is a great pent-up demand.

This country is going to come back and it's going to come back strong. We have to get rid of the virus. We've got to open up our country. We're going to open it up in quadrants. We're going to open it up in states. Some of the states should get together and they should work on their own borders and everything, because you don't want to have people pouring through the border of a state that isn't infected and you have people coming perhaps outside.

That's one of the reasons I was asking Tony, two days ago, about masks. Well, why in Wyoming or Montana would they have to wear masks? Their numbers are very good. The reason is, if somebody comes from outside -- you know, which is very severe. But it's, again -- and it's going to be up to them. It's a recommendation, but we'll see.

But if you were to tell me how well we're doing after we went through the worst event of its kind since 1917, it's pretty amazing.

A question? Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. About childcare, though: Millions of Americans aren't sure how they can go back to work if schools are closed. Where -- how can they have their kids taken care of?

THE PRESIDENT: The schools will be open too. Very soon.

Q Is your government considering something, in addition to helping employees stay employed --

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's -- yeah.

Q -- to help them take care of their kids?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a good question. I think the schools are going to be open soon. I think a lot of governors are already talking about schools being opened. And we do have to take care of our seniors, because we've learned a lot about this disease. We've learned -- call it a disease. We've learned a lot about this plague. And we have to take care of our seniors. We're going to take care of a lot of people.

But I think the schools are going to be open sooner rather than

later. And I understand and I've spoken -- some governors are already talking about -- thinking about getting the schools opened. I have a young boy who goes to school. I'd like to see him go to school. As good as home is, it's very nice, but we'd like to see him go to school.

Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I'd agree with that point. (Laughter.) I would like to know about some of these areas that you would like to open up, some of these quadrants. You singled out Virginia, Michigan. They don't have a decline in cases yet, yet you tweeted out today that you'd like to "liberate" them.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they're going to have soon, but they're very, very, very -- what they've done is very powerful, in terms of -- I think -- you know, you can get the same result out of doing a little bit less. What they've done to some people is very unfair.

In Virginia, I'm going above and beyond what we're talking about with this horrible plague. They want to take their guns away. Okay? They want to take their guns away. That's the Second Amendment. That's Virginia. You have a gov- -- governor who really -- I guess he should be under siege; he seems not to be. If he were a Republican, he'd be under siege. But he seems to have escaped something that was pretty bad, including what he said about birth, including what he said about many different things.

But he wants to take -- if you take a look at what's going on in Virginia, they want to take away Second Amendment rights. And that's what they want to do. So when you talk about "liberate" or if you talk about a liberation, you could certainly look at Virginia as one.

Go ahead. Anybody else?

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Steve.

Q Which states are ready to reopen, in your mind, and how soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't want to go -- I want to leave -- the governors make that decision. We're watching very closely. If we see something happening bad that we think is wrong, we're going to come down very strong on that. Very, very strong.

The federal government has a lot to say. We have -- we have a lot to say -- beyond what anyone understands. And we think -- and I've gotten to know many of the governors, many Democrats too. It's Republicans and -- I knew the Republicans. I knew some of the Democrats, but I got to know a lot of them. I think it's going to be in the hands of a lot of good people. I think a lot of good people are looking at this and they want to do what's right, Steve.

Q And the Vice President is traveling soon, I think tomorrow to Colorado. When are you going to be in a position to travel again?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they'd rather not have me travel. I think I've been in the White House, I don't know, for months. I don't know what it is, but it's for months -- other than I did leave to -- to say goodbye to our beautiful ship. Right? The Comfort. The -- as it left Virginia. When it got out of dry dock -- it got out of maintenance very early. It was supposed to be there for four weeks; it was there for a few days,

literally. We got it up to New York.

I mean, they didn't -- they didn't need it like -- well, I wouldn't say "we hoped." I'm glad they didn't need it. They didn't need it; that was a good thing. They didn't need the convention center -- 2,500 beds or, depending on your definition, 2,900. We ultimately converted it to COVID -- the Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA. The job they did was incredible.

But that's a sign that they're making progress in New York. If you look at that, you know, we built it. It was ready. It's there now. It's ready. We converted it to COVID -- it wasn't supposed to be for that -- at the request, frankly, our side. Then, ultimately, we converted it, but there is much less demand. That's such a good thing. I mean, I'm not complaining about that. I think it's a great -- that means New York is making progress.

Q Is it important to you that the Vice President is going tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: He's going to -- to Colorado?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The Air Force Academy.

THE PRESIDENT: I think he's going to the Air Force to make the commencement, right?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think it's great. I think it's great. If he's going to make the commencement -- I hear they're going to have a very spread-out crowd.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: They're going to be -- I will say, they are going to be, socially, very good. They're going to be very far apart. That'll be very interesting. I think I'm going to watch that one. No, they're going to be -- they're going to have a good spread, a good distance apart. I spoke to Mike about it.

No, I think, making the commencement speech -- I'm doing it at West Point, which I look forward to. I did it last year at Air Force, I did it at Annapolis, I did it at the Coast Guard Academy, and I'm doing it at West Point. And I assume they're -- they've got it, and I understand they'll have distancing. They'll have some big distance, and so it'll be very different than it ever looked.

Do I like the look? No, I don't. And eventually, next year, they'll have a commencement which will be like it's been, like when people like this -- our great Admiral, who has done such a great job. When he graduated from where he graduated -- me too -- we were nice and tight. And that's going to happen again.

I don't want people to think that this going to be like this forever. But, for a period of time, we're going to have to keep it that way. That includes baseball games and football games, and other things. But eventually, as this virus goes away, it's going to be better and better. Director, it's going to be better and better. And we're going to get our lives back to the way they were.

You know, one thing that bothers me: A couple of restaurateurs called, and they said, I mean, "Sir, I barely made a living with 150 seats. Now, if I do what they want me to do, I'll be down to 25 seats and I can't." I said, "Yeah, but you're not going to be there forever." And he didn't really know that. He thought that they were going to take 150 seats, move it down to 25 to 50 seats, depending on the way he laid it out. I said, "Don't worry about it. Eventually, you're going to be back to the scene that

you used to have, which was..."

Look, I could tell you about -- and I'm not going to do it, because I didn't want to bring it up -- but I could tell you about events that took place. And I said things like, "You'll never do that again" or "You'll never do this again" or -- I don't even want to mention the events. I don't want to mention what you're supposed to be doing because -- and you know one of them was so horrible.

I said, "A certain industry will be out of business -- never happen again." Two weeks later, it was like nothing ever happened. Hopefully, we get rid of this. We have tremendous talent up here and all over, including governors, including local governments, state governments. I look forward to the time, to me, when we can really normalize. But normalizing is being back to where we were.

Yeah, please. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, some of your allies are calling for China to be stripped as host of the 2022 Olympics. I'm wondering what you make of that? Is that something that you would consider or --

THE PRESIDENT: So I just made a deal with China where they're going to put in \$250 billion of product. They're going to be -- they're going to be buying \$250- -- 50; from 40 to 50 -- billion in farm. I want to see what's happening with China. I want to see how they're doing on it: Are they fulfilling the deal, the transaction?

We have a lot of discussions going on with China. Let me just put it this way: I'm not happy, okay? I'm not happy. And I spoke to them. And this could have been shut down a long time ago. They knew it. And we couldn't get in. And, in all fairness, World Health couldn't get in, and that's why I wish

they took a different stance. They took a very pathetic stance and a very weak stance. But they say they couldn't get in.

But, ultimately, they got in; they got in much sooner than anybody, but they didn't report what was happening. They didn't report what was happening inside of China. No, I'm not happy with China.

Yeah, please.

Q Mr. President, I wanted to ask Dr. Fauci: Could you address these suggestions or concerns that this virus was somehow manmade, possibly came out of a laboratory in China?

THE PRESIDENT: Want to go?

Q You studied this virus. What are the prospects of that?

DR. FAUCI: There was a study recently that we can make available to you, where a group of highly qualified evolutionary virologists looked at the sequences there and the sequences in bats as they evolve. And the mutations that it took to get to the point where it is now is totally consistent with a jump of a species from an animal to a human.

So, I mean, the paper will be available -- I don't have the authors right now, but we can make that available to you.

Q Just one follow-up, sir, on the protest that you -- that we've seen of people wanting the economies open. Does that concern you though, as a health expert, when you see folks congregate? And are you worried if that's encouraged?

DR. FAUCI: Well, I mean, I'm looking at it from a public health standpoint. I certainly could understand the frustration of people, but my main role in the task force is to make

recommendations to protect the health and the safety of the American people. And I would hope that people understand that that's the reason why we're doing what we're doing, and hopefully we'll put an end to this.

THE PRESIDENT: And I will say this: I'm very, very satisfied with the decision we made, listening to experts, listening to my gut, the feeling of the Vice President, and really many others. When we put it all together, I'm very -- look, if we didn't do what we did at the time, we could have lost more than 2 million people. I really believe that.

I could show you charts of other places that gave it a shot and they're not doing well. And I would show it to you right now; I don't want to embarrass anybody. But they gave that a shot. It's an automatic. I mean, everybody would say, "Let's do that" -- until they sit down and start thinking. And we could have lost more than 2 million people. We could have lost more than 2 million. It could have been much more than that, by the way. We have one that says from 1.6 to 2.2, but it could have really been more than that. But I looked at one in particular -- one country in particular that is using the herd mentality, and not working out very well.

Now, with all of that being said, we have to get back to work. We've -- we'll be crossing lines very soon, in many cases. In some cases, we're well on the way down. In other cases, we're right at the top and heading down. We're heading in the right direction.

I saw some numbers from New Jersey, which was having a very tough time. It started -- he's -- he's doing a terrific job, the governor -- Phil -- Phil Murphy. Starting to get some really good signs.

I looked at some of the New York numbers. They're starting to

get -- they've been devastated, obviously, but some really good things are starting to happen.

So, if we would have done something different -- first of all, it would have -- it would not have been sustainable. You would have had people -- they would have been furious at you and me and everybody up here. They -- it would not have been sustainable. Because you look at some of the hospitals -- as an example, a certain hospital right near where I grew up in Queens -- and you had body bags all over the floor of that hospital. You know the one I'm talking about. All over the floor of the hospital.

Now, multiply that times 12 or 15, because that's the kind of numbers you're talking about -- 12 or 15. And it would not have been -- it would not have been a lot -- there would have been an insurrection. Nobody would have -- nobody would have understood that.

Whereas, right now, nobody can be blamed, and there is no blame. We're all in a situation that was caused -- that should have been solved long ago. It could have been solved probably very easily -- look, it was a tough enemy -- but probably very easily if a certain country did what they should have done. And we're just starting to learn those facts. But what we did was the right thing. What we did was the right thing.

With that being said, we want to get back and we want to -- we're going to be opening up states. They're being opened by very capable people. It's also point of sale, as they say, in a different business. It's the point -- they'll be able to look at that -- you know, where the testing is taking place. We're going to help them with the testing. We've developed some tremendous tests over the last little while. And we're going to work with the states and we're going to help them. But they know every inch of land in their states.

I watched the governor of Arkansas, Asa. You saw that. He -- I thought he was terrific. I watched the governor of Oklahoma over the weekend being interviewed. He was terrific. They've done it a little bit differently. And they've done it tight and they've done it strong, and they were very prepared, and they have more beds than they needed, and that's a good thing. But I've seen some very, very good things. And I think you're going to have some very positive events taking place over a very short period of time.

And I think, with that, we'll see you tomorrow. But really, this has been -- this has been a situation where a lot of great people have been involved and a lot of great decisions have been made.

Thank you all very much. Thank you.

END

8:06

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Subject: WH Pool Report #3 - Briefing now at 6pm

From: Meredith McGraw <mmcgraw@politico.com>

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 3:47 PM

Subject: WH Pool Report #3 - Briefing now at 6pm

According to President Trump's Twitter account and an official change to the White House schedule, the coronavirus task force briefing will begin at 6 p.m. --

@realDonaldTrump: White House news conference today at 6:00 P.M. Eastern. Thank you!

<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1251232404100038656?s=20>

Meredith McGraw

POLITICO White House Reporter

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Subject: In-Town Pool Report #5: Readout of Call with the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

From: Philip Wegmann
<pwegmann@realclearpolitics.com>
Date: April 18, 2020 at 3:21:35 PM
EDT
**Subject: In-Town Pool Report
#5: Readout of Call with the
King of the Kingdom of
Bahrain**

The White House passes along the following:

"Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The President and the King discussed the latest developments in the global fight against the coronavirus pandemic. The President and the King will continue to work together to defeat the virus, minimize its economic impact, and focus on critical regional issues. The King thanked the President for his efforts to stabilize the world oil markets and protect jobs in the industry. The President thanked the King for Bahrain's strong support

for efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, and for hosting the United States Fifth Fleet."

Philip Wegmann
White House Reporter
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Subject: In-Town Pool Report #4: Readout of Call with President of the Republic of Korea

From: Philip Wegmann
<pwegmann@realclearpolitics.com>
Date: April 18, 2020 at 2:30:53 PM EDT
**Subject: In-Town Pool Report #4:
Readout of Call with President of the
Republic of Korea**

The White House passes along the following:

"Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea. President Trump congratulated President Moon for his Party's strong victory during South Korea's general elections earlier this week. The President also expressed his appreciation for South Korea's assistance to the United States in procuring COVID-19 tests and for its support to the American people. Both leaders agreed to continue working together to defeat the pandemic and restore global economic growth. President Trump and President Moon also discussed ways to further strengthen the United States-Republic of Korea security relationship."

Philip Wegmann
White House Reporter

RealClearPolitics

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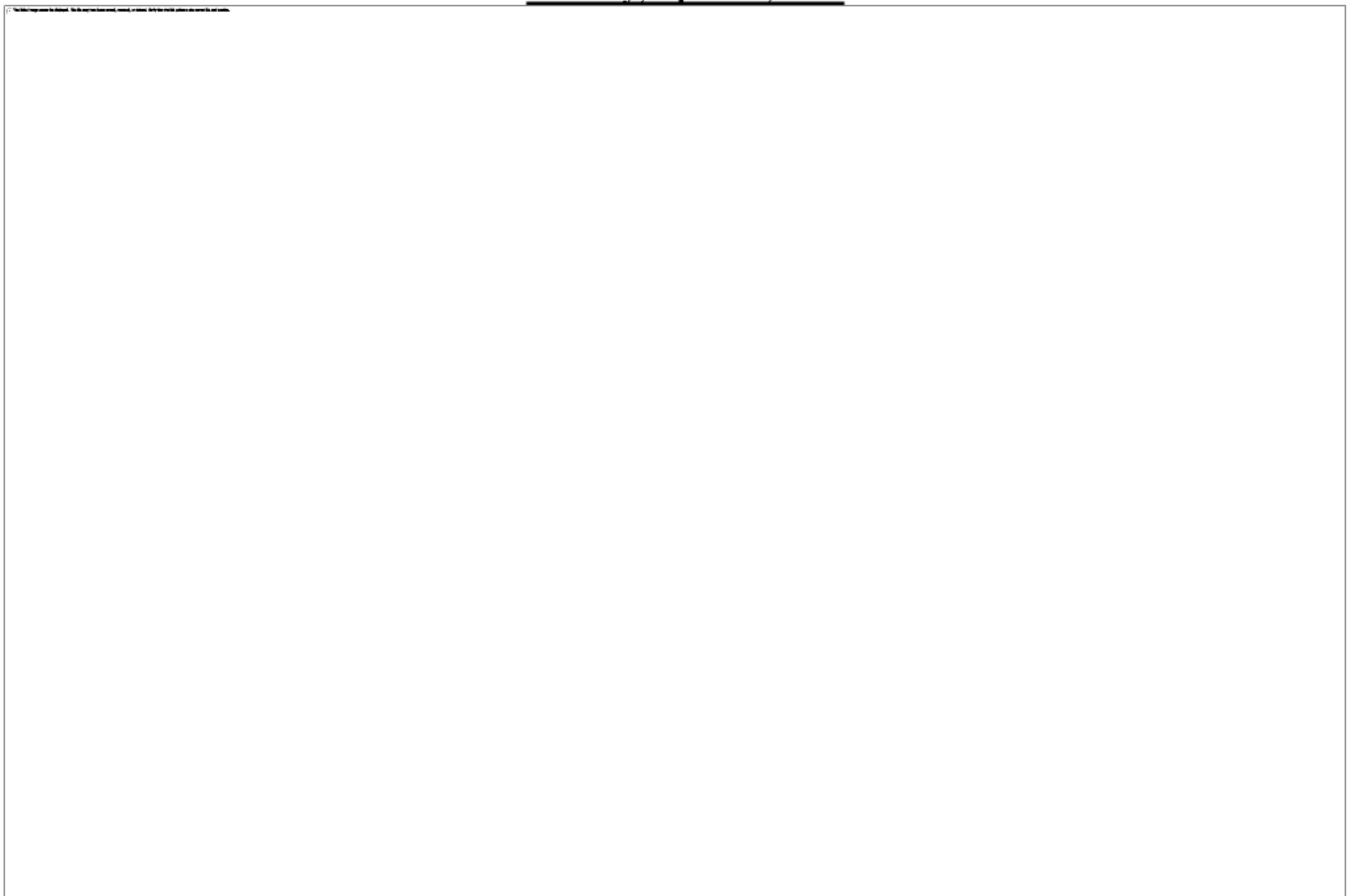
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April 17, 2020

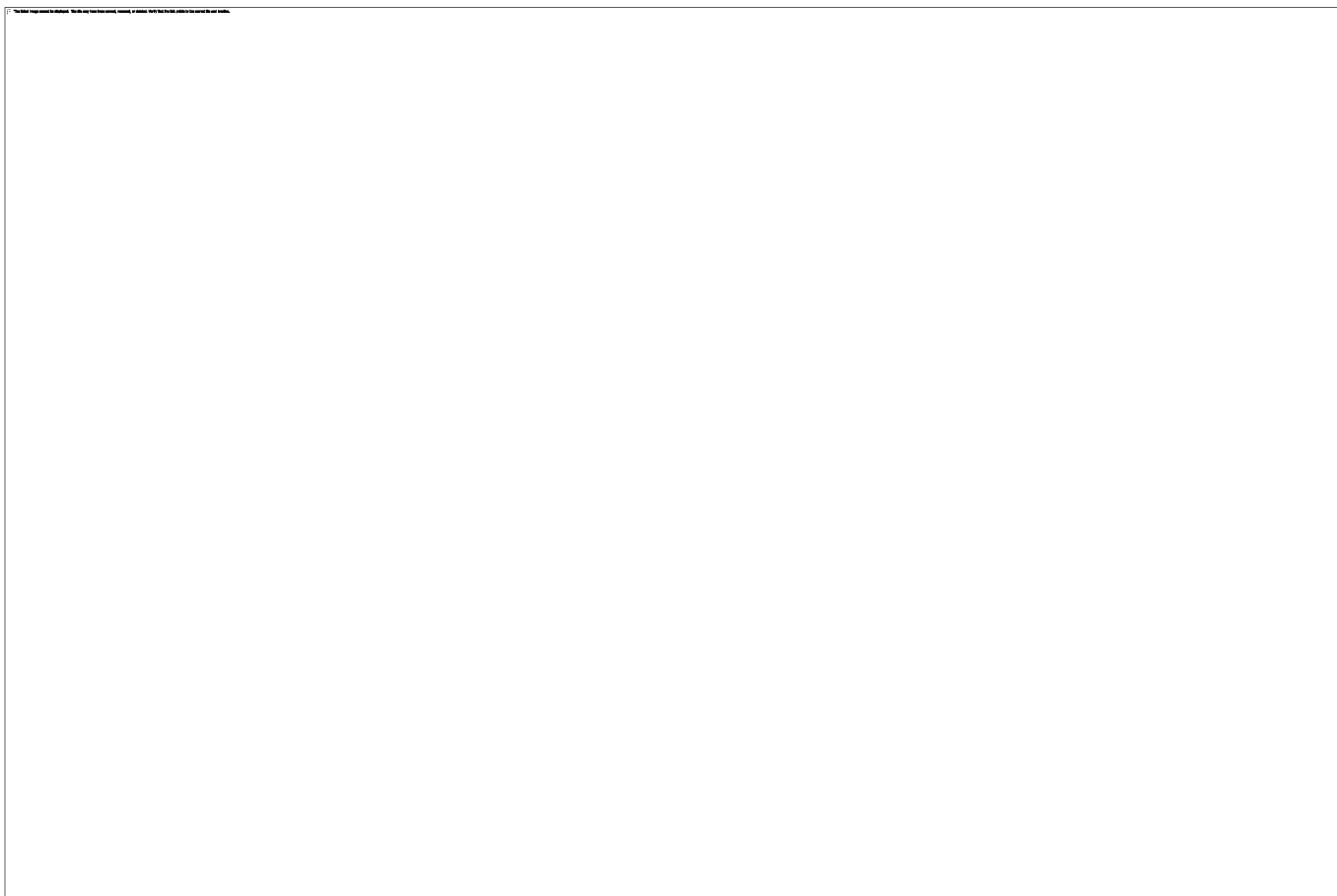
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Monday, April 13, 2020

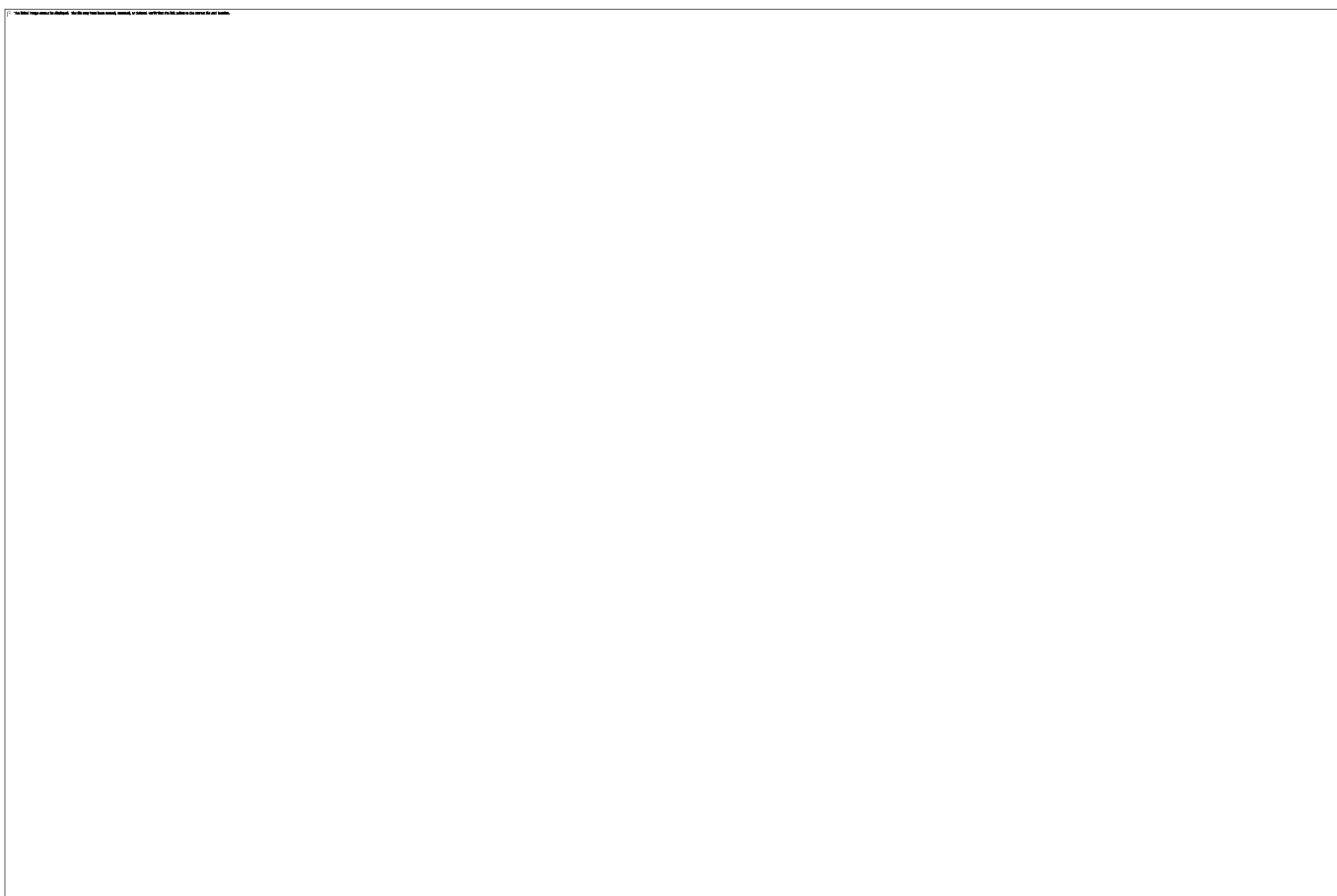


President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, arrives to a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 13, 2020, in the James S.

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 Monday, April 13, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo D. Myles Cullen)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence listen to a reporter's question during a coronavirus update briefing Monday, April 13, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

Tuesday, April 14, 2020



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, meets with patients who have recovered from COVID-19 Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump listens as Rep. Karen Whitsett, D-Mich., talks about her recovery from COVID-19 during a meeting with other recovered patients Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



Vice President Mike Pence talks with patients that have recovered from COVID-19 Tuesday, April 14, 2020, on the balcony of the Vice President's Ceremonial Office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump meets with healthcare executives Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



Vice President Mike Pence meets with members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in his West Wing Office of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence depart the Oval Office of the White House and walk along the Colonnade Tuesday, April 14, 2020, en route to the Rose Garden to participate in a coronavirus update briefing. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by healthcare executives, listens as Rick Pollack, President and CEO of the American Hospital Association, delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

Wednesday, April 15, 2020



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 15, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



President Donald J. Trump listens as Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 15, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

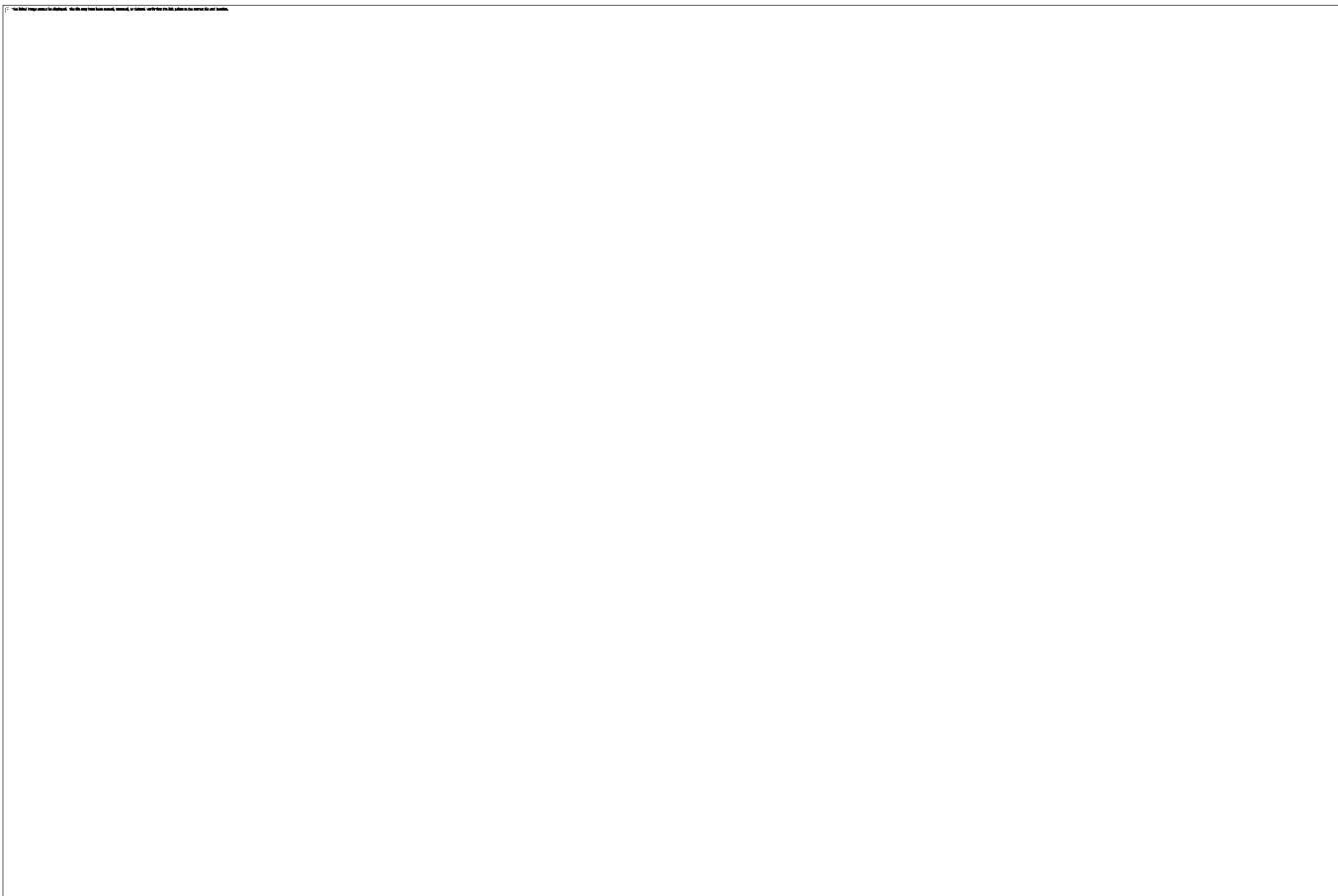


President Donald J. Trump listens as Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Wednesday, April 15, 2020, in the Rose Garden of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)

Thursday, April 16, 2020



President Donald J. Trump, joined by White House senior advisors, speaks with G7 Leaders during a video teleconference on coordinated action in response to COVID-19 Thursday, April 16, 2020, in the White House Situation Room. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, delivers remarks during an event to celebrate America's truckers Thursday, April 16, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump listens as FedEx truck driver Tina Peterson delivers remarks during an event to celebrate America's truckers Thursday, April 16, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao depart an event celebrating America's truckers Thursday, April 16, 2020, on the South Lawn of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, takes questions from reporters during a coronavirus update briefing Thursday, April 16, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump listens as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Thursday, April 16, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)

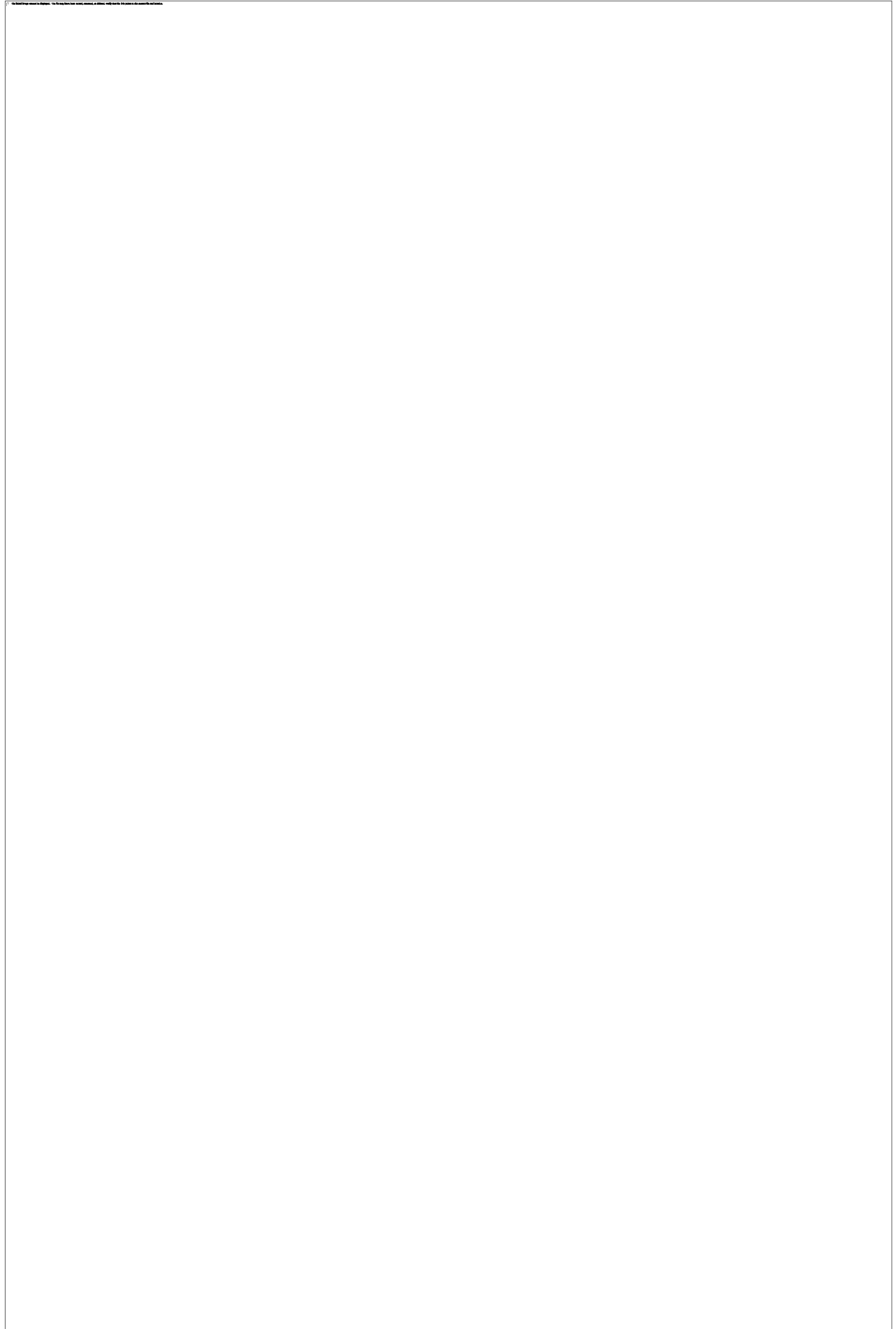


President Donald J. Trump listens as Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks during a coronavirus update briefing Thursday, April 16, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Dr. Robert R. Redfield and Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony S. Fauci depart a coronavirus update briefing Thursday, April 16, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)

Friday, April 17, 2020



President Donald J. Trump talks on the phone with Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/18/2020 2:02:04 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-Town Pool Report #3: Readout of Call with President of Mexico

From: Philip Wegmann
<pwegmann@realclearpolitics.com>
Date: April 18, 2020 at 1:56:09 PM EDT
Subject: In-Town Pool Report #3: Readout of Call with President of Mexico

The White House passes along the following:

"Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump spoke by phone with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico. The leaders expressed their appreciation for the two countries' strong economic ties, their joint efforts to curb spread of COVID-19, and continued commitment to protecting the health and safety of Americans and Mexicans. The leaders also discussed the need to maintain restrictions on travelers crossing their land borders for non-essential purposes, while ensuring cross-border activities that are critical to commerce, health security, supply security, and other essential industries remain unimpeded. President Trump offered additional resources to the Government of Mexico to support its health care system."

Philip Wegmann
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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/17/2020 11:18:36 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: WH Pool Report #1 - Good morning and schedule

From: Meredith McGraw <mmcgraw@politico.com>

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 11:08 AM

Subject: WH Pool Report #1 - Good morning and schedule

Good morning from a quiet White House. The president does not have any public events on his schedule today, but has a 2 p.m. intel briefing and 4 p.m. call with faith leaders on the economy. The coronavirus task force briefing begins at 5 p.m. I'll keep you posted on any changes. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Schedule

2:00PM THE PRESIDENT receives his intelligence briefing

Oval Office

Closed Press

4:00PM THE PRESIDENT hosts a phone call with faith leaders on the great American economic revival

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

Meredith McGraw

POLITICO White House Reporter

Cell/Signal: (b) (6)(b) (6) @meridithmcgraw

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/16/2020 9:42:21 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 16, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2020

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

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

6:06 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Our nation is engaged in a historic battle against the invisible enemy. To win this fight, we have undertaken the greatest national mobilization since World War Two. And that's exactly what it's been.

We've marshaled every instrument of American power, and we've unleashed our most potent weapon of all: the courage of the American people.

These have been trying times. A cruel virus from a distant land has unfairly claimed thousands of precious American lives. To every citizen who has lost a cherished loved one: Your pain is

our pain. We mourn as one national family. Our country has come together. We draw solace from the faith that God has received, and the departed -- He has taken the departed into his eternal and loving embrace. They will never be forgotten.

Over the last weeks and months, millions of Americans have joined together in a shared national sacrifice to halt the spread of this horrible disease. The Army built field hospitals and sports arenas and convention centers. The Army Corps of Engineers is great. Over 20,000 beds in record time.

The Navy sailed hospital ships to our biggest cities. Lifesaving supplies and experimental medicines were rushed to the frontlines as we launched a rapid search for groundbreaking treatments and vaccines.

We built the most advanced and robust testing anywhere in the world, and we've done more testing than any country anywhere in the world.

We suspended dangerous foreign travel. We leveraged our industrial base to produce vast quantities of critical medical gear and enacted a historic 2-trillion-dollar relief package.

Through it all, we have seen the heroism of our doctors and nurses like never before -- these are our warriors -- the bravery of our truck drivers -- such bravery -- and food suppliers -- such incredible bravery, and the determination and drive of our citizens. Through this unified national endeavor, we have made great progress. You could really say incredible progress.

Our experts and scientists report that our strategy to slow the spread has saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Models predicted between 1.5 million and 2.2 million U.S. deaths -- if there was no mitigation, it could have even been higher than that -- and between 100,000 and 240,000 deaths with mitigation. It's

looking like we will come far under even these lowest numbers.

Thanks to our all-out military operation and the extraordinary devotion of our people, we believe we will experience far fewer deaths than even the optimistic projection. But there is no such thing as an optimistic projection on death. One person is too many.

Our experts say the curve has flattened and the peak in new cases is behind us. Nationwide, more than 850 counties, or nearly 30 percent of our country, have reported no new cases in the last seven days.

Because of our early and aggressive action, we have avoided the tragedy of healthcare rationing and deadly shortfalls that have befallen many other nations -- nations which, wherever possible, we are helping. In America, no person who has needed a ventilator has been denied a ventilator. We're making hundreds of thousands of ventilators. We've delivered thousands and thousands of ventilators to the states.

And actually, it's been an incredible operation. We started with very little and we ended with a lot. The United States has achieved a significant lower mortality rate than almost all other countries.

Based on the latest data, our team of experts now agrees that we can begin the next front in our war, which we're calling, "Opening Up America Again." And that's what we're doing: We're opening up our country. And we have to do that. America wants to be open, and Americans want to be open.

As I have said for some time now, a national shutdown is not a sustainable long-term solution. To preserve the health of our citizens, we must also preserve the health and functioning of our economy. Over the long haul, you can't do one without the

other. It cannot be done. To keep vital supply chains running, these chains have to be taken care of so delicately. They're delicate. The balance is delicate.

We want to deliver food and medical supply. We must have a working economy. And we want to get it back very, very quickly, and that's what's going to happen. I believe it will boom.

A prolonged lockdown combined with a forced economic depression would inflict an immense and wide-ranging toll on public health. This includes a sharp rise in drug abuse, alcohol abuse, suicide, heart disease, and many other dimensions of physical and mental wellbeing. Moreover, many patients have put needed medical care on hold, creating entirely new hazards for public health.

Our country has suffered. The world has suffered. One hundred and eighty-four other countries have suffered.

Therefore, my administration is issuing new federal guidelines that will allow governors to take a phased and deliberate approach to reopening their individual states. I've dealt with them now a long time, and we've had a great relationship -- Democrat, Republican. The relationship has been good. This strategy is based on hard, verifiable data.

I want to thank Dr. Birx for her incredible leadership in crafting these guidelines in consultation with scientists, experts, and medical professionals across government. Dr. Birx will explain the guidelines in more detail in a few moments. And Dr. Fauci has been absolutely terrific. We've all worked together, and we've worked together well.

They are interested in the health of our country. And we're all interested in the viability and making us truly great again. We took the greatest economy in the history of the world, and we

closed it in order to win this war. And we're in the process of winning it now.

Our approach outlines three phases in restoring our economic life. We are not opening all at once, but one careful step at a time. And some states will be able to open up sooner than others. Some states are not in the kind of trouble that others are in.

Now that we have passed the peak in new cases, we're starting our life again, we're starting rejuvenation of our economy again, in a safe and structured and very responsible fashion.

Our strategy will continue to protect senior citizens and other vulnerable populations while allowing military and other groups of incredibly talented people to go about their real business and the business that's supposed to be hard at work at doing. And nobody does it better. Our military is the greatest anywhere in the world, and we're so thankful for what they've done.

Healthy Americans will now be able to return to work as conditions on the ground allow. Instead of a blanket shutdown, we will pursue a focus on sheltering the highest-risk individuals. So important. We're establishing clear scientific, metric, and -- benchmarks on testing, new case growth, and hospital capacity that must be met before advancing to each phase. And that's each phase specifically in the reopening of our country.

This is a gradual process. As the caseload in a state continues to go down, restrictions can continue to be eased and come off. Throughout the process, citizens will continue to be called upon to use all of their weapons in this war: vigorous hygiene, teleworking when possible, staying at home if you feel sick, maintaining social distance, sanitizing commonly used surfaces, and being highly conscious of their surroundings. Those are our

weapons, and they're very powerful weapons indeed.

Governors will be empowered to tailor an approach that meets the diverse circumstances of their own states. Every state is very different. They're all beautiful. We love them all. But they're very, very different. If they need to remain closed, we will allow them to do that. And if they believe it is time to reopen, we will provide them the freedom and guidance to accomplish that task -- and very, very quickly -- depending on what they want to do.

We are also encouraging states to work together to harmonize their regional efforts. We'll have numerous cases where states have worked and will be working very, very closely together.

As we reopen, we know that there will be continued hardships and challenges ahead. Our goal will be to quickly identify and address any outbreaks and put them out rapidly. If the virus returns in the fall, as some scientists think it may possibly, these guidelines will ensure that our country is up and running so that we can likewise put it out quickly.

At the heart of our strategy is the vital role of medical research, especially for therapies that will significantly improve outcomes for high-risk patients and reduce the need for urgent care. This will be tremendously valuable in allowing life to eventually return to normal. At least 35 clinical trials are already underway, including antiviral therapies, immune therapies, and blood therapies in the form of convalescent plasma. You've all heard about some of these events and some of these therapies. They've come a long way. What's been done in the last four weeks is incredible.

We will also continue to expand our testing capacity. We have now completed more than 3.5 million tests -- by far the most anywhere in the world. Areas of our country that have been

hotspots have done much more testing, on a per capita basis, than South Korea. We've done more than South Korea -- and South Korea has done a good job, but we've done more.

We will continue to work with governors to advise them on how to conduct both surveillance and diagnostic testing. We have now distributed over 600,000 Abbott ID NOW point-of-care diagnostic tests. These are tests that are done on site, and, within five minutes, you know the answer: positive or negative.

In recent days, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of tests performed by hospitals and academic institutions, with more than 120,000 tests recently reported in a single day -- far more than any country in the world has ever been able to do. And our numbers are actually going up.

As these new and better testing solutions come online, we're seeing this additional capacity reflected in the numbers. For this reason, the number of tests processed in commercial laboratories has dropped from approximately 100,000 to roughly 75,000 tests over the last week. The reason it dropped is because we have so many other tests and we don't even have to go through the laboratories. But the laboratories have tremendous additional capacity, and states feel free to use that capacity.

Some in the media falsely reported this as a bad thing, when, in fact, it is a great thing because it indicates that the states are moving to faster, more local testing solutions, including on-the-spot tests.

So this drop in the utilization of commercial laboratories is an affirmation that testing, which is at an all-time high, is growing at a historic rate. In other words, the laboratories are great, but now we have forms of testing that are much quicker, much better, and we don't have to use the laboratories. But they're there, and they have a great capacity to do the work.

As Dr. Birx has been advising our governors for weeks, we continue to have an excess testing capacity of 1 million tests per week available for use. And our capabilities are growing every single day, especially with the new tests that are coming onto the market rapidly.

As we begin a science-based reopening, we must be extra vigilant in blocking the foreign entry of the virus from abroad. Border control, travel restrictions, and other limitations on entry are more important than ever to keep the virus in check and allow Americans to get back to work.

The sacrifices our citizens have made in this time of crisis will be remembered, studied, honored, and praised for generations to come. We're really all working together. Democrat, Republican, conservative, liberal -- we're all working together. This is not about parties; this is about our country.

Now the American people are ready to rise to the occasion once again. They are ready to show the world once more that Americans can defeat any challenger. Together, we will rebuild this land that we love, we will reclaim the magnificent destiny that we share, and we will carry our nation forward to new heights of greatness and glory.

I would now like to ask Vice President Mike Pence and Dr. Birx to further explain the new guidelines. I want to thank Dr. Birx. I want to thank Dr. Fauci. And I want to thank, really especially, a man who has devoted 24 hours a day to his task force and done such an incredible job -- our great Vice President, Mike Pence.

Please, Mike.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. The members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force today joined the President

to meet with a bipartisan group of members of the House and of the Senate to get their counsel on the development of what the President unveiled to America's governors this afternoon.

The new guidelines for "Opening Up America Again" are a product of the best science and the best common sense that the President has marshaled on this team and from a broad range of advisors from all across the nation.

From the moment President Trump established the White House Coronavirus Task Force, early on he made it clear that we have no higher priority than the health and safety of the American people.

The President launched a whole-of-government approach. And while we stand here, on this day, with more than 640,000 Americans having contracted the coronavirus -- and our hearts go out to the families of the more than 31,000 Americans who lost their lives and those who continue to struggle with serious consequences of the coronavirus -- the truth is that because of the decisive action that our President took early on, suspending travel from China and thereafter from portions of Europe and South Korea; screening passengers; because of the strong actions in partnership with every governor across America; because of the extraordinary efforts of America's healthcare workers on the frontlines; and because of the cooperation of the American people and God's grace, we are slowing the spread, we are flattening the curve, we have preserved the capacity of our healthcare system, and we've protected the most vulnerable.

In a word, because of the actions of this President, this administration, governors at every level, our healthcare workers, and our fellow Americans, we've saved lives. And every American should be comforted by that.

And we can see it in the numbers, in the charts that I'll present

today. These three maps track influenza-like illness, which, in this instance, is mostly coronavirus across America. The first map reflects the total number of cases on the week ending March the 28th. The next map reflects our data about the total number of cases on the week ending April 4. And we stand here today with the final map reflecting the total number of cases across America, as of April the 11th.

With these trends underway, President Trump tasked the White House Coronavirus Task Force to develop new guidelines for "Opening Up America Again." Those guidelines were presented today -- first, to our nation's governors. And it is our intention, at the President's direction, to provide these guidelines to assist governors and state health officials in evaluating the most responsible manner to reopen the economies of their states at a time and manner of their choosing.

The guidelines, as Americans who are looking on will note, begin with what is the best criteria that our experts have developed -- a downward trajectory in cases over a 14-day period of time -- ensuring that states have proper capacity in their healthcare facilities.

The second set of proposals includes a description of recommendations for state preparedness. And let me say to the American people what President Trump made clear to our governors today: that our administration will continue to work day in and day out -- through our task force, through FEMA -- to ensure that our states have not only the medical supplies, but that we continue to rapidly expand testing across the nation.

The President reflected on the progress we've made on testing, but a few statistics for that as well, which I hope are an encouragement to the American people. On March 11, we had performed a total of 23,588 tests. Because of the public-private partnership that President Trump initiated with commercial labs

across the country, that number was 83,500 by March 18. And as the President just said, that number is 3.5 million today. It is our expectation that we will have tested more than 5 million Americans before the end of the month of April, and we'll continue to scale those resources.

So, testing and medical supplies will continue to be an ongoing partnership with our states, and we want our healthcare workers and people all across the country to know of our commitment to that.

Finally, the President directed us to propose a phased approach to reopening -- to reopening our economy. It is based on up-to-date data and readiness, and we'll continue to provide the very best data to our states, working with their health officials.

The focus is on the mitigation of any risk of resurgence or the emergence of the coronavirus in states where it's not yet emerged. There is a focus in the President's new guidelines on the most vulnerable.

And it's -- we made this very clear to the governors today: These new guidelines for "Opening Up America Again" can be implemented on a statewide basis or on a county-by-county basis.

With that, I'm happy to turn it over to Dr. Deborah Birx and, if I may, Mr. President, I'd like to also extend my admiration and appreciation to Dr. Birx, Dr. Fauci, and every member of our task force that worked around the clock to develop these recommendations for opening up America. I know every American is grateful for your leadership and for theirs.

Deborah.

DR. BIRX: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President, Mr. Vice President. We're going to go through these quickly because I

know you have them, and many of you have already spoken to them on television.

Next slide, please.

This is a very important slide. It talks about the gatekeeping - - on the gatekeeping criteria to moving into phase one. It's very much related to what you just saw about influenza-like illness. And the United States has been tracking influenza-like illnesses through the Centers of Disease Control for years.

Both the state and public health officials are used to watching this, county health officials are used to watching it, and frankly, every family around the United States knows how to access this on the CDC website in order to get update -- up-to-date information to the communities.

It also looks at a syndromic emergency room-type visits -- again, housed at the CDC -- and really is our surveillance program that can be utilized for a lot of different illnesses, but in this case, will be utilized for respiratory diseases.

In addition, we are tracking the number of cases, and it must have a downward trajectory for 14 days -- as well as the influenza-like illness and the syndromic illnesses -- and a downward trajectory in the number of positive tests with persistence of high levels of testing.

For the hospitals, it's to ensure that we can treat all patients without resorting to any crisis care and ensuring that there's a robust testing program in place for at-risk healthcare workers, including frontline responders with the emerging antibody tests. Next slide.

Now, just to show you what this looks like: So what the CDC did for me, under the direction of Bob Redfield, was to chart what

would the syndromic illnesses were reporting throughout the early part of March. And you can see, in New Orleans, respiratory diseases were starting to be seen in the emergency room. That is the red line. The cases are shown in the dark blue line. The gray mountain is testing, and underneath that is the blue mountain of positives. And you can see that the early alert was present from the emergency room about early respiratory disease. You can see it predated the cases.

So, throughout the summer, when we do not have flu to contaminate this picture, we'll be able to follow this syndromic pattern city by city, county by county, community by community, state by state.

Next slide.

In addition, the CDC has the influenza-like illness net distributed throughout the United States -- very useful in the wintertime. That first peak is influenza B in the red; that's this season. I showed you all the seasons here so you could see the seasons as they are displayed.

The first peak is influenza B, second peak influenza A. And then you can see the coronavirus. And you can see its decline, and it's declining towards the baseline. This will allow us -- again, city by city, community by community, state by state -- to look for variations and an early response mode in those localities that I described.

Next slide.

So hopefully you see that we've brought CDC and their amazing talent of individuals at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and all of their abilities to this response and also to the surveillance that we need in this response.

But I want to call your attention to the third bullet on this graphic. So we're tracking those two pieces that I described. But the third bullet is about setting up sentinel surveillance sites to be able to distinguish and find asymptomatic individuals -- individuals that you have heard about that may be either pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic throughout their entire disease course. We want to be able to find them in communities of particular vulnerability.

So we'll be doing sentinel surveillance throughout nursing homes, throughout inner-city federal clinics, throughout indigenous populations, to really be able to find early alerts of asymptomatic individuals in the community. And both for the syndromic cases that are tested, the influenza-like cases, and the asymptomatic cases: doing contact tracing, again, with support from the Centers for Disease Control, working with each state and local government.

In addition, we want to make sure that all the healthcare facilities have adequate protective -- personal protective devices and the equipment to handle the surge and to ensure the ICUs can handle increased capacity.

We want every state to have a plan for the health and safety of its workers in critical industries, and to protect the health and safety of those living in high-risk facilities, including senior care facilities, as we discussed with sentinel surveillance but also additional surveillance.

When we talked with all of the states that had not had a major metro outbreak, their sentinel surveillances picked up, always, the first cases in nursing homes. And so this is very much a big focus of the plan moving forward. I won't go into the rest of the details on this slide, but there's quite a bit of details on the expectations of every state and local government.

Next slide.

You'll recognize this slide, it's a -- next slide, please. You'll recognize this slide; it's what we've been talking about in the 15 and 30 days to prevent the spread. It's continuing those critical handwashing or sanitizer; avoiding touching your face at all times; disinfecting surfaces; using face covering while in public; following state and local guidelines; and, critically, staying home if you are sick.

I know a lot of people go to the workplace when they are feeling ill. You know when you're feeling ill. It won't get better by going to work. So we're asking again for people to stay home when they're sick.

Next slide is for employers to ensure that there can be social distancing and protective equipment; temperature checks; use of disinfectant in high-traffic areas, including break rooms; and ensuring that we don't do -- there's no non-essential business travel; and then monitoring for any symptomatic individuals in the workplace. And again, if you come -- become ill at work, to immediately to go home and ensure that there's contact tracing of all the individuals that become sick.

I'm going to go through the phases very quickly, but you have the details.

Phase one: Again, you have to go through those gating criterias related to 14 days of decreasing evidence of illness and decreasing testing, despite adequate testing. So phase one begins with all vulnerable individuals, including those with comorbidities continuing to shelter in place and ensuring that those -- the first to go out into the public are not those that are most vulnerable to bad outcomes in this disease. And then ensuring that we continue to do six-foot maximum physical distancing in public spaces, continuing to avoid large gatherings

and all non-essential travel.

For the employers -- next slide -- again, if a vulnerable population needs to return to work and cannot be teleworking, there should be special accommodations for all vulnerable populations, as well as options for teleworking. We believe every employee should encourage work return in phases: from 20 percent or 25 percent, to 40 percent, to 50 percent. And again, minimize all non-essential travel.

Phase one continued -- next slide. If the schools are already closed, they should remain closed. All visits to senior living facilities and hospitals should be continued to be prohibited. Large venues, including sit-down dining, can only be operated under strict physical distancing protocols and maintaining those six feet. Gyms could open if they, again, adhere to strict physical distancing. And elective surgeries can resume on an outpatient basis.

Phase two -- next slide. Next slide. Again, you have to go through the criteria, again, of a continuation of another 14-day decline among those criterias that were in the gating. Again, we're asking for all vulnerable individuals: Shelter in place.

We did not put a timeline on any of the phases. We want the governors, with the data that they have, community by community, to be setting up those timelines. Again, we're asking for the public to continue to maximize physical distance; however, we increased social settings to be able to now have 50 individuals, and non-essential travel can resume.

Next slide.

This is for the employers. We still would like to encourage telework, and the common areas should remain closed or be physically distant. All non-essential travel for employees can

resume. And then, again, special accommodations for vulnerable.

Next slide.

This should be a relief to many of -- households that have small children. Schools, daycares, and camps can reopen in phase two. Visits to senior-living facilities, however, should remain -- and hospitals -- prohibited. Large venues can operate but solely under moderate physical distancing. And elective surgeries can resume on an outpatient and inpatient basis.

Phase three: And so phase three -- I won't go through in detail -- it's essentially returning to our new normal, with all of what we talked about through all phases: continuing the good hygiene practices, continuing the respect for spaces between individuals, because we know that we still have an issue with asymptomatic spread.

I do believe with this plan that we're both confronting the issue of finding symptomatic individuals through our networks with early alert, as well as those who come and present to different hospitals and emergency room with testing and contact tracing, but critically have put in place what we believe is a safety net through asymptomatic sentinel surveillance that is centered around our most vulnerable groups -- between nursing homes and our Native American people and indigenous populations, and our inner city groups that we know may be in multi-generational households and have unique risk.

I'll stop there, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Please, Tony.

DR. FAUCI: Thank you very much, Mr. President, Mr. Vice President. So as you've seen just now from the detailed presentation from Dr. Birx, this is a rather robust program for

re-entering into normality.

There's a lot of details here, and I know it'll take a little bit of time to digest them all. So what I thought would be good, since I really want to be brief to allow time for questions, is to kind of take us back to the discussions that we've had here before and why this is a natural evolution from what we had said before.

You might recall that, on a few occasions when I was up here before you, I told you that when we get to the point where we're going to take those steps towards trying to get back to some form of normality, that it would not be a light switch that you could turn on and off. I meant that in two different components.

First of all, that we are a very large country and we have different dynamics in the country. We have areas of the country that have gone through a terrible ordeal, and others that fortunately have gone and gotten -- gotten through this rather lightly. So that's the first thing.

The second thing is that light switch, on and off, is the exact opposite of what you see here, which is a gradual gradation. But the first thing and the only thing in mind, as the health people here -- and my colleagues, who are either physicians, scientists, or public health issues -- the predominant and completely driving element that we put into this was the safety and the health of the American public.

And I know there are a lot of other considerations that go into opening -- considerations that you've heard of right from this podium. But the dominating drive of this was to make sure that this is done in the safest way possible.

So let me just make a couple of comments to just reiterate more, from a broader standpoint, the things that Dr. Birx did so well

in a very a granular detail.

First of all, in order to even consider getting into the phasing, you have to pass a hurdle. And that's the hurdle that we refer to as "gating in." Now, when you think about it and look at the map of the country and look at the differences in different parts of the country, you will see that there are some regions, states, locations that are going to be almost already into some of that gating, and will have already fulfilled some of those criteria. Others, because of the dynamics of the outbreak in the area, will take longer to be able to do that. But you don't get to phase one until you get through the gating.

And then in order to make sure that safety and health is the dominant issue, the design of the phases were just that. You go into phase one. If you get no rebound and you satisfy the gating for yet again a second time, then you go to phase two. If you have no rebound and you satisfy the gating criteria for a third time, you go into phase three. So there are multiple checkpoints of safety there.

So as I've said, from this podium, when we were talking about the first 15 days of the mitigation and then we extended it another 30 days, I essentially pleaded with the American public to say, "Let us make sure we do the best that we can to accomplish that."

And, in fact, mitigation works. You saw the charts that the Vice President and that Dr. Birx put up. It worked. And what we hope and I believe we will be successful: If we carefully do this -- again, with the attention to the safety and health of the American public -- that we will be able to -- and it will be staggered. Not every state, not every region is going to do it at the same time; that's clearly obvious because of the very dynamics of the outbreak.

But we feel confident that, sooner or later, we will get to the point -- hopefully sooner, with safety as the most important thing -- to a point where we can get back to some form of normality.

The one thing I liked about it that -- that Dr. Birx said so well -- is that no matter what phase you're in, there are certain fundamental things that we've done that are not like it was in September and October. You want to call it the "new normal" -- you can call it whatever you want. But even if you are in phase one, two, three, it's not, "Okay, game over." It's not. It's going to be a way that we protect ourselves because, as we know, and as I've said from this podium, it may very well be -- as we go the cycle around -- that there'll be this virus that wants to come back to us.

I think we're going to be able to handle that. Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Great. Thank you. Tony, please.

Q Dr. Fauci, so I assume that there's also a phase four, which is after a vaccine is developed --

DR. FAUCI: Right.

Q -- and available to everybody. So, a question on phase three being the "new normal." Are we, during that phase, going to be able to see things like packed arenas for sporting events, large crowds, concerts?

DR. FAUCI: The answer is: It is conceivable that we will be able to do that. I think there will always have to be attention to making sure that we don't do all that packing in together. I think we'll be able to have sports events in that phase where you actually have participants there. I'm not sure you're going to be able to do that uniformly and evenly, temporally, with

everyone. But when people get to that phase -- paying attention to the fact that if there is a rebound of any sort -- that when you're in that phase, you can respond to that or you put it back and go in the other way.

So, the flexibility is that there may be some setbacks. I mean, let's face it, this -- this is uncharted water. There may be some setbacks, and we may have to pull back a little and then go forward.

But, Jon, the direct answer to your question: I do see us getting more towards normal.

Q Mr. President. Mr. President, if you -- if you take a look at the gating criteria as outlined in these guidelines that are -- there are at least a handful of states -- I just looked at the trend lines -- Idaho, Wyoming, Hawaii, Montana -- that look like they've already satisfied that gating criteria.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q In your call with the governors this afternoon, did you hear back from any states who said, "We're already there. We could start the process now."

THE PRESIDENT: I did. I heard from a number of governors that said they're in very good shape. I also heard -- not only from the call, but I heard from some of the governors previous -- and I think you'll have some very good things to report over the next few days about states opening up.

And I think, Jon, having to do with your call on -- on sports: Depending on the area, depending where we're talking about, you're going to have large areas of our country where this has not been or has been totally eradicated. You'll be able to have those full arenas.

Now, with everything being said, a lot of great work has been done on vaccines, but you have a testing process. Therapeutics, likewise -- we have a lot of great things happening, therapeutically. That will be a step further.

But, in terms of sports, they'll probably start off -- I -- as you know, I spoke to the commissioners yesterday -- almost, I guess, of every sport. And many of them are going to be starting without the fans. So it'll be made for television. The good old days, made for television. And it'll go that way, and then fans will start coming in. Maybe they'll be separated by two seats. And then ultimately, we want to have packed arenas. When the virus is gone, we're going to have packed arenas and we're going to be back to enjoying sports the way they're supposed to be. And the same thing can be said for restaurants.

So, at a certain point in time, when the virus is gone, we're going to be back to normal.

Please, go ahead.

Q Mr. President and the doctors, can you clarify then: Is the 30-day period to stop the spread -- are those mitigation efforts still in place or have they been replaced by this new guidance?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they're going to be in place, to a large extent, and it also depends on the governors, what they want to do. You have very different states. If you look at Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota -- that's a lot different than New York. It's a lot different than New Jersey. So it's going to be very dependent on the governor.

We're recommending -- as you see in the charts, we're recommending certain things. They'll be in place, dependent on what the governor wants to do. If we see something wrong, we

will be expressing ourselves very strongly.

Please, go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Does this mean that states such as Montana and Utah that already meet that gating period, will they be able to go to phase one as early as, say tomorrow, if the governor decides?

THE PRESIDENT: You're talking about those states that are in great shape already?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: They will be able to go literally tomorrow, yes -- because they've met all of the guidelines if you go back -- you're going back 14 days, you're going back even a month. And they have -- the ones that I'm thinking about, the ones that I've already spoken to governors about -- they've met those guidelines, actually, pretty long ago.

Q Mr. President, what's your message to those protesters we're seeing -- we saw a lot in Michigan, but in other states -- that are saying that they are refusing to comply with the stay-at-home orders issued by governors and local officials? I mean, isn't it important for everybody to go along with this as we go through these phases?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they've been going through it a long time, Jon, and it's been a tough process for people. You know, I told you this: There's death and there's problems in staying at home too. It's not just, "Isn't it wonderful to stay at home?" They're having -- they're suffering. This country wasn't built on that principle; it was built on an exact opposite principle, actually.

And I watched, in one particular state, where they were -- they want to get back. They want to get back. They were very strict sanctions that were put on people; that was probably the most strict of all.

But, I just think the American people have been incredible. When you look at --

Q But would you urge those --

THE PRESIDENT: Jon, when you look at what they've done, when you look at what they've been through, when you look at all of the death and all of the problems and all of the sickness, when you look at what's happened, I just think the American people have been incredible.

Q But would you urge those protesters to listen to local authorities?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they're listening. I think they listen to me. They seem to be protesters that like me and respect this opinion. And my opinion is the same as just about all of the governors.

They all want to open. Nobody wants to stay shut, but they want to open safely. So do I. But we have large sections of the country right now that can start thinking about opening. There'll be some mitigation and they'll keep it going for a period of time -- including masks, by the way -- in areas that you wouldn't even think.

I asked a question today. I said, "Why would they wear masks in Wyoming or Montana or North Dakota?" And that's if somebody should come in from an area that isn't so successful, in terms of what they've done.

So, that will be a governor's choice, and we'll have no problem with it.

Q Mr. President, you spoke this afternoon with your new congressional advisory groups -- 32 bipartisan members of the House, 65 bipartisan members of the Senate -- one of the big topics was the fact that the Small Business Association loan pot of \$350 billion has hit the cap. It's exhausted. There's nothing moving on the \$250 billion to replenish it.

What did you tell those bipartisan groups today about getting the move on to get some more money into the hands of small businesses?

THE PRESIDENT: Right. So, just for the viewers watching this or hearing you ask that question: "Exhausted" is a good thing, not a bad thing. It went quickly. It is so popular. The banks have been incredible, including 4,000 community banks. Four thousand. Most people didn't know you had that many banks. Four thousand --

Q The bad thing is they still need a loan, though.

THE PRESIDENT: What they want is people want to keep this going. And we're doing it to keep the small businesses open and to keep the workers paid. And we have a \$250 billion request. The Democrats like it. The Republicans love it. And to be honest, I think it's going to -- something is going to be happening. I hope so, because this is a very popular program. It was really executed flawlessly.

The first day, they changed an application a little bit. There was -- but when you look at what Bank of America did and what Wells Fargo did, and Citi and a lot of the banks -- but when you ask --

Q So what's the hold-up now?

THE PRESIDENT: -- when you look at what all of the community banks did, it's been really incredible.

Well, we're negotiating with Democrats, and they should, frankly, approve it quickly. This is a great thing for our country. It's a great thing for small business and for the workers. And we're having a hard time getting them to approve it. I think it's going to happen. It should happen really unanimously. But they're trying to get things and we're not too happy with what they're trying to get.

Please, go ahead.

Q First, can you just say which states specifically you guys think have hit the gating requirements at this point?

THE PRESIDENT: I'd rather not say that, but you'll be seeing it very soon. I mean, they'll be -- I'd rather have the governor be able to -- the governors be able to announce. And they're very proud of it. They've worked hard. Some are in an area that's less susceptible and some really was done, I think we can say, through talent. They really worked very hard.

And, you know, we have some states that got too much credit for what they've done. Frankly, I could name you a couple of those too. And I could name you a couple of them. And we have others that haven't been given credit that have done a phenomenal job.

Q And then, part of the guidance seems to sort of shift to states and companies the burden not just of additional testing and surveillance, but also the sort of new normal on which, you know, there's smaller crowds in restaurants and bars and arenas.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's not going to be normal. There's not

going to be a new normal where somebody has been having, for 25 years, 158 seats in a restaurant, and now he's got 30 or he's got 60 -- because that wouldn't work. That's not normal. No. Normal will be if he has the 158 or 68 seats. And that's going to happen. And it's going to happen, relatively quickly, we hope.

But that's our normal. Our normal is if you have 100,000 people in an Alabama football game -- or 110,000, to be exact -- we want 110,000 people there. We want every seat occupied. Normal is not going to be where you have a game with 50,000 people.

Q Sure. But to that point: I mean, best-case scenario, that happens in these states that are doing really well in a month. Obviously for, I think, a lot of other states, it's going to be longer than that.

So my question is: What is the federal government going to do to sort of help especially companies, but states and local governments in those positions pay for what is now going to be an even longer (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: We're going to be watching over. We're going to see that everything is working out smoothly. We're in very strong communication with the governors.

We're going to be helping with testing. They're going to be doing the testing. It's got to be a localized thing, and it really has been since I've been involved. Because I came in and the federal government supposed to do testing of parking lots in the middle of a certain state that's 2,000 miles away. It's ridiculous. But the testing has been so incredible.

Two things: testing and ventilators. Ventilators are really tough. They're very complex. They're very expensive. They're, you know, very sophisticated machines. Some are unbelievably

sophisticated. What we built -- you saw General Motors yesterday. Thousands are being issued. We have 11 companies building them. We have not had one complaint in the last week and half, which is surge time.

Don't forget, when they were calling, they were calling because in two weeks, in four weeks, in five weeks, they're going to need ventilators -- not because they need them right now. And we were right on our counts. And nobody that wanted a ventilator didn't get a ventilator. Plus, we have additional, if there is a surge. We hope there's not going to be a surge at all. But we're going to be able to build up the stockpiles of states who didn't have them, who should have had them.

And we're also going to have a big stockpile in the federal government, and we'll be able to help foreign countries -- countries that need help. Because you have comp- -- look, you have countries who will never be able to build a ventilator. It's tough stuff. We're uniquely talented in the sense that we can do things that nobody else can do.

We'll get right back to you, John.

Peter, in the back. Peter.

Q Thanks. You said you didn't want to name the states that might be ready to go. So can you give us some -- or maybe the experts, Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci -- give us some sense of how many? Yesterday, you said 29 states were in good shape. Do you think as many as 29 or --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think -- yeah, Peter. I think 29 states are in that ballgame, not open -- not for opening, but I think they'll be able to open relatively soon. I think the remainder are just getting better. Look, New York, New Jersey are having very tough times, and they'll be there. They'll be there at some

point. But they're not going to be one of the earlier states; they're going to be later, obviously.

I just spoke with the governor of New Jersey. We just spoke with Mike and a couple of folks. We had a great talk with him. Phil is a terrific guy. He's working very hard -- Democrat -- but we get along. He's working very, very hard. I guess, the fact that he's right next to this big massive city where everybody is very closely -- you know, they're -- they're together. And New Jersey has been hit unbelievably hard -- as hard as -- as hard as anybody, in the true sense. But they're doing a great job in New Jersey.

That doesn't mean, Peter -- that doesn't mean that they're going to be opening next week. That's not one that's going to be. But we have a lot of states that, through location, through luck, and also through a lot of talent -- we have states, through a lot of talent, are in a very good position, and they're getting ready to open and over the next very short period of time.

It's going to be up to the governors. We're going to work with them, we're going to help them, but it's going to be up to the governors. I think they're going to -- I think you're going to see quite a few states starting to open. And I call it a "beautiful puzzle." You have 50 pieces, all very different, but when it's all done, it's a mosaic. When it's all done, it's going to be, I think, a very beautiful picture.

And very important is what Dr. Fauci said: It could be that, sometime in the fall, there'll be some flare-ups. We're going to be in a great position with everything we've done and everything we've learned. This was something that nobody ever saw before: such contagion and very, very powerful.

People don't realize because you -- we all probably have friends -- I have a number of people that were just great people who were

just decimated by what happened. Some were -- some were -- some are dead right now. They're dead. They went into a hospital. One called me; he said, "I tested positive." Four days later, he was dead. The following day after he said that, he was unconscious. So this is a tough deal.

At the same time, some people got sniffles and they didn't even realize they had a problem. And they are supposedly immune. We're going to find out about that. Even that's a little bit soon because we don't know how long the immunity lasts.

But, Peter, some states are in great shape, and they're really in great shape to open. And I think you'll have quite a few states opening soon. And they're going to be very vigilant, they're going to be very careful.

Go ahead. (Inaudible.)

Q The public -- sorry. The public health -- a lot of public health experts have said that this would be better done if there were comprehensive surveillance testing, which we're obviously not in the position to do. I wonder if maybe Dr. Birx and Dr. Fauci can tell us whether --

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, we can do that. Either one, please.

Q -- they going to feel comfortable --

DR. BIRX: Tony and I will -- Dr. Fauci and I will do it together. I just wanted to -- that's why I wanted to put up the syndromic and influenza-like illness piece. Because what is key in this is the early alerts and getting in there before they even know they have a problem. And I think CDC has been remarkable in building these platforms. Dr. Redfield integrated them so they're all on the same website. If you look at COVID-19, go

into "Cases," you can find all of the data. And the beauty of it is the states are used to utilizing that through flu season.

So the testing and contact tracing -- and Dr. Redfield will be putting people in every single state to make sure that CDC is standing beside the state and local health officials to make sure that all of those cases are immediately identified and contact traced.

I think what's new and what's really critical is this constant sentinel surveillance for asymptomatic individuals in communities that we know are particularly vulnerable. And that hasn't been done in flu before, and I think that's going to be the added dividend that's really focused on who is most vulnerable and how do we get the fastest alert by generally screening people without symptoms. So people who are just coming to the clinic will be screened for COVID-19. And we do have enough testing capacity to do both that surveillance piece, as well as the diagnostic piece and contact tracing.

Q Just a follow-up.

THE PRESIDENT: Tony, did you want to say something?

DR. FAUCI: No, actually -- it -- you know, people have gotten confused about that, because in the beginning, when we were focusing really on just mitigation and really trying to keep peaks down and trying to worry about ventilators and PPEs and things like that -- well, now, when you get a little bit more grace period, you can start figuring out: What is the penetrance of this virus in society? What are we missing in people who might be infected? What is the percentage of those people that are out there?

That's going to inform us greatly for a number of things, including the level, once we prove that antibody test that you

have is really protective. And we still don't know that yet; we're going to find that out. We may get a good feel of what the level of protection might be in society. But we don't know that yet. So it's going to give us information as to what the vulnerable areas are and how we need to respond.

Remember, there's two types of things: antibody tests and tests for the diagnosis of who has the disease. One you need for contact tracing; the other you want to -- need for finding out what's in society. We're going to have both of those much, much better as we go in the next weeks and months. And by the time we get into the fall, I think we're going to be in pretty good shape.

THE PRESIDENT: Peter, I just have to say that, as we see a hotspot possibly developing -- maybe not -- but if we see a hotspot developing, we've learned a lot. We'll be able to suppress it, whack it. We'll be able to do things that people weren't even thinking about because nobody has ever gone through this.

In 1917, they went through something that was similar. Probably not as contagious, probably more powerful in certain other ways. But we are going to be able to suppress it, we think. And we're going to watch it very closely. We're going to -- we're going to be able to watch things very closely.

Please.

Q Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Bob, please.

DR. REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I think what's really important is during this -- we're bringing people back to work and our economy back to work. And what's going to go back is

that we're going to be very aggressively focused on early case recognition, isolation, and contact tracing.

In the event that we just went through, unfortunately, in -- as we started, we were very capable of doing that. When the initial cases all came from China -- all the way through January, all the way through to the end of February -- we were able to identify cases early, the first 14; do the contacts -- do the contact tracing, over 800 contacts. We identified that two of those contacts were actually infected. We were able to isolate them. We were able to contain the outbreak.

We're about to enter a new phase of this where we're going back to containment. And mitigation is going to continue, as Dr. Birx and others have said. Some of the things that we've learned to do, we're going to continue.

But the major thrust of how we're going to control and make sure that we continue to keep this nation open is early case recognition, isolation, and contact tracing. That's the fundamentals of public health. That's what we're going to do.

You see we have very good surveillance systems that are going to help us. As we see these cases sporadically across the country, we've got to jump on them with early diagnosis, isolation, and contact tracing. And that's what CDC is going to continue to help build that capacity in the states across this nation.

THE PRESIDENT: And one other thing, because we -- we discussed this today with the senators -- we had the senators, we have the congressmen and women. There'll be some areas of our country -- wide open plains, wide open spaces -- with not that many people, relatively speaking, where you're not going to have to do that. Senators were saying there is no reason to do that in certain states, in certain areas, where you have the wide open.

In other cases, we will be doing that. So we'll be following it. Largely, that also will be a function of governors. They know their states. So, largely, that's going to be a function of governors.

Yes.

Q Yeah, you mentioned the -- I think you used the term "clear scientific benchmarks on testing." And the main periscope that I think you guys are talking about is the ILI syndromic, as well as the surveillance and the sentinel testing.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Are you opening things up, then, without doing -- I just want to be clear: Are you opening things up without doing widespread testing? Is that because you don't have the capacity or you don't think it's necessary?

THE PRESIDENT: We do have the capacity, but, you know, you have states without any problem. You have states with few cases, and those few cases have healed. You have states with very little death, relatively speaking. As I said, one is too many, but you have states with very little, and frankly, they're at a point where they have almost nothing.

So this is a much different case than a New York or New Jersey where they're going through -- frankly, they go through hell. And if you look at New York -- I'm looking at bed count, because you have to look at bed count, and it's really dropped. We built the Javits Center with 2,900 beds. And it was -- I mean, they built it in four days. They did an incredible job -- the Army Corps of Engineers. It was not used very much. We sent the ship -- the hospital ship into New York Harbor, and it was not used. Then we went COVID, and it still was not used very much, because the bed count has gone way down -

- way, way down.

Q So in these states, when do you --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

Q -- when you see yourself getting back to campaigning then? I mean --

Q Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: This is -- this is not campaigning. I want to make the country better. I don't care about campaigning. This is -- this is about making our country better. I think this team has been incredible, whether it's Army Corps of Engineers, whether it's FEMA.

One thing that happened on the call today that I noticed more than anything is Pete Gaynor. So many governors that, "I want to thank you." Pete Gaynor called up. They had tornadoes in a big part of our country this weekend -- this week. And they were all saying that he has been unbelievable. They called one after another. They were thanking us for -- that's FEMA. And they were thanking us.

No, I want to heal this country. This -- this is a war. We've been through a war. We have an invisible, as opposed to a visible, enemy. I think, in many ways, the invisible enemy is much more dangerous, is much tougher.

In the G7 today, I went through country after country. We were there. We all get along great. Angela Merkel and Shinzo Abe -- Prime Minister of Japan -- and all of them. And their -- their countries have been devastated by this. Their economies have been devastated by this. A hundred and eighty-four countries all over the world.

And we went through one after another. And I was angry because it should have been told to us. It should have been told to us early. It should have been told to us a lot sooner. People knew it was happening, and people didn't want to talk about it. I don't know why, but we're going to get to the bottom of it. But people should have --

Q Angry with China? Or -- I mean --

THE PRESIDENT: People -- I'm not saying anything. I'm saying people should have told us about this. They should have told the rest of the world too.

When I looked at Germany talking today, when I looked at France talking today -- the European Union was there represented; that represents a lot of countries -- their economies have been devastated, but they're going to build them back. But we're going to build this economy back bigger, better, stronger than ever before. You watch. And we have stimulus.

And we're going to do things, whether it's infrastructure -- which we would like to be able to do -- our roads, our tunnels, our highways, our bridges. Our bridges need help. You know, a lot of you have reported on our bridges. A lot of bridges are in bad shape. They should have been fixed 25 years ago, and they're still standing. They have to be fixed. So hopefully we'll get an infrastructure bill.

The good news is the interest rate is close to zero. And zero interest is a good thing when it comes to rebuilding your infrastructure and your country back.

Please, in the back.

Q Mr. President, walk us through the calendar, if you

would. When it comes to Memorial Day or even Pentecost in May; you've got July 4th, Labor Day weekend -- what would you anticipate at each of those milestones?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't like to anticipate because you have a couple of states that are in difficulty that have made a lot of progress, by the way, and they're either here or they're heading down. But -- so I'm not going to go in, in terms of dates, but I think we're going very quickly now. I really believe.

I think we're going to have a lot of states open relatively soon. We're beating the date. I set a date of May 1st, and, you know, here we are. And I think you're going to have some nice surprises over the next few days. And that'll be before. And that's big stuff. Some of those states are big. They're big stuff. Very important states. And it's going to be added on and on.

And as we -- look, I don't want anyone coming back that isn't in position to come back. The last thing we want is for, let's say, a New York to come back too soon or a New Jersey to come back too soon. We want them to come back when they're ready. But they're really heading in a good direction, and I think it'll be much faster than people think. I think it'll be quicker. But it's got to be safe.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, please. In the back.

Q Thank you. Thank you. Has the government modeled the possibility -- what might happen, how many deaths might occur -- if there is a widespread resurgence? If this just doesn't work, I mean, how many deaths are we talking about here?

THE PRESIDENT: So, if we didn't do what we did, we were talking

about up to 2.2 million deaths. So that's five times almost what we lost in the Civil War. Okay?

Q Right. But I'm talking about from here on out.

THE PRESIDENT: If -- if everything happens properly and if we continue to go the way we're going now, we will be significantly less than the lowest number with mitigation. So we'll be significantly less. And it's still a lot of people. One is too many, as I've said. One is too many. But we'll be under the number of 100,000, which was the minimum number projected by the model. And I give -- I give everybody up here, I give all of the people that we've been -- I mean, we -- this was a military operation with a lot of private help.

If you look at Roche, they were incredible. If you look at Johnson & Johnson now, what they're doing -- they are very far advanced on a vaccine. I think, therapeutically, we have some of these genius company -- they're truly genius companies. I'm seeing them. I'm meeting with the people that run the companies and scientists. And, I mean, what they're doing is incredible. It's incredible. It's a beautiful thing to see.

So I think we're very far advanced, and I think we're going to be in great shape soon.

Yeah, please.

Q Mr. President, I know you don't want to mention specific states, but what about Washington and California? Do you have guidance for --

THE PRESIDENT: Do you mean Washington State or Washington here?

Q Washington State and California. Do you have guidance for them?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's going to be up to them. They're going to have to make that determination. I mean, the governor of Washington was saying that he can't find cotton because -- you know, a swab is a very easy thing to get. And swab is -- essentially, it's a little bit more sophisticated than a Q-tip. And you got to be able to go out and find. You know, the federal government shouldn't be forced to go and do everything.

What we've done is incredible. What we've done are the -- the ones that can't be done -- like, for instance, the ventilators -- that can't be done by anybody but a very powerful, very great manufacturing country, which is what we are and what we're really getting to be.

And I have to tell you, some of these companies, what -- the job they've done -- and we're going to recognize them pretty soon -- the job they've done in terms of getting out, in particular, ventilators, because ventilators are so hard. They're so -- I say, and some people say, "Oh, it's not really as complicated." Well, it's like building a car. And you know what? The price is the same too. It's a very expensive thing for a sophisticated ventilator. It's very, very tough stuff.

Yeah, please. In the back.

Q Mr. President, let me toss this question up to you and to the doctors as well. Truthfully, for those states that aren't ready to go to phase one -- to get through these phases, do we have an idea of how many millions, tens of millions of tests they're going to need for them to get through these phases? Any number out there?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I'll let you --

Q Tests of any sort?

THE PRESIDENT: I'll let you guys --

DR. BIRX: Yeah, so -- I mean, I -- you've heard me talk about tests for a while from the podium, and I think what has happened over the last several weeks is hospitals and clinics that could move to the more point-of-care tests move to those point-of-care tests. And what it's left is an amazing array of capacity that exists in the country for at least a million more tests per week.

So we have a whole team working lab by lab to see what it would take to turn on all of those labs that aren't running the pieces of equipment now. So you see in the system -- I just said to you there's a million more tests per week -- that we have tests sitting there and equipment sitting there. And now we have to really deal with each single lab to really figure out what they need.

And I just want to thank Administrator Verma -- Seema Verma -- who went through with us, and thanks to the lab directors, they really explained to us: highly technical difficulty to run some of these big pieces of equipment. Because you have to allocate the samples, you have to centrifuge, you have to put them on the machine. It takes a tech full-time. At \$50 a test, it wasn't enough to hire another technician to run the machine full-time. So at \$100 a test, it is.

So those are the kinds of changes we have to make bit by bit by bit. But that alone doubles our testing capacity per week.

So we're committed to work with laboratories to answer every one of their issues with the state and local governments. And, I think, frankly, in every conversation I have -- and the governors will say, "I need 5,000 people tested." And I say, "Well, at the University of X, there are 6,700 tests waiting for you." So it's more of making sure that every governor and every public health

official knows exactly where every lab is and where the tests are so we can create with them a real understanding so all these tests can be run.

So, yes, there is twice the capacity right now.

Q May I follow up? You're -- you're assuring the governors can have these tests?

THE PRESIDENT: So, just so you understand -- excuse me. Just so you understand, we have tremendous testing capacity. You look at the labs; they're actually saying, "Send us." And the reason it's gone down is because we have so many other tests that, frankly, are easier because you don't have to send. They're on site. And now we have the new saliva test that just came out yesterday, which is probably the easiest of them all, when you get right down to it.

And I was seeing where Rutgers is involved -- great school, great college, great university -- and they're using that. So many people are going to want to use that. But they don't have to use the labs anymore. The labs are great, highly accurate. Very, very great companies. But they're down. They have tremendous -- as that goes down, you have additional capacity.

We have tremendous testing capacity. And to think that a month and a half ago, we had virtually nothing.

I just want to conclude: We're opening up our great country again. It's going to be over a period of time. We're working with some really great people -- people that have become friends of mine. And I'm including Democrat governors that have really done a good job; Republican governors, most of whom I've known that have done a really good job. They're all working together. We're all for the -- with few exceptions, the relationship has been outstanding.

And I want to thank Doctor, Doctor, and Mike. I want to thank the Director. Fantastic job. We've all done -- by the way, head of the FDA, he has broken hurdles that years ago, even recently, would have taken years. He was -- he got one thing done in one day that would have taken two years for somebody else. So I want to thank Dr. Hahn of the FDA.

We have incredible people that we're working with. And we're going to bring our country back, and it's going to be bigger and better and stronger than ever before. We have learned a lot. We've learned a lot about ourselves.

I want to thank everybody. And most importantly, I want to thank the American people. Thank you all very much. Thank you.

Q A quick question on grocery stores, sir. Mr. Vice President, a question about Kroger. Kroger grocery stores asked those grocery personnel to be classified as secondary first responders or emergency personnel so they can get access to testing. Is that something that the federal government would be open to?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We're working with all of our (inaudible). Thank you.

Q Okay. Thank you.

END

7:19 P.M.

EDT

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Subject: In-town pool report No. 1 — all quiet, no news yet

From: "Rucker, Philip" <Philip.Rucker@washpost.com>
Date: May 27, 2020 at 11:35:27 AM EDT
Subject: In-town pool report No. 1 — all quiet, no news yet

Good morning from the White House. All is quiet for now. Both the in-town and out-of-town pools were tested for Covid-19 roughly an hour ago by White House doctors. According to his schedule, POTUS is in an 11 a.m. meeting with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, which is listed as closed press. Our first scheduled chance to see POTUS is his 12:20 p.m. departure to JBA for his trip to Florida.

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump and Members of the Coronavirus Task Force in Press Briefing | April 18, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2020

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

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

5:09 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Good afternoon. We continue to see a number of positive signs that the virus has passed its peak. It's been very devastating all over the world. A hundred and eighty-four countries. Probably more. That number was as of a week ago.

Dr. Birx will walk through some of these trends in a few moments, but they're very positive trends for winning. Going to win. We're going to close it out.

While we mourn the tragic loss of life -- and you can't mourn it any stronger than we're mourning it -- the United States has produced dramatically better health outcomes than any other country, with the possible exception of Germany. And I think

we're as good or better.

On a per capita basis -- remember that: On a per capita basis, our mortality rate is far lower than other nations of Western Europe, with the lone exception of possibly Germany. This includes the UK, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, France. Spain, for example, has a mortality rate that is nearly four times that of the United States, but you don't hear that. You hear we have more death. But we're much bigger countries than any of those countries by far.

So when the fake news gets out there and they start talking about the United States is number one -- but we're not number one; China is number one, just so you understand. China is number one by a lot. It's not even close. They're way ahead of us in terms of death. It's not even close. You know it. I know it. And they know it. But you don't want to report it. Why? You'll have to explain that. Someday I'll explain it.

Since we released the guidelines to open up America again -- and this was two days ago -- a number of states, led by both Democrat and Republican governors, have announced concrete steps to begin a safe, gradual, and phased opening.

Texas and Vermont will allow certain businesses to open on Monday while still requiring appropriate social distancing precautions. And I can tell you the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, he knows what he's doing. He's a great governor. He knows exactly what he's doing.

Montana will begin lifting restrictions on Friday. Ohio, North Dakota, and Idaho have advised non-essential businesses to prepare for a phased opening starting May 1st.

Throughout this crisis, my administration has taken unprecedented actions to rush economic relief to our citizens. As an example,

you don't hear anymore about ventilators. What happened to the ventilators? And now they're giving you the other; it's called "testing." Testing. But they don't want to use all of the capacity that we've created. We have tremendous capacity. Dr. Birx will be explaining that. They know that. The governors know that. The Democrat governors know that; they're the ones that are complaining.

Through the Paycheck Protection Program, we've already processed nearly \$350 billion to 1.6 million small businesses across the nation to keep American workers on the payroll. So we're asking the Democrats to get it done. This should be bipartisan. This should be 100 percent vote. And it's really been incredible. The \$350 billion that's been approved is so popular, and it's keeping businesses open. It'll be open hopefully forever.

Our swift action is directly supporting 30 million American jobs. Amy Wright, from North Carolina, as an example, said the program is a "game changer" for her and her family. It's coffee shops. And she has 120 employees, many of whom have developmental and intellectual disabilities. And now they're all staying, and they're getting paid. And she's got a dream, and it's going to take place very quickly when she opens again. So, Amy, good luck. North Carolina -- great place.

Scott and Julie Alderink helped lead a church and own a restaurant in South Dakota, with about 15 employees. They were already starting layoffs. Layoffs were moving along rapidly. But now they've hired their employees back, and they can keep the restaurant open. And it'll be moving quickly -- very quickly -- as opposed to not having anybody and probably not having a place to have all of these people employed. She would have been out of business. She would have been done.

The Paycheck Protection Program funding is now fully

drained. It's out. It's gone. Three hundred and fifty billion dollars to small businesses. And, in turn, it goes to the employees of those small businesses.

Lawmakers must stop blocking these funds and replenish the program without delay. The Democrats have to come onboard. I used to read that these were Democrat programs, not Republican. It seems to have switched around a lot, hasn't it? Huh? Switched around a lot. The republicans want it. I think the Democrats probably do too.

But they also want other things that are unacceptable. This is about COVID. This is about the plague and what it's done to us. This isn't about extraneous things that they've been trying to get for years and that our country doesn't want them to have.

As we enter the next stage of our battle, we are continuing our relentless effort to destroy the virus. My administration is taking steps to protect high-risk communities by providing funding for 13,000 community health center sites and mobile medical stations.

In order to equip them with the most advanced and robust testing capabilities, these sites are incredible. What they can do is incredible. The job they do is incredible. These centers provide care to 28 million people living in medically underserved urban and rural regions, including many African American and Hispanic communities. We're taking care of them. And it's so important, because you've all been reading about the disproportionate numbers on African American, and you're reading a little bit less about Hispanic, but likewise Hispanic communities. The numbers are disproportionate. In fact, we're doing big studies on it right now. We don't like it. Not right.

Nationwide, we've now conducted over 4 million tests, and Deborah will be talking about that. It's double the number conducted by

any other country on Earth. So that's more than two times, actually, the number conducted by any other country on Earth. You hear so much about testing. What we've done is incredible on testing. And I started with an obsolete, broken system from a previous administration -- or administrations. But I would really say "administration" for a different reason because testing has become so advanced over the last number of years, and we have the most advanced of all.

I spoke with other nations this morning -- the leaders -- and they all are talking about our great testing capability, and some of them want to know what to do; what -- how can they get involved, because they need it for their own countries.

In Louisiana, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and other hotspots, we have also tested more people per capita, by far, than Italy, Spain, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, and all other major countries. So think of that. In New York, for instance, per capita testing is 6 percent higher than in Singapore. In fact, there's a typo. It's 67 percent higher. That's a big difference.

I'd say there's a big difference between six percent and sixty- - I was looking; I said, 6 percent doesn't look too good. It's 67 percent -- good job out there -- higher than Singapore; 64 higher than South Korea; and 47 percent higher than Australia. So it's 67 percent higher than Singapore, which is a very advanced place in terms of what they're doing.

My administration has also been speaking frequently with many of the governors to help them find and unlock the vast unused testing capacity that exists in their states. Dr. Birx discussed yesterday the commercial and academic laboratories, and the states have tremendous unused capability, which they can use. The governors should use it. Tremendous unused capability, and they're waiting for business from these governors that --

some of them complain. I must tell you, for the most part, we're getting along great with them, but some of them like to complain.

But I still go back because the hardest thing of all, by far, by a factor of 20, is the ventilators. And now we're the king of ventilators. We have ventilators.

We're going to be helping other countries very soon. We're going to be helping Mexico. I spoke with the President of Mexico. He's great. A great guy. And I told him we're going to be helping him. They desperately, in Mexico, need ventilators, and I told him we're going to be helping him very substantially. We're in a position to do that. We're building, now, thousands a week. And they're coming in rapidly, and they're very, very high quality.

But we're also helping governors to develop strategies to smartly deploy their testing capacity to protect vulnerable and underserved populations, while getting Americans at lower risk safely back to work.

So, again, we have tremendous testing capacity. Now, a lot of people like the Abbott test that we came up with. Abbott is a brand-new technology, brand-new test. It's great. It's five minutes, boom, you put it in. And we're making thousands of machines. Abbott is making thousands and thousands of machines. But not everybody is going to get that one, but they're going to get others. We have numerous platforms which we'll talk about in a minute.

Unfortunately, some partisan voices are attempting to politicize the issue of testing, which they shouldn't be doing, because I inherited broken junk. Just as they did with ventilators where we had virtually none, and the hospitals were empty. For the most part, the hospitals didn't have ventilators. We had to take care of the whole country, and we did a job, the likes of which

nobody -- we assembled an army of young, brilliant people. For the most part, young; a couple of older ones. But for the most part, they were young, brilliant geniuses that did a job like nobody would believe. I wish you could have seen it. Around the clock.

And now the rest of the world is coming to us, asking if we could help them with ventilators because they're very complicated, very expensive. They're very hard to build. And we have them coming in by the thousands. But you don't hear that from even the governors. Nobody is complaining about ventilators. And if there was a surge, we could have ventilators to them within hours, because we have in stockpile almost 10,000 ventilators.

You don't hear about hospital beds. When I first started, everyone was talking, "Oh, hospitals beds. Hospitals beds." The governor of New York correctly asked me for hospital beds, and we got the Army Corps of Engineers out, and they built them. He needed them. I mean, he -- we went -- I know he said that we were projecting. We're not projecting New York. We're listening to the governors. He wanted them. He needed them. And we gave him thousands of beds in Javits Center. We brought the ship. And then the ship, we had it converted to COVID-19. And that was a big deal, by the way, because of ventilation and all the things we had to do. But we did.

And fortunately for him -- and for us, all of us -- they haven't used either one very much because the numbers have gone down significantly. But it was there, and it was built, and it was beautiful. Two thousand nine hundred beds. It was incredible what they did. They did it in a matter of a few days.

But, unfortunately -- and it was very good; the relationship was very good. And I'm, frankly, glad they don't need them, but they were there. Louisiana, the same thing. I think the governor -- a Democrat, good guy -- and he will, I think, tell you a story

that we had more than enough, and I said, "Well, we're supposed to build one more." I called him and I said, "You know, if we don't have to build this hospital" -- it was an additional anywhere from 500 to 1,000 beds. "If you don't need it, would it be possible that we don't build it? We'd like to build it someplace else, or not build it at all and save money," which is okay for government to use it someplace else. And he called call me back the next day and he said, "Sir, we don't need it." I said, "That's great that you say that. I appreciate it." And he didn't need it.

But we were ready to go, and we took good care of Louisiana. We took good care of Michigan. We took good care of every place. We didn't -- we didn't miss a trick.

And we're in great shape on testing. We have different platforms. We actually have nine different platforms. And on Monday, we're going to be adding one; that'll be 9 to 10. I don't like to count on them before they're up, but we'll have anywhere from 9 to 10 platforms with a tremendous testing capability. And people can go, and especially with phase one.

Now, at the same time -- just like with ventilators -- we're building now the best ventilators. Just like with ventilators, our testing is getting better and better. I took the first test. The first test was not pleasant. This was not a pleasant thing. I said, "You got to be kidding" to the doctor. "You got to be kidding." Up your nose and then we hang a right, and it goes down here. And then we'll wiggle it around here, under your eye. And then we'll pull it out and we'll say -- I said, "No, that's -- there's no way that can happen. Is that the way it goes? You sure?" This was a very unpleasant test.

And then I was tested a few weeks later with the new test that just came out, the Abbott, where they just touch your nose, basically. And they put it in a machine, and literally, a few

minutes later, they tell you if you're fine. And I was lucky in both cases, because I've seen the damage that this does to people.

But we have great tests. They've really gotten better and better and better as we go along. But we have a tremendous lab capability -- laboratory capability all over the country. And for some reason, the governors, they're not -- a lot of them are, but some of the governors like to complain, and they're not using it. We have tremendous capability. We're ready for them.

And, as we go along, just like with ventilators, we'll get better, more advanced, and, you know, it'll be -- we'll be able to do things that nobody would have even believed possible. But we started off with a broken system. We inherited a broken, terrible system.

And I always say it: Our cupboards were bare. We had very little in our stockpile. Now we're loaded up. And we also loaded up these hospitals. And, you know, we're talking about payment. We gave billions of dollars' worth of things to hospitals, and we'll have to work that out at some point. In fact, I guess they're going to be working that out with Congress.

But we loaded up hospitals. The federal government loaded up hospitals with things to take care of people that are very desperately -- we're not -- we weren't worried about payment at that time. We said, "You'll take care of it at the right time."

But we gave billions and billions and billions of dollars' worth of medical goods and medicines and equipment to hospitals. And we'll -- we'll work it out with them. But people don't like to talk about that.

So we have done a job that nobody believed -- this was a military and private enterprises march. We marched -- and, unfortunately,

with the other side, because they're viewing it as an election. "How did President Trump do?" "Oh, he did, uh, terribly. Let's see. He did -- uh, yeah, he did terribly." "Oh." But we just got them the ventilators that they didn't have, that they should have had. We just got them hospital beds by the thousands. We just got them testing that they don't even know how to use. In some cases, they have machines that they're only using 5 percent and 10 percent of the machine, because they have an advanced machine and they don't know how to use it. It can use -- it can do much more. So we've had people explain how to use it.

So, I don't know, I don't think I do that on the other side. I don't -- I really don't. I think that here we have a crisis that we have to work together, and I hope we're going to work together. But we're moving along, and we're moving along well. We're moving along well.

This should not be a partisan witch hunt -- you know? -- like the Russia hunt that turned out to be a total phony deal. Unfortunately, some of these voices, though, are attempting to -- to bring this into politics. And whether it's testing or ventilators or hospital beds, or other dimensions of our sweeping public health response -- we have had a sweeping response.

In speaking to the leaders of other countries this morning, they said, "This is incredible the way you've done this so quickly." You know, we're only talking about a few weeks since everybody knew this was such a big problem. And the rest of the world is watching, and they respect what we've done because I don't think anybody else -- I know nobody else could have done what we've done. And we started with garbage.

As our experts said yesterday, America's testing capability and capacity is fully sufficient to begin opening up the country,

totally. Indeed, our system is by far the most robust and advanced anywhere in the world, by far. The rest of the world will tell you that.

I spoke this morning to a friend of mine, President Moon of South Korea. He just won the election. He won it by a lot. He had a big victory, which I was happy about. And he was saying what a great job we've done in this country. I told him the same thing. He said what a great job we've done here in this country. So I appreciated that. He had a great -- by the way, he had a great victory and we're very happy about that, from the standpoint of our country. We're working very well with them -- South Korea.

As we approach -- and the approach that we use -- but as we approach, hopefully, the downward side of what's going on, I think you're going to see some incredible hard facts and evidence that what we did was right. There's a lot of talk about herd -- the word "herd." I don't want to show you charts of people that went a different way, but it's scary. It's scary.

We would have had, I think, millions of people die had we done a different way. And I think numbers are just coming out where they're estimating 60,000 people will die. That's horrible. I always say one person is too much, especially in this case, when it could have been stopped in China. It could have been stopped in China, before it started, and it wasn't. And the whole world is suffering because of it.

But this herd concept -- and everybody had to think of it at the beginning, because, look -- look at us: We had the greatest economy in the history of the world. Better than China; better than any country in the world; better than any country has ever had. We had the highest stock market in history, by far. And I'm honored by the fact that it has started to go up very substantially. That's because the market is smart. The market

is actually brilliant. I've seen it. And they're viewing it like we've done a good job. They view it that way.

Because if you would have told me that we're at 24,000 or beyond, and the highest we were ever was -- we never hit 30. We were getting close to 30, so let's say around 29,000. We're at 24. If we were heading down, I would start to say, "Oh, wow, we may be heading into territory where I started." I didn't like that. Now we're way up. But if you would have said to me with what we've gone through -- not caused by our country or our people or any -- I mean, not caused by certainly anybody within our country. But if you would have said that, after going through this horrible plague, that we'd have a stock market that's much, much higher than when I started, much higher than where I started -- and I think it's -- you know, I think we have tremendous momentum. We have a big election coming up, but I think we have tremendous momentum.

First, we get rid of the plague. And because of what we're doing with the PPP, what we're doing with the Paycheck, as we call it, I think we have a chance to have these companies get back to action quickly.

But our approach to testing is based on facts, data, and very hard evidence, not partisan agendas or coordinated political talking points.

Mike Pence, who's a phenomenal guy, he's making the commencement address right now at the Air Force Academy, where they're being very politically correct. Everyone is standing not 6 feet but 10 feet apart. Okay? And it's very different. I made that speech last year. I'm going to West Point. I think they're changing the date to June 13th because of what's going on in New York. They're moving into June 13th. West Point.

So I'm doing their commencement speech, and they're going to have

-- it's sad because -- but it's a big start -- they're going to have the cadets. They may not have the parents, but they're going to have the cadets. The parents are so proud of them. I know at the Air Force Academy, where Mike is speaking right now, they don't have the parents; they have the cadets. They're very, very widespread.

And you talk about social distancing -- I mean, they are really spread. I looked at it. They using 10 feet. So he's -- he's doing that. But they're having it. It's very important to have it. And that's a great thing. That's a great thing. That's a big start.

So he's there right now. And I will tell you, they -- he's a gentleman, Mike Pence. A real gentleman. And they requested -- the Democrat senators requested a phone call with him yesterday. And I think they had, for the most part, all of them on -- like, approximately 47. I heard it was just about all of them, whatever it might be. I don't want to be wrong by 1 or 2 or 10 and have the press say, "He lied. He told a lie. Terrible, terrible." Whatever it was. But they have 47, and I guess most of them were on.

I heard they were so rude. I used a term today -- I said, rude and nasty. But I heard they were so rude. No matter what he said, which was all very positive in terms of winning this battle against the invisible enemy -- no matter what he said, they were fresh. They were nasty.

And it was, I heard, just a terrible thing. And I said, "Mike, that's politics. That's what it is." If we came into this room today and said, "The battle is over. We have won. It's 100 percent gone." The Democrats would say, "The President has done a horrible job. He has done a disgraceful job. It is a shame how bad he is."

You know, it's -- it's -- this is the talking points; this is political. And it would be nice not to have that, especially when we've done the job we've done. I mean, all you have to do is look at the big -- the big "V" for victory or "V" for ventilator. Take a look at it. Everybody said they had us on that; they had us. They thought they had us, but we got them done at numbers that nobody would have believed.

And we did use our Act, our Production Act, and we used it. But didn't use it -- we didn't need it like a hammer. All we had to do -- for the most part -- we used it, actually, in a number of cases. But for the most part, all we had to do is talk about it. All we had to do is say, "We're going to use it if you don't do this." And everybody was, you know, for the most part, good. We used it a couple of times because it didn't work out the easy way, but it worked out the hard way.

But whether it was masks or ventilator, it was incredible what we've been able to do. So this is a very critical time for the American people, and the American people deserve real information, and responsible and thoughtful dialogue from their elected leaders and from the media.

The media has been -- some very honest, but some very dishonest. You know that. You know that. I mean, I even read a story where Mark Meadows -- a tough guy -- he was crying; he was crying. This was a Maggie Haberman. You know, she won a Pulitzer Prize for her coverage of Russia, but she was wrong on Russia. So was everyone else. They should all give back their Pulitzer Prizes.

In fact, it turned out that the crime was committed by the other side. The crime was not committed by this side; it was committed by the other side -- a bunch of bad people. You saw the reports coming out over the last two weeks. They got caught. So Maggie Haberman gets a Pulitzer Prize? She's a third-rate

reporter. New York Times.

And we put her name up here last week. You saw that. People thought it was a commercial. It wasn't a commercial. It was like a commercial, but it wasn't a commercial. It was just clips. And because we exposed her as being a bad reporter, what happened is she came out and said Mark Meadows was crying. And they made it sound -- I said, "Mark" -- and it's okay if he did. I wouldn't -- you know, look. But I think he was crying probably -- really, for the wrong reason they had it down. But he's not a crier. And if he was -- I know criers. I could tell you people that you know that are very famous. They cry, and that's okay too.

But it was a nasty story in so many ways. It was fake news. And she only did it because we exposed her for being a terrible, dishonest reporter. She is. I've known her for a long while. I haven't spoken to her in a long time. I made the mistake: I take a picture with her at the desk, a long time ago. Every time she does a story, if I say -- I haven't spoken to her in long -- many, many, many months, maybe years. I don't speak to her. She's fake. A lot of people are fake. A lot of people We got a lot of fake people.

But what happens is she writes this story as retribution. Puts it in the New York Times. And the New York Times is a very dishonest newspaper. It's my opinion. It's not an opinion. It's actually, from my standpoint -- you know, the very hard thing to figure, though: Most people wouldn't know that, but I know it because I know the facts.

And they make up -- I said it today; they make up words. "Sources say..." Most often used: "Sources say..." You know what "sources say" means? "Sources say" means they have nobody. And they make it up. Okay?

And they have a few other type statements that mean the same thing. But "sources say" is the most often-used express- -- in the Washington Post; New York Times, especially; CNN -- fake news. CNN.

They should really be mandated, and I mean mandated to use a name. If there's a source, use a name. Say that Kayleigh -- "Kayleigh McEnany said..." or somebody. And you'd find out that the -- number one, the source wouldn't say it. The sources don't exist. I don't believe the sources exist.

And I try and tell this -- you know, the beautiful thing about doing these conferences is that we have tremendous numbers of viewers, and I'm able to reach the viewers without having to go through fake news, where they make a good story into a bad story.

So, with all of that, it's been an incredible period of time. We've done a fantastic job. We're the talk of other nations. The leaders of other nations are calling us for help. They're calling us for equipment. They're calling us for testing capacities.

Now, with the testing, we are going further. Deborah is going to talk about that now. With the testing, we have some other tests coming up that are going to be, I think, phenomenal. I think they're going to blow away everything as soon as they come out, and we're going to get them out as soon as possible.

But I'd like to ask Dr. Birx to come up and say a few words about where we've come, how far we've come, and more importantly, where we're going from this point. Because honestly, it's -- it's quite amazing. Thank you very much.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Mr. President. If we could have the first slide.

I wanted to give you an update on where we are as states and as counties and as cities. I know you all are watching carefully. The numbers have shifted over the last few days. What happens when nations -- when states change the reporting from "confirmed" to "probable"? So now all probable cases are included. They had to add them back in. Even though the cases may have been from March, they were added over 14, 15, and 16th of April, and states may continue to be adding them. Eventually, we're hoping that those get accounted for on the day when the presumptive cases or the probable cases were counted. But right now, they're added in, in one fell swoop.

So this is New York and New Jersey, and I think we all know how difficult and what a difficult time both New York and New Jersey have had. I call your attention to the axis; it goes up to 250,000 cases. So you can get a frame of how we're talking about some of the other metro areas.

Next slide.

This is the 25 metro areas -- the top 25 metro areas. And you can only see the New York metro area in this slide. Again, the axis goes up to about 300,000. It includes the New Jersey part of the metro area, as well as part of southern Connecticut.

Next slide.

But if I take New York out -- and the reason I wanted to do that -- now the axis is one-tenth of the previous axis. So that previous ax- -- the previous slide, 300,000. This slide, 30,000. So that will give you a frame of reference for some of these other metros.

The reason I wanted to show you this is this is cumulative cases. And we are still tracking, very closely, the issues in Chicago and Boston. But on this slide, I hope you can see the

yellow line; that is Detroit. And Detroit and this mayor of Detroit has really done an extraordinary job, and the people of Detroit have done an extraordinary job with their social distancing.

The other line I want to call your attention to is the line here. This is New Orleans. And I think -- frankly, I was concerned about New Orleans because they had a lot of preexisting comorbidities. They only -- they have two or three major hospitals, but a large cover, a very large area of geographic area.

And that other blue line that you can see -- it's down right here -- that's the Seattle line. And you can see that their response, because of the nursing home alert, they were one of the first states and the first metro areas to really move to social distancing. And so they've really never had a peak, like many of the other metros.

Next slide.

Then I just want to take you through some of these new case graphics. That was cumulative cases. This is daily cases. And obviously, there's a lot of variability, and variability in reporting, but you get a sense over time, when you look at daily cases.

So New Orleans is on the -- on panel on your left, and Baton Rouge on your right. But you can see clearly, New Orleans, about a month ago, very low levels, probably less than 50 cases. Large peak and spike around the beginning of April. And they have come down, and they have it down to very few cases. Again, I showed you before how both their syndromic cases have come down, as well as their actual case -- number of cases.

Next slide.

This is Seattle. So you can see they had a much lower peak. And this is -- when we talked about flattening the curve, this is what flattening the curve looks like. It becomes a longer, slower decline, but it never gets very high, and then goes back down.

Next slide.

And then this is Detroit. And we always look at the metros as a consolidated. So this is both Wayne and Oakland in Michigan. And we really want to thank the mayor for the incredible job that they have done to really ensure that everyone is receiving the adequate healthcare and testing, and they've done quite a good job with testing in Michigan.

But all of these states -- Louisiana and New York have tested 30,000 per million inhabitants. Those are some of our highest numbers across the board.

And next slide.

And so the President talked about the case fatality rates, and we really -- we've lost a lot of Americans to this disease, and we pray and hope for each one of them that are in the hospitals and the excellent care.

What this graph illustrates is the amazing work of the American people to really adhere to social distancing. This was some -- this was nothing we had ever attempted to do as a nation, and the world hadn't attempted to do. But they were able to decrease the number of cases so that, in general, most of the metro areas never had an issue of complete crisis care of all of their hospitals in the region.

And so you can see our case fatality rate is about half to a

third of many of the other countries.

THE PRESIDENT: And, excuse me, does anybody really believe this number? Does anybody really believe this number?

DR. BIRX: I put China on there so you could see how basically unrealistic this could be. When highly developed healthcare delivery systems -- the United Kingdom and France and Belgium and Italy and Spain -- with extraordinary doctors and nurses and equipment have case fatality rates in the 20s, up to 45, and Belgium's extraordinarily competent healthcare delivery system, and then China at .33, you realize that these numbers, even -- and this includes the doubled number out of Wuhan.

And so I wanted, really, to put it in perspective, but I wanted you also to see how great the care has been for every American that has been hospitalized and how extraordinary work of our doctors and nurses in our laboratorians on the front line who have been doing an excellent job.

Next slide.

And then we also wanted to show --

THE PRESIDENT: If I might add, though, also --

DR. BIRX: Yeah.

THE PRESIDENT: -- the number for Iran. Does anybody really believe that number? You see what's going on over there. Does anybody -- put that slide back, if you would. Does anybody believe this number? Does anybody believe this number? You saw more bags --

DR. BIRX: And this is why --

THE PRESIDENT: -- on television than that.

DR. BIRX: This is why the reporting is so important. And I think you remember, almost six weeks ago, maybe a month ago, I was telling you what Italy was showing to us and what France was telling to us, and the warnings that they gave to us and said, "Be very careful. There's an extraordinary high mortality among people with preexisting conditions." And we used their information to bring that to the American people.

That came -- that alert -- that alert, before we even had significant cases, came from our European colleagues on the front line. And that's why we keep coming back to how important, in a pandemic and a new disease, it's really critical to have that level of transparency because it changes how we work as a nation. It allowed us on -- over March 15 to make an alert out there about vulnerable individuals and the -- really, they need to protect them, and my call-out to millennials to really protect their parents, protect their grandparents, and get that information out to everyone that there were preexisting conditions that put people at greater risk. That information came from our European colleagues who were in the midst of their battle themselves.

And so there is never an excuse to not share information. When you are the first country to have an outbreak, you really have a moral obligation to the world to not only talk about it, but provide that information that's critical to the rest of the world to really respond to this credibly.

And I really want to thank our European colleagues who have worked so hard to get us that information, even in the midst of their own tragedies. And I think that really shows how important transparency is.

And we go to the next slide.

We can show you this really encouraging and great news: So we know that fatalities will continue to lag because people are in hospitals still, and some are still sit in intensive care units.

But these COVID-like illnesses -- this is our hospitalizations that are related to flu per 100,000 Americans. This is this year's flu season. And you can see our COVID-like illnesses. And this is all of them, probable and confirmed cases. Our hospitalizations are declining.

Now, I showed you metros that have made tremendous progress, and we've been up here many times talking about it being 6, 10, 15 additional cities. And now we're really just focused on Chicago and Boston and Massachusetts, and really some issues that Providence is starting to improve now. So their relationship to the two large outbreak cities. But this is really reassuring to us, the progress we're making across the country against this disease.

And I'm -- just really want to conclude by thanking again the American people for making these type of graphics possible; thank the data team who puts these together for me. So they are working until about 3:30 every morning to make sure that we have the most up-to-date information. That's the data that goes to our supply-chain individuals to ensure that every hospital in every state and every community has what they need based on data, and to make sure that we're serving the needs of the American people as effectively as possible.

Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Deborah. Fantastic job. Is this yours?

DR. BIRX: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

The fact is that we've been learning a lot from Deborah and Tony and so many of the professionals, the director.

PEPFAR: We're spending -- the United States, without help, to the best of my knowledge -- mostly in Africa, \$6 billion a year. And that's on AIDS. What we've done for AIDS in Africa is unbelievable. We spend \$6 billion a year. That's been going on for a long time. Nobody knows that; you've never heard that. I've never heard that. Six billion dollars a year.

Millions of people are living right now, and living very comfortably, because of the fact that we have found the answer to that horrible, horrible plague. That was a plague.

But we spent \$6 billion a year. And from what I hear, it's very well spent, done by professionals, including this great professional right here. That was the thing that you worked hardest on and something that was very close to her heart. So it's -- you know, it's something that I think people should start hearing.

The World Health Organization: We're just finding more and more problems. And we spend this money really well. There are other ways we can spend the \$500 million. That's \$500 million; this is \$6 billion. But we can find other ways to spend it where people are going to be helped, we think, in a much greater -- in a much greater way.

We're doing some research on certain people that take a lot of credit for what they do. And NIH is giving away a lot of money -- a lot of money. We'd give away for years -- for many years, they'd give away a lot of money. And some people complain and some people don't. Some people are extremely happy. So we're

looking into that also.

They're giving away approximately, as I understand it, recently, more than \$32 billion a year. Thirty-two billion. And so we've been looking at that for a while, and we're going to be having some statements to be made about that. Thirty-two billion dollars a year. It's a lot of money, and we want to make sure it's being spent wisely. And we've been doing that, by the way, and we'll have some statements on that.

And those are much bigger numbers than what we're talking about with national -- if you -- if you look, with the -- with our friends from wherever they come from. You know, 500 -- 500 million is a lot of money, but it's not a lot compared to the kind of money that we give out. I think, over the years, it's been averaging about 32 billion dollars. Thirty-two billion. So we've had our eye on that one for a while.

We also talked about the lab in China where, I guess, \$3.7 million was given some time ago. And we're looking at that very closely. Chief of Staff has that pretty much under control. But it's money that -- too bad it got spent there. But that was spent -- what year was that, Mark? That was four or five years ago?

MR. MEADOWS: That was over the last six years. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Six years ago, approximately. So we're looking at that. And that's the lab that people are talking about.

All right, so we're looking at a lot of things. There's tremendous waste in our government. We found it in many different ways and in many different forms. And this is one of them. This is one of them.

We can spend -- I was talking to Dr. Birx -- we can spend \$500

million using all of it in a much more efficient manner if we're -- if we choose to do that. And it'll be to the good of many more people than are getting it right now.

But you look at the mistakes that were made -- I mean, so late, long after I said we have to close off our country. They were actually against our closing off our country to China. When I did that in January, they were against that. They didn't like the idea of closing off our country. They said it was a bad thing to do, actually, and they've since taken that back. But it was a very lucky thing that we did it. Very lucky. We would have had numbers that were very significantly greater. Tony Fauci said that. He said it would have been very significantly greater had we not done that.

So we've made a lot of moves that were good moves, but it's still a very depressing subject because it's a lot of death. And if it was stopped very early on at the source, before it started blowing into these proportions, you have 184 countries that would have been in a lot better shape. But our country is getting back, and I expect that we're going to be bigger, better, and stronger than ever before.

All right, we'll take a few questions. Jeff.

Q Mr. President, you've mentioned and the Doctor has mentioned China a few times today, that -- clearly suggesting that the data has not been good and (inaudible) --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you tell me: Do you think their data is good, when you see that? Do you think that -- do you think that's correct? Okay?

Q It was -- it was a pretty --

THE PRESIDENT: Do you honestly believe that's correct?

Q It was a pretty dramatic contrast. So my question for you, sir --

THE PRESIDENT: Dramatic? Yeah, I'd say it's dramatic.

Q So my question for you, sir, is --

THE PRESIDENT: Why didn't the -- why didn't the press -- why didn't you people figure that out though? Why do we have to put up a chart? It's -- the number is imposs- -- it's an impossible number to hit. But why haven't you come up and said that?

Q The question, sir, is: Is China now cooperating with the United States to figure out what happened? And what do you want from them now?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they said they're doing an investigation -- that they're doing an investigation. So let's see what happens with their investigation. But we're doing investigations also.

Yeah, go ahead. Please.

Q Thank you, sir. You've spoken -- we heard Dr. Birx, a moment ago, say that every country has a responsibility to tell the rest of the world what's going on. You've talked repeatedly about how this could have been stopped in the past. I know you don't want to telegraph what you would do, but do you think that there should be some consequences if, in the end, you know, China was responsible for all of this?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if they were knowingly responsible, certainly. If they did -- if it was a mistake: a mistake is a mistake. But if it were knowingly responsible, yeah, then there should be consequences. You're talking about, you know, potentially lives like nobody has seen since 1917.

And, you know, the other thing, had we not done what we did in terms of closing -- because there is that concept of, "Let's let it ride." But I'm -- at some point, I'm going to have to -- I don't want to embarrass countries that I like and leaders that I like, but you have to see some of these numbers.

In my opinion -- so we're talking about maybe 60,000 or so; that's a lot of people. But that's -- 100,000 was the minimum we thought that we could get to, and we -- we will be lower than that number. Anywhere from 100 to 220,000 people. But I really believe it could have been millions of people had we not done what we did. We made a lot of good decisions, but one of those things.

Go ahead.

Q But have you ruled out that this was an unknowing situation? Have you ruled out that there was --

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't ruled out anything.

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to look at the facts as they come in. No, I want to look at the facts.

Please. Go ahead.

Q Thank you, sir. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Last week, you claimed that you were in charge of everything. Yet, the American people don't understand why you're unwilling to use the awesome powers of your presidency to make American companies manufacture the PPE and also the testing equipment that you need --

THE PRESIDENT: Who are with?

Q -- to implement -- to implement your recommendations --

THE PRESIDENT: No, I know, but who are you with?

Q -- of how -- I'm with TMN. Recommendations for --

THE PRESIDENT: TMN. What is TMN?

Q Talk Media News.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q My name is Doug Christian with Talk Media News. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Talk Media News.

Q Yeah. And so anyway --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Keep reading your question.

Q The thing is, how to make companies build these testing equipment so that you can do what you want or what you recommended.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're doing that. We're doing -- we're doing it. We're doing it right now with ventilators. We have General Motors. We have General Electric. We have 11 different companies -- great companies -- building them for us all over the United States. We're starting to make our own gowns, as they call it. We're making some incredible things.

And as far as the testing is concerned, most of that now is done in the United States. We're doing it in the United States on different platforms.

And so I just don't think you were listening.

Q But senators who are complaining to --

THE PRESIDENT: Which senators?

Q -- to Vice President Pence yesterday --

THE PRESIDENT: Which senators? Which senators?

Q Well, independent Senator Angus King was --

THE PRESIDENT: But he's not an independent, okay? Angus King is worse than any Democrat.

Go ahead.

Q But he -- but he said that he was -- that he was livid, actually, at this --

THE PRESIDENT: Of course he said that, because he's a -- he's a Democrat. Okay? Angus King is not an independent. He uses that term for whatever reason. It's a waste of time.

Q But he's not a very emotive-type of senator.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, he is. You haven't seen him. Okay? You haven't seen him. No, Angus King is a Democrat, and that was totally staged. I heard that, and it was totally staged. Just like you read the question, he read his question.

Yeah, please, in the back.

Q Mr. President, I wanted to ask you about one of your retweets that you --

THE PRESIDENT: Which one?

Q The one you retweeted from Paul Sperry: "Let's see if authorities enforce the social-distancing orders for mosques during Ramadan...like they did churches during Easter." I'm wondering --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah -- no, I would like to see that. And, you know, I just spoke with leaders and people that love mosques; they love mosques, and I'm all in favor of that. But I would say that there could be a difference. And we'll have to see what will happen, because I've seen a great disparity in this country. I've seen a great disparity.

I mean, I've seen a very strong anti-Israel bent in Congress with Democrats. It -- it was unthinkable 7 or 8 or 10 years ago. And now they're into a whole different thing between Omar and AOC -- I say AOC plus three. Add them on. You have -- I mean, the things that they say about Israel are so bad. And I -- I can't believe it.

Q But --

THE PRESIDENT: Now -- just a minute. So I would be interested to see that, because they go after Christian churches, but they don't tend to go after mosques. And I don't want them to go after mosques, but I do want to see what their -- what their bent is.

Yes, please, in the back.

Q (Inaudible) Mr. President, that, in fact, are you suggesting --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

Q -- that imams wouldn't follow social distancing?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I -- I think that -- I just had a call imams. I just had a call with ministers, rabbis. We had a tremendous call with the faith leaders. No, I don't think that at all.

I am somebody that believes in faith. And it matters not what your faith is, but our politicians seem to treat different faiths very differently. And they seem to think -- and I don't know what happened with our country, but the Christian faith is treated much differently than it was. And I think it's treated very unfairly.

Yes, please, go ahead. In the back.

Q And I just want to ask --

THE PRESIDENT: Let's go.

Q -- if the Department of Justice will, in fact, support --

Q Jenn Pellegrino with OAN.

THE PRESIDENT: OAN, please.

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: OAN.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. The Paycheck Protection Program saved an estimated 15 million jobs. It's run out of money. The Democrats -- specifically Nancy Pelosi -- have been blocking that funding.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Do you know why Speaker Pelosi is dragging her feet on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, she thinks it's politics. I don't think it's good politics. Nancy Pelosi has been blocking it. Schumer has been blocking it. And I think they think it's good politics. I don't think it's good politics; I think it's bad politics. But I don't care about the politics.

It's so great for our country because we're going to have all of these companies that are -- you know, it's a bigger employer -- let's say it's the same, but essentially, it's the same power -- all of these small businesses added together -- as the big companies. It's about 50/50. And it's so important. And they would be scattered if we weren't able to do what we're doing.

And, essentially, we're giving these small businesses that won't make it -- they can't because they're closed -- we're giving them money to take care of their employees, so when we open, they can get back into business. It's been a very popular plan, even with Democrats. I think it basically passed unanimously twice -- the first section -- which is \$350 billion. So we're trying to get \$250 [billion].

Nancy Pelosi is blocking it. She sits in her house in San Francisco, overlooking the ocean, and she doesn't want to come back. She doesn't want to come back. She doesn't want to come back to D.C. She's got to get back and get this thing approved. It's very important.

Please. Go ahead.

Q Dr. Birx, if I may: You again praised the American people for doing their bit over the past few weeks. But what goes through your mind when you see photographs of crowded beaches in

Florida? Is that a concern for when we start seeing some of these restrictions being lifted?

DR. BIRX: Well, as I described, we go metro by metro, county by county, and so I'd have to link that with a specific county and look at their case rates.

I believe the governor and the public health system that Florida has -- they have some of the best county public health individuals I have ever had to deal with -- they are amazing -- because I had to work with them under HIV/AIDS.

So if the health -- if the county health directors believe that that's appropriate for their county, then I'm not going to second-judge an individual's approach to this, because every -- I can't see into every single county and low -- the low rates. I can just see there's no cases. So I don't know if that's a county with very small cases or not, but I think their county health official would know.

THE PRESIDENT: And many of the counties, as you know, are really free of this horrible enemy. So we're opening up. You'll be seeing a lot of this country start to open up fairly quickly.

Yes, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. You mentioned the importance of social distancing, but, for example, Stephen Moore -- someone you appointed to your "Open the Country" task force -- is organizing a protest in Wisconsin. But aren't they, in a sense, protesting your very own guidelines?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have a flexibility. I didn't see what Stephen said. I can tell you he's a very good economist. He's been calling shots right --

Q Well, he said -- he said -- sorry, he said, "We need to be the Rosa Parks of government injustices."

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there is a lot of injustice. When you look at Virginia, where they want to take your guns away, they want to violate your Second Amendment; when you look at -- I mean, look, I'm getting along very nicely with the governor of Michigan, but she has things -- don't buy paint, don't buy roses, don't buy -- I mean, she's got all these crazy things. I really believe somebody sitting in their boat, in a lake, should be okay. They shouldn't arrest people. Some of them are being unreasonable. I really believe that. They're being unreasonable.

But I think Virginia is a great case, though, because they're using this -- they're trying to take your guns away in Virginia. And if people in Virginia aren't -- aren't careful, that's what's going to happen to them.

So, yeah, I mean, I could see where he's coming from. I think it's a strong statement -- a strong statement -- because hopefully this will be over very soon for all of us. But some have gotten carried away. They have absolutely gotten carried away.

Q Do you feel, though, some of these protesters are protesting your social distancing guidelines?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I mean, I notice there were a lot of protests out there. And I just think that some of the governors have gotten carried away.

You know, we have a lot of people that don't have to be told to do what they're doing. They've been really doing everything we've asked them. We have a few states where, frankly, I spoke to the governors and I could have gotten them to do -- if I wanted -- to do what would have been, perhaps, politically

correct. But they've been doing incredibly anyway.

And as one of them said, everybody is doing exactly the same. In fact, our record is better than states where they're under a mandate or, you know, where they've agreed to do certain things.

No, we have some great states out there, and we have incredible people in our country. And for the most part, that -- it's a strong statement, but I understand where he's coming from.

And I think one of the greats would be -- one of the really important places that people really have to start looking at is what's going on in Virginia, because that's a mess, where the gover- -- with, really, a governor that's under siege anyway.

Yeah, please.

Q Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No, with the beautiful head of white hair. Go ahead. I'll tell you if I like his hair in about a minute, after he asks the question.

Q Gordon Lubold with the Wall Street Journal. On that point though, does the tweeting about, in the case of Virginia, linking the Second Amendment to some of these issues about lifting some of these restrictions in these states --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- not -- potentially pose concern for the governors and civil unrest, and potentially in those cases?

And I have a second question for you.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think, just for that question, I think

that's an easy one. That's not even politics. We're entitled to a Second Amendment, and he's trying to take the Second Amendment. Meaning, that state is trying to take -- the Democrats in that state -- the Republicans are fighting it.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: They're trying to take that -- that Second Amendment right -- that Second Amendment right away. To me, that's liberty. That's -- when I say, "liberate Virginia," I would say, liberate Virginia when that kind of thing happens. And where does it all stop? So I think it's a very good analogy.

Go ahead.

Q Well, I'm just -- I mean, is this the right time to, kind of, bring in a Second Amendment issue (inaudible) --

THE PRESIDENT: I think when they talk about taking your guns away -- and if you notice, at the beginning of this pandemic, there were more guns sold, I think, than at almost any time in history, because -- so it's obviously a big issue. And then you have them working and signing documents, trying to take your -- your Second Amendment away, essentially. So I do think it's an appropriate time to bring it up.

Q Can I ask my second question?

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Go ahead. Second.

Q This past week, after an extraordinary slew of events from adversaries -- North Korea, Russia --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q -- China and Iran -- all, kind of, pushing back on U.S. policy or toying with U.S. military forces, what's your messages to these countries who may be trying to take advantage?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't -- I don't see it. No, I don't see it. We had a very good relationship with Russia. We worked on the oil deal together. I was with --

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: -- by telephone, the King of Saudi Arabia and the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin. We worked out a deal on oil. That was a very important deal to them and to us and to Saudi Arabia. It was in a deadlock. You know it; you covered it very well. Actually, the Wall Street Journal covered that very well.

I worked with Putin and with the King on that. And President Putin was a total gentleman, and it was very important to get that done. And the King was great. And we actually had to bring in Mexico, because Mexico was a lone holdout and they showed great flexibility. You know the story.

No, I think we're doing fine. Yeah, sure, it's -- North Korea, I see they're testing short-range missiles. And, you know, they've been doing it a long time. I received a nice note from him recently. It was a nice note. I think we're doing fine.

Look, if I wasn't elected, you would, right now, be at war with North Korea. Okay? I'll tell you, for your people that don't understand the world and they don't understand how life works: If I wasn't elected, you would, right now -- maybe the war would be over, hopefully with a victory.

But if you remember, when I first came in, we didn't have ammunition. Not a good way to fight a war. President Obama left

us no ammunition. Okay? And he left us virtually no medical and ventilators. He left us -- the cupboard was dry, right? The cupboard was dry.

No, I think, right now, you'd be at war, essentially -- in some form -- it would be over, it would be raging -- with North Korea, if I weren't President. And we're doing just fine with North Korea. Just fine. We'll see how it all ends up.

You know, in the meantime, they said, "Oh, Trump has given up." And then they said "Oh, really, what's he given up?" And they said, "I don't know." Then they said, "He met." Oh, I met. I met.

No, I have a good relationship with Kim Jong Un. That's not a bad thing to have a good relationship. Obama wanted a relationship; he wouldn't meet with Obama. Wouldn't meet with him. Okay? I have a good relationship with him. We met at the line. I stepped over the line. The first time anything like that's ever -- it's all good. It's just -- it's good.

But when they say -- the stupid people -- I call them "stupid people" or "the haters." They say, "Trump has given up so much." Really? I've actually increased the sanctions. China has been very good on the border. In fact, right now, the border is stone-cold closed between China and North Korea.

Our relationship with China was good until they did this. Once we found out about this -- once we found out -- look, we just made a trade deal where China is going to have to buy \$250 billion a year on our product. Fifty billion from the farmers. Forty to fifty billion from the farmers. The relationship was good when we were signing that, but then all of a sudden, you hear about this.

So it's a big -- it's a big difference. You know, the question

was asked, "Would you be angry at China?" Well, the answer might very well be a very resounding "yes," but it depends: Was it a mistake that got out of control or was it done deliberately? Okay? That's a big difference between those two. In either event, they should have let us go in. You know, we asked to go in very early, and they didn't want us in. I think they were embarrassed. I think they knew it was something bad, and I think they were embarrassed.

But, you know -- no, I think we're doing very well.

Well, it's -- so you said Russia, you said China --

Q Iran.

THE PRESIDENT: -- you said North Korea.

Q And Iran.

THE PRESIDENT: Iran? When I came in, Iran was a terror. We had 82 points of fighting. We had 18 points of major confliction. The first week, I said, "Tell me about Iran." "Sir, we have 18 points of confliction." Meaning, Yemen and Syria and all -- Iraq. They were going into Iraq all over the place. They're a much a different nation right now. I stopped that horrible deal. Horrible deal.

And they want to talk, except that Kerry violated the Logan Act. He made the deal, and doesn't want them to make a deal because -- I would have made a deal, in my opinion, except that John Kerry, when he -- who made the deal originally, which was a stupid deal to make. Gave them \$150 billion. Gave 1.8 billion in cash, in green. That would be more than this room, 10 times, with hundred-dollar bills. That you could fill up this room 10 times with hundred-dollar bills. And it's not that small a room.

And I say he violated the Logan Act. I think it was a major violation. I think we would have had a deal if it wasn't for John Kerry. But he doesn't want to be, number one, embarrassed. Number two, he said, "Let's wait until after the election. Maybe Sleep Joe Biden is going to win. And if Sleep Joe Biden wins, you'll own the United States."

And China will own the United States. China has paid us -- you know, from the Wall Street Journal -- hundreds of billions of dollars -- is that right? -- tariffs. And we gave a lot of that money -- a small percentage -- but a lot of money to the farmers, and it kept the farmers going great. All right? But hundreds -- we get -- we're getting tens of billions of dollars in tariffs.

And, by the way, for those of you that say, "Oh we're paying," China devalued their currency in order to pay these. We didn't pay. China paid. They don't like to write that. They also added money into their system. So they paid for that.

No, I think you have numerous countries waiting to see whether or not Sleepy Joe wins, because if Sleepy Joe won, they own our country. They will take our country.

You know, we had -- go back two months -- we had, by far -- and China was supposed to catch us. You know better than anybody, Wall Street Journal. For years, I've heard, "By 2019, China will catch us." There's only one problem: Trump got elected in 2016. That was a big difference. And we were going leaps and bounds above China.

And before the problem with the plague -- right? -- China was having the worst year they've had in 67 years. That was before the plague. Now they're getting really hurt, and so is everybody getting hurt. I don't want them to get hurt, but they're all getting hurt. Everybody is getting hurt. It's a horrible thing

that's happened. But we had the greatest economy in the world, by far. China isn't even close -- go back two months -- and we're going to keep it that way.

But when you mention Iran, Iran is a much different country than it was. When I first came in, Iran was going to take over the entire Middle East. Right now, they just want to survive. They're having protests every week. They're loaded up with the plague -- which I don't want; I've offered to help them if they want. If they need ventilators, which they do, I would send them ventilators. We have thousands of excess ventilators coming in and here.

We have a stockpile of ventilators, and we're starting to send them so that hospitals can fill up their stockpile, which they should have. New York had a chance to get 16,000 ventilators, and they chose not to do it. And I understand that. It's a hard decision for a thing that may or may not happen. I fully understand that. I'm not even complaining about that.

I'm only saying this: Iran was a terror when I came into office. Right now, they don't want to mess around with us. They don't want to mess around with us.

Two things: North Korea, same sanctions we've always had, except more. We haven't given anything. I think you'll hopefully take that back to the Wall Street Journal, because they really don't understand it. They really don't.

And with -- with Iran, I mean, that's a different country right now. And they want to make a deal. The only reason they don't -- they're being shamed in, because the guy that gave them the sweetheart, didn't want to. Met with them many times. He should have never met with them. And in my opinion, he's telling them, "Don't. Wait. Maybe Trump will lose and then you can negotiate with a patsy, with a weak guy. And you'll take over the --

between you and Russia..." Nobody has been tougher on Putin. He knows it better than anybody. Nobody been tougher on Putin than me. Look at the sanctions.

Look at what I did with their pipeline going into Europe. Nobody even knew about it. I exposed it. Now everybody talks about it. I think it's a terrible thing for Germany to do.

But at the same time, I have a very good relationship with Putin, and I was able to get -- I was able to make a deal with Russia and Saudi Arabia and OPEC Plus. They call "OPEC Plus." That's going to save us Texas, North Dakota, Oklahoma, other states, energy states. Going to save us hundreds of thousands of jobs.

And, in fact, your paper wrote an incredible editorial, for a change, that "Trump made a great deal for our country." That was a nice thing. I was shocked to see it coming out of the Wall Street Journal.

Thank you all very much. We'll see you tomorrow. Thank you. Thank you very much.

END

6:16 P.M. EDT

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 4/18/2020 10:07:50 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2020

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR
SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020**

In-Town Pool

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: CBS

Print: Regional Reporters

Radio: FOX

EDT

4:00PM In-House Pool Call Time

THE PRESIDENT has no public events scheduled.

Briefing Schedule

**5:00PM Members of the Coronavirus Task Force hold a press
briefing**

James S. Brady Briefing Room

On Camera

###

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/27/2020 12:18:09 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In town pool report No 2: Gathering on South Lawn

From: "Rucker, Philip" <Philip.Rucker@washpost.com>
Date: May 27, 2020 at 11:35:27 AM EDT
Subject: **In-town pool report No. 1 — all quiet, no news yet**

Good morning from the White House. All is quiet for now. Both the in-town and out-of-town pools were tested for Covid-19 roughly an hour ago by White House doctors. According to his schedule, POTUS is in an 11 a.m. meeting with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, which is listed as closed press. Our first scheduled chance to see POTUS is his 12:20 p.m. departure to JBA for his trip to Florida.

Philip Rucker
The Washington Post
White House Bureau Chief
202-841-7584 (cell)
philip.rucker@washpost.com

Sent from my iPad

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 6/1/2020 1:21:33 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In town pool report #3 POTUS/Moon Jae-in Readout

From: Kadia Goba <kadia.goba@buzzfeed.com>
Date: June 1, 2020 at 1:16:50 PM EDT
Subject: In town pool report #3 POTUS/Moon Jae-in Readout

Sent to the pool by Judd Deere:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea. The two leaders discussed a range of economic and national security issues, including the coronavirus pandemic and restoring the strength of the global economy. President Trump and President Moon also discussed progress toward convening the G7 later this year.

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
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To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In-town pool report #11 - WH arrival, No Qs

From: Chris Johnson
<cjohnson@washblade.com>
Date: May 25, 2020 at 12:56:56 PM
EDT
**Subject: In-town pool report #11 -
WH arrival, No Qs**

Marine One touched down on the
South Lawn at 12:50.

Moments later, POTUS emerged, still
wearing his dark suit and red tie,
followed by FLOTUS, still wearing her
white suitcoat.

No news. Reporters shouted questions
about 100,000 deaths from COVID-19
and China, but POTUS just responded
with a wave, entering the South
Portico at 12:55. Following him were
Meadows and O'Brien.

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House

Reporter

Follow me on Twitter:

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/26/2020 5:38:35 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Pool report #9: Questions

From: Rob Crilly <rcrilly@washingtonexaminer.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:15 PM

Subject: Pool report #9: Questions

POTUS and guests spoke until 17:02. POTUS has been taking questions since then

Earlier, once again invited speakers spoke at a separate lectern, socially distanced from POTUS.

Most of the audience removed their masks during the presentation.

Tracey Brown of the American Diabetes Association was one of those who didn't and who kept it on when she took the stage to speak.

From the administration we heard from VPOTUS - who said that on Monday 505 Americans died from Covid-19, the lowest number since March - and Seema Verma.

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/24/2020 5:11:28 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Pool Report #6 - Brazil Announcement

From: CATHERINE LUCEY <catherine.lucey@wsj.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2020 5:08 PM

Subject: Pool Report #6 - Brazil Announcement

Passing on this statement:

“Today, the President has taken decisive action to protect our country by suspending the entry of aliens who have been in Brazil during the 14-day period before seeking admittance to the United States. As of May 23, 2020, Brazil had 310,087 confirmed cases of COVID-19, which is the third highest number of confirmed cases in the world. Today’s action will help ensure foreign nationals who have been in Brazil do not become a source of additional infections in our country. These new restrictions do not apply to the flow of commerce between the United States and Brazil.” Kayleigh McEnany

Catherine Lucey

WHITE HOUSE REPORTER



E: catherine.lucey@wsj.com

A: [1025 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 800 | Washington, D.C. 20036](#)



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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/22/2020 1:59:49 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: in-town pool report #10: POTUS enters briefing room

From: Tessa Berenson <tessa.berenson@time.com>

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:50 PM

Subject: in-town pool report #10: POTUS enters briefing room

Trump entered the briefing room at 1:48 pm. Pooler will not send highlights of remarks because they are being broadcast and streamed, but will send along any color from offscreen.

Sitting inside the briefing room: Kayleigh McEnany, Kellyanne Conway, and Dr. Deborah Birx. (Birx is wearing a mask; the other two women are not.)

At this point in the day, pool has had a COVID-19 test and had 3 separate temperature checks.

--

Tessa Berenson
White House Correspondent
TIME
@tberenson

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/21/2020 1:24:01 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: in-town pool report #6 - quotes from the president

From: Niels Lesniewski <niels@cqrollcall.com>
Date: May 21, 2020 at 1:19:36 PM EDT
Subject: in-town pool report #6 - quotes from the president

The out-of-town pool has taken the handoff. Here's more of what the president said before departing the White House grounds.

As always, check the quotes against the transcript.

Your pooler missed over the chopper noise the first bit of the president's statement, but he said he just finished a meeting with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

"We've got a lot of good things going. We've just had a meeting with Mitch McConnell and the group, and we're working on a package of very positive."

"It looks like numbers are going to be very good into the future, we're going to be very strong starting with our transition period starting with June, June-July. I think you're going to see some very good numbers coming out," the president said.

POTUS then took a moment to mention the people who have lost their lives from COVID-19 and said, "we always have to remember that."

The first question was about the response to the flooding in Michigan. He said "we've put our best people into Michigan, and our most talented engineers, designers."

"We're looking at the floods. We have our people from the Army Corps of Engineers there, we have FEMA there. I spoke to the governor, Governor Whitmer, yesterday, and we have a very good understanding."

On withdrawal from the Open Skies treaty:

"I think we have a very good relationship with Russia, but Russia didn't adhere to the treaty, and so until they adhere to the treaty, we will pull out," POTUS said. "There's a very good chance we'll make a new agreement or do something to put that agreement back together."

On arms treaties:

"We're probably going to make a deal with Russia on arms treaties, and China will be maybe included in that, we'll see what happens."

"Well, I don't know, we're going to look at it. A lot of people have asked me that question. I want to get our country back to normal. I want to normalize. One of the other things I want to do is get the churches open."

"The churches are not being treated with respect by a lot of the Democrat governors. I want to get our churches open and we're going to take a very strong position on that very soon."

On treatments for COVID-19

"We have a lot of things happening on the vaccine front or the therapeutic front. If you look at therapeutically, we're doing great. And on the cure front ... I think we have tremendous things."

"You're going to have a lot of big announcements over the next week or two," on therapeutics.

The president later said he had one more day of the Hydroxychloroquine prophylaxis treatment, and he said he has not taken a COVID-19 antibody test.

On voting by mail:

"We don't want them to do mail-in ballots because it's going to lead to total election fraud, so we don't want them to do mail-in ballots. We don't want anyone to do mail-in ballots ... now, if someone has to mail it in because they're sick or by the way because they live in the White House and they have to vote on Florida, and they won't be in Florida and there's a reasoning for it, that's ok," POTUS said.

On G7 meeting potentially at the White House:

"It looks like G7 may be on because we've done well, we're ahead of schedule in terms of our country and some of the other countries are doing very well ... it looks like the G7 will be on, a full G7, and we'll be announcing something early next week."

In response to a follow up question, he said that the G7, if it comes together, will be held "probably at the White House but maybe a little combination at Camp David, but primarily at the White House."

On the rocket launch:

"I'm thinking about going, and that'll be next week, to the rocket launch. I hope you're all going to join me. I'd like to put you on the rocket, get rid of you for a while."

--



Niels Lesniewski

Chief Correspondent, White House & Congress | CQ Roll Call

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P: 202-560-7514

rollcall.com | info.cq.com | fiscalnote.com

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Subject: In town pool report #4/ readout

From: "Fritze, John"
<JFritze@usatoday.com>
Date: May 23, 2020 at 12:15:58
PM EDT
**Subject: In town pool
report #4/ readout**

From the White House:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey. President Trump and President Erdogan discussed progress on reopening and boosting global economies in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The two leaders also discussed critical regional and bilateral issues. President Trump reiterated concern over worsening foreign interference in Libya and the need for rapid de-escalation. President Trump and President Erdogan reaffirmed the urgent need for a political resolution to the conflict in Syria, as well as unimpeded humanitarian access

throughout the country.

John Fritze

USA TODAY

202-480-5621

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/21/2020 9:29:44 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Proclamation on Honoring the Victims of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2020

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Our Nation mourns for every life lost to the coronavirus pandemic, and we share in the suffering of all those who endured pain and illness from the outbreak. Through our grief, America stands steadfast and united against the invisible enemy. May God be with the victims of this pandemic and bring aid and comfort to their families and friends. As a mark of solemn respect for the victims of the coronavirus pandemic, by the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby order that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of

the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset, May 24, 2020. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-fourth.

DONALD J. TRUMP

###

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/23/2020 11:13:40 AM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In town pool report #3/ golf

From: "Fritze, John" <JFritze@usatoday.com>
Date: May 23, 2020 at 10:30:02 AM EDT
Subject: In town pool report #3/ golf

President Trump is returning to the golf course on this pleasant, sunny Saturday.

The president's motorcade arrived at Trump National in Sterling, Va., at 1027 am after a 35 minute drive along a route with sparse traffic but that was otherwise unremarkable. We did not see the president upon arrival. There were no protesters but several joggers and bikers outside the club.

I've requested details from the White House on the president's activities/ schedule today and will forward if those are forthcoming.

Pool was temperature checked but not tested for coronavirus. We are holding in the tennis pavilion.

John Fritze
USA TODAY
202-480-5621

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 5/21/2020 4:43:47 PM
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Subject: Out of town pool report #7 — more tour/Trump remarks

From: Stokols, Eli <eli.stokols@latimes.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 4:35 PM

Subject: Out of town pool report #7 — more tour/Trump remarks

As the short Q&A continued, Trump held out his navy blue face mask with the presidential seal For the pool to see but did not put it on his face (pic below).

Asked to confirm that the company okay'd Trump not wearing a mask, Ford CEO said "It's his choice."

As Ford executives spoke to the president, he continued to react to the press pool.

"We got to get back to the rallies," Trump said to the pool at one point. "I think it's going to be sooner rather than later."

Asked if he wants to do another economic stimulus bill, Trump suggested Congress might do "one more nice shot" but declined to offer specifics about what might be in it.

He predicted that states "sticking to a rigid pattern" of social distancing are going to soon ease guidelines. "We need to be open," he said. Asked about a second wave of coronavirus, Trump said it's possible but: "We're going to put out the fires."

He answered several questions while Ford executives stood over his shoulder waiting.

As he tried to move on, someone asked if he was considering replacing CDC Director Robert Redfield. "No!" Trump responded emphatically.

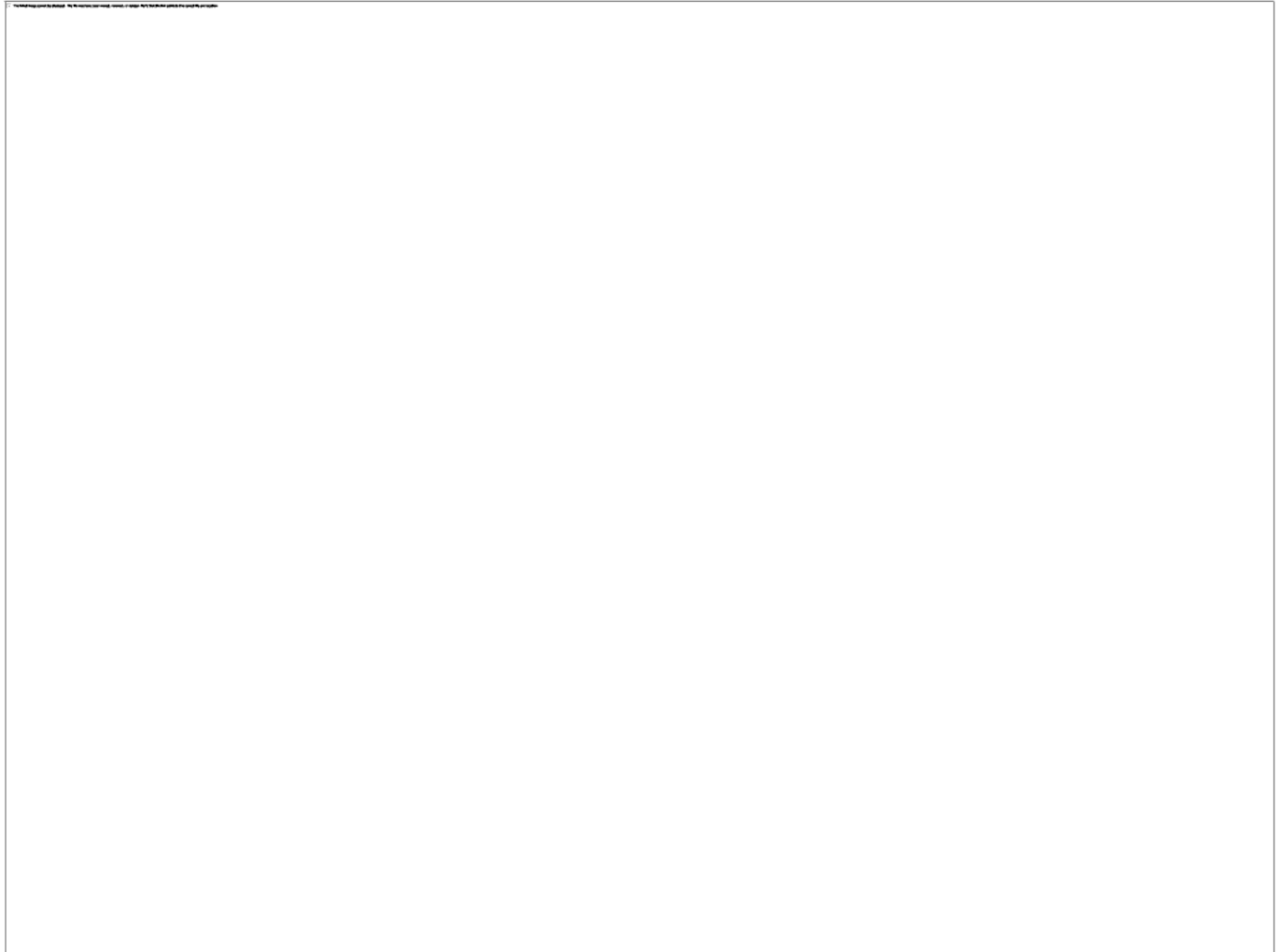
He then stepped back from the rope line where the pool is situated and engaged with Ford officials at a row of what look to be automated work stations.

Then he stood behind a glass enclosed ventilator and posed alone for the cameras. A large American

flag was hung behind him.

Pool was just escorted out of the tour area at 4:31, moving into position for the remarks. There are a few dozen employees in the audience and an array of Ford automobiles behind the stage where POTUS will speak.

The remarks will be live-streamed at whitehouse.gov/live — I will send another note when Trump begins.



Eli Stokols

LA Times, Washington Bureau

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Subject: Out of town pool report #1 — JBA

From: "Stokols, Eli" <eli.stokols@latimes.com>

Date: May 21, 2020 at 1:01:54 PM EDT

Subject: Out of town pool report #1 — JBA

Good afternoon. Marine One touched down at JBA at 12:53 p.m.

POTUS stepped off at 12:57 and walked across the tarmac. He did not stop to take questions and boarded Air Force One at 12:58 via the main stairs, stopping at the top for a wave and a fist pump directed at a member of the pool below.

Traveling with POTUS: Peter Navarro, who was here early and spotted lingering on the top step outside the main cabin door as pool came out to the tarmac just before noon; and following POTUS off Marine One were Jared Kushner, Mark Meadows, Dan Scavino, Johnny McEntee and Ronna McDaniel.

We will be rolling momentarily en route to Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.

Also noting that the full pool received Abbott swab tests for COVID-19 this morning at the White House and has also been temperature checked here at JBA.

Eli Stokols

LA Times, Washington Bureau

(b) (6)(b) (6) (c)

Eli Stokols

LA Times, Washington Bureau

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Subject: Out of town pool report #6 — factory tour

From: Stokols, Eli <eli.stokols@latimes.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 4:17 PM

Subject: Out of town pool report #6 — factory tour

At 4:08 p.m. (with R.E.M.'s "Losing My Religion" cranked up), POTUS and several Ford executives emerged into a walled off area of the factory where the company's products — face shields, masks, respirators and ventilators are aligned in front of large posters with images of employees at work.

Ford officials are all wearing face masks. Trump Is not.

Their conversation at first took place a few feet away from the pool, but POTUS did grab a face shield and hold it up to his own face (photo below).

Then he stopped to take a question from a local reporter who asked about the ventilator supply and how much we need to add to our stockpile.


Trump spoke about sending ventilators to other countries. "Every state now has more than they need and our stockpile is totally full," he said.

Asked about not wearing a mask, Trump said he wore one in another area "where they preferred it." On why not wear it in front of the cameras: "I didn't want to give the press the pleasure of seeing it," Trump said.

Asked about the Ford executives wearing masks, he said it's "their choice."

Soundtrack currently: Tom Petty's "I won't back down"

More TK...



From the White House:

Today, President Donald J. Trump will tour the Ford Motor Company Rawsonville Components Plant, one of the many repurposed American factories producing personal protective equipment and/or ventilators in response to the President’s all-of-America approach to the COVID-19 pandemic. The public-private partnership developed by President Trump has produced 12 billion gloves, 130+ million N95 masks, half a billion surgical masks, nearly 18 million face shields, and made the United States “King of Ventilators.”

The following individuals are expected to attend:

The White House

President Donald J. Trump

External Participants

Bill Ford, *Executive Chairman, Ford Motor Company*

Jim Hackett, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Ford Motor Company*

Jim Baumbick, *Vice President, Enterprise Product Line Management, Ford Motor Company*

Tom Westrick, *Chief Quality Officer, GE Healthcare*

Eli Stokols

LA Times, Washington Bureau

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Subject: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany | 5/20/2020, #6



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2020

PRESS BRIEFING

BY PRESS SECRETARY KAYLEIGH MCENANY

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

3:35 P.M. EDT

MS. MCENANY: Good afternoon, everyone. I'd like to begin by detailing the historic private-public partnership effort launched by the Trump administration to combat the coronavirus. As both a businessman and as President, you'll all remember then-candidate Donald Trump, now President Donald Trump, being adamant about bringing manufacturing jobs back to America.

President Obama and the Democrats had given up on manufacturing with President Obama's erroneously prediction that Trump would need a magic wand in order to bring back American jobs. Not so.

The reality is President Trump revived manufacturing in this country, and he tore up disastrous trade deals that hemorrhaged American jobs, like NAFTA and like the plan that was in work, the

Trans-Pacific Partnership. Instead, he put in place better trade deals to bring back American jobs and to bring back American manufacturing.

And in the battle against the invisible enemy, President Trump took action to shore up our domestic supply chains in order to deliver the necessary PPE and other medical equipment to the states.

Speaker Pelosi and House Democrats are currently promoting a 3-trillion-dollar liberal wish list, among a litany of Democrat priorities immaterial to the coronavirus crisis, are embedded in this, and one would require the President to appoint a, quote, "medical supplies response coordinator" who would, quote, "serve as the point of contact for the healthcare system, supply chain officials, and the states on medical supplies."

I'm happy to report this individual already exists. This bill ignores reality, because the medical supplies official is in existence; he's been working on this since March to deliver, to date, over billions and billions -- more than 1 billion, I should say, pieces of PPE to countries and hospitals across the country.

Since March 29th, Rear Admiral John Polowczyk, Vice Director for Logistics for the Joint Chiefs, has been on the job as the head of FEMA's Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force. This is a historic partnership with the private sector, and under the leadership of President Trump, FEMA directed the greatest mobilization of the private sector since World War Two.

Rear Admiral Polowczyk and FEMA quickly realized the power of the private sector in addressing the coronavirus, recognizing that the six largest private sector medical distributors would have the ability to source, procure, manufacture, and deliver as many as 1 billion pieces of PPE in a single week. That is an extraordinary volume by our private sector. And at the direction

of President Trump, Rear Admiral Polowczyk and FEMA were able to harness this power.

Every day at 9:00 a.m., Rear Admiral Polowczyk's team huddles with these six large private sector medical distributors and, together, they review data compiled by Dr. Birx, as well as information provided by the CDC, to set priorities and ensure sufficient levels of supplies go down not just to the county level but to the hospital level.

After focusing geographically, Rear Admiral Polowczyk and his team orients the data to set point-of-care distribution priorities for public hospitals, VA and DOD facilities, private hospitals, nursing homes, acute cli- -- excuse me, acute care clinics, first responders, and labs.

In just two and a half weeks, Rear Admiral Polowczyk and his team were able to combine data streams, utilize supply chain visualization tools from DOD, and input data into the cloud. This system is now available to generate reports for governors showing what their state received from the federal government and commercial partners all the way down to the hospital level, as I noted.

And thanks to President Trump and his administration, governors now have visibility as to where their supplies are sent and where they're received. And from March 1st through May 10th, this public-private partnership has led to the delivery -- and these are extraordinary numbers -- of over 113 million N95 respirator masks, nearly half a billion surgical masks, nearly 18 million face shields, and over 12 billion gloves. That is a lot of PPE, and we thank our private sector partners for engaging in this effort with us.

Also, I just wanted to note that, earlier today, the President held an hour-long call with thousands of Hispanic community,

business, and faith leaders across the country. He recognized the many contributions of the Hispanic community to our country and addressed important issues, like how to reopen their businesses and build the greatest economy in history again.

And finally, before I take questions, I just wanted to note on a separate note that I wanted to acknowledge the passing of Ravi Zacharias, a renowned Christian apologist who left this world yesterday. Our prayers are with Ravi's family during this time. He meant a lot to a lot of people around this administration. And as my father said, Billy Graham was the great evangelist and Ravi Zacharias was the great apologist. And we are all thinking about him and holding him close to our hearts and his family today.

And with that, I'll take questions. John.

Q Kayleigh, what does the President believe is illegal about the Secretary of State of Michigan sending out absentee ballot applications? And what federal funding is he considering withholding from the state of Michigan as a result?

MS. MCENANY: So, you know, I won't get into exactly what the funding considerations are. I would note that his tweets were meant to alert Secretary Mnuchin and Mr. Vought about -- head of OMB -- about his concerns with trillions of dollars going to these states and his noted concerns about a lot of fraud that is potentially at play when you have mass mail-in voting.

So with regard to the illegality and legality of it, that's a question for the campaign as to their voting and ballot practices. But I would just note that his tweet was meant to alert OMB. He wanted to be very careful, as we send trillions of dollars to states, that we keep this important point in mind and we ensure that there's fairness in our voting system and absolute accuracy.

Yes. Kaitlan.

Q But the President himself has voted, just two months ago, via a mail-in ballot. There are several Republican states that are also doing these mail-in applications for ballots. And so I'm confused, what is it that he thinks is illegal that's happening in Michigan? He doesn't really specify.

MS. MCENANY: So, first, with regard to the President doing a mail-in vote, the President is, after all, the President, which means he's here in Washington; he's unable to cast his vote down in Florida, his state of residence. So, for him, that's why he had to do a mail-in vote. But he supports mail-in voting for a reason, when you have a reason that you are unable to be present.

Q But there's a pandemic going on.

MS. MCENANY: There's -- right now. We're very far from November 3rd. I would --

Q But there's a primary coming up in June.

MS. MCENANY: I'm glad that you have the prediction tool and you can tell us what will be happening on November 3rd, 2020. I certainly don't, nor does the President.

Q I'm just saying because there's primaries coming up, and that's like what's happening in Nevada and whatnot.

MS. MCENANY: I would -- I would also -- I assume you care about fairness and accuracy in our elections. Do you not?

Q Of course I do.

MS. MCENANY: Of course.

Q But there's not evidence that there's widespread voter fraud from mail-in votes.

MS. MCENANY: So, there -- so, there's evidence. You can go look this up on ProPublica. There was a bipartisan consensus on the fact that mass mail-in voting can lead to fraud. There was a 2005 commission by none other than President Carter, who's not a member of the Republican Party, and also James Baker about this, concluding that these ballots, quote, "remain the largest source of potential voter fraud."

So this is a concern. The President is right to look at this. We want a free and fair election, and that's his concern.

Yes, Zeke.

Q Kayleigh, on this subject and one other on a different one: The President deleted his first tweet, which alleged falsely that the state of Michigan was sending out absentee ballots to every voter. In fact, they sent out absentee ballot requests. Was the President misinformed this morning? And why is he only directing this message toward Michigan and not other states like Georgia and others that are sending similar absentee ballot requests to their citizens?

MS. MCENANY: So the President corrected his tweet, as you noted.

And with regard to going state by state and looking at ballots in the way they're distributed, that would be a question for the Trump campaign, and I'd refer you to the campaign on that point.

Q And on the G7, do you have any more details on the timing, when the President would like to schedule that here in Washington? And does that mean that travel restrictions that are currently in place on travel from Europe, from China, and other

places would potentially be relaxed before that meeting would take place here?

MS. MCENANY: So I won't get into the mechanics of how that would happen. I would note that the President really wants to see the G7 happen here in Washington as we begin not just to reopen the country but as the world begins to reopen. He'd like to see it happen sometime in June, but as to a particular date, I don't have any announcement on that front or to the mechanisms of how we'd make that work.

Yes.

Q Thanks, Kayleigh. A couple of questions for you. One, does President Trump support the CDC guidelines that were released over the weekend? And if so, why were they released so quietly? Why not talk about them, roll them out here from the podium?

MS. MCENANY: So the CDC guidelines -- there was a 60-page document that came out last night that I assume you're referencing. That document, I talked to Dr. Redfield earlier today about it, and much of that was already out there.

So appendixes A, B, C, and D had been out there for a while. Appendix E, he said he thinks it got posted sometime late last week. And again, these were his rough estimates he was giving me. Appendix F was being discussed, and there was constructive criticism of it through the task force and interagency process. So that was refined.

And my point in sharing that with you is that the 60-page document was merely an aggregation of a lot of what was already out there, so it's not as if this was new information that we were announcing, but it was more guidance pursuant to our "reopening of America" guidance that was issued several weeks

ago.

Q And does the President support the guidelines? Does he think Americans should follow those guidelines, or should they be following the initial guidelines that you rolled out here from the podium?

MS. MCENANY: So the President has been very clear he supports the "reopening of America" guidelines. The CDC guidelines are in concert with those guidelines. He wants to safely reopen this country. It's very important we do so. And it's good to see that most states -- I think basically all of them have plans at this point to reopen, and we're starting to see the safe reopening of several states and Americans getting back to work.

Q And let me just get your reaction to something we just got moments ago, a statement from the American Nurses Association, which says, quote, "The American Nurses Association has not received reports from nurses or other frontline healthcare workers utilizing hydroxychloroquine as a preventative treatment for COVID-19." Why does the President continue to say that many or thousands of frontline workers are using it as a prophylactic?

MS. MCENANY: Well, there is -- Henry Ford Hospital is doing a study on this now where 3,000 frontline workers will be taking hydroxychloroquine to look at its use as a prophylactic. I believe there is a few hundred or 190 workers in Tampa General Hospital. So this is being used by some.

And one thing I want to note with regard to hydroxychloroquine, because I think it's very important that we're as accurate as we can be with our reporting on this: Hydroxychloroquine has been a drug that has been in use for 65 years for lupus, arthritis, and malaria. It has a very good safety profile.

But as with any drug and as with any prescription, it should be

given by a doctor to a patient in that context. So no one should be taking this without a prescription from their doctor.

But that being said, I've seen a lot of apoplectic coverage of hydroxychloroquine. You had Jimmy Kimmel saying the President is, quote, "trying to kill himself by taking it." You had Joe Scarborough saying, quote, "This will kill you." Neil Cavuto saying, "What have you got to lose? One thing you have to lose are lives." And you had Chris Cuomo saying, "The President knows that hydroxychloroquine is not supported by science. He knows it has been flagged by his own people and he's using it."

Well, Cuomo mocked the President for this. And interestingly, I found this out just before coming here: Hydroxychloroquine, of course, is an FDA-approved medication with a long-proven track record for safety. And it turns out that Chris Cuomo took a less safe version of it called quinine, which the FDA removed from the market in 2006 because of its serious side effects, including death. So, really interesting to have that criticism of the President.

And on that note to Chris Cuomo, I'd like to redirect him to his brother, the Governor of New York, Governor Cuomo, who has several on-the-record statements about hydroxychloroquine, saying, "I'm an optimist. I'm hopeful about the drug, and that's why we'll try it here in New York as soon as we get it. There has been anecdotal evidence that it's promising. That's why we're going ahead." And I have about eight other quotes from Governor Cuomo should any of you have interest in that.

Q Kayleigh, what you just cited are studies though. They're are trials that are in their early phases. Do you have any evidence that thousands of frontline workers are currently using it because they believe it actually will prevent them from getting COVID-19?

MS. MCENANY: So the FDA -- the FDA has approved this for off-label use. You know, this President is a big believer in Right to Try legislation, people who are on their last --

Q But any proof of thousands of workers using it?

MS. MCENANY: There are several studies that have been brought up, that the President has actually mentioned, that I'd refer you to. There was one out of France -- a French study involving more than 1,000 patients that found that the vast majority had, quote, "good clinical outcomes." And by the vast majority, that was more than 90 percent.

There was an Italian study of more than 65,000 patients that demonstrated only 20 tested positive of those who are taking it prophylactically. And a South Korea study, as well. So there are several studies.

And if you're someone out there -- and this is a safe drug to use -- and your doctor -- importantly to underscore that -- and your doctor prescribes it for your use as a prophylaxis or after coming into contact with COVID, then it's something you should take if it's prescribed by the doctor and that's your personal medical choice.

Yes.

Q Kayleigh, Governor DeSantis just suggested that the President may be going down to Florida for the SpaceX NASA launch next week. Is that accurate?

MS. MCENANY: So we have no news on scheduling at that front. But if I -- if I get news in the future, I will certainly provide that for you.

Yes, Jeff.

Q Kayleigh, how often does the President talk to Director Vought -- or Acting Director Vought from the OMB?

MS. MCENANY: To who?

Q To the Acting Director of OMB.

MS. MCENANY: Often. He just was in the Oval Office with the President, so they do speak often. I don't have a readout of the President's schedule, but they do speak regularly.

Q So if he wanted to flag to him his concerns about Michigan, why didn't he just tell him instead of sending a tweet?

MS. MCENANY: Because the President believes in unprecedented transparency. And I'm sure you, as a journalist, are very eager and excited when you learn about the President's decision-making process in real time, whether that's on Twitter or from me here up at the podium.

Q But you just said that was -- that was the reasoning for him expressing his concerns?

MS. MCENANY: I didn't say that was the reasoning, but I'm saying this a transparent President. And I think that that's something that you should be lauding rather than questioning as to why he decided to tweet this.

Q Do you -- apart from President Macron, do you have any other answers from G7 leaders that they are willing -- definitely willing to come here?

MS. MCENANY: So I won't get into the President's private conversations and correspondences with world leaders, but we do hope to see this happen. We hope that --

Q What response -- how can you characterize the response: as being great, as a good idea, or thinking about it?

MS. MCENANY: So I don't have any information about the response from world leaders, but we certainly hope to see this happen.

Yes.

Q Yes, thank you. Could you clarify, please, President Trump's comments about saying that it was a good idea -- it was good that there were so many positive tests for COVID-19? Whereas, a lot of people look at that and say that this was actually terrible that we have actually one third of all the cases in the world.

MS. MCENANY: Well, look, I would note this: That, the President, what he was saying there is that we are testing. When you have more cases, in order to identify those cases, you have to have tested a high volume of people. So, the more you test, the more cases numerically -- not necessarily as a percent positive, but numerically -- you will see just by volume -- sheer volume of your testing.

And the President has done an extraordinary job on this front. Washington Post surveyed governors' offices and state health departments and found that at least a dozen states have testing capacity that outstrips the supply of patients. That's a very good job done by our federal government in supporting the states. To cite the Governor of New York, again, quote, "We have more sites and more testing capacity than we're using." So we're testing a lot, and thus we're finding a number of cases.

But as we safely reopen, we do have some encouraging numbers on that front: that we continue to see a week-over-week decline, a 15 percent decline in deaths in just the last week. April 1st to

mid-May, 50 percent decline in new hospitalization, and under 25,000 cases today. So we are seeing progress.

Yes.

Q Kayleigh, can you tell us what law, specifically, the President thinks the Secretary of State in Michigan broke by sending out the applications? And did the Secretary of State in Georgia also break that law by sending out applications for their primary?

MS. MCENANY: Again, I'd reference you to the campaign. These are ballot questions, and I reference you to the campaign on that.

Q But he is the President and you're his spokesperson.

MS. MCENANY: That's my former employer. My current employer is the White House. So, thank you.

Q Yes, but --

MS. MCENANY: Yes?

Q But that's not a campaign question. That's the President of the United States saying that a state broke the law.

MS. MCENANY: It's a campaign question on ballot initiatives --

Q It's not.

MS. MCENANY: -- that you have and absentee ballots. So I would refer you to the campaign on that front.

And I would note to you that many of those ballots that are submitted via mail can be fraudulent. I cited to you the

bipartisan study. I can read it again. Maybe you weren't paying attention when I read it the first time, so I'll read it again: President Carter -- a Democrat, not a Republican -- and James Baker concluded that these ballots remain the largest source of potential voter fraud. So if you cast a ballot via mail and you do so fraudulently, that would be an illegal act. And I'd point you to that. And for further, I'd point you to my former employer, which is the Trump campaign.

Q Is the President concerned about fraud in Georgia?

MS. MCENANY: Any other questions? Yes, sir.

Q Yes, thank you, Kayleigh. Two questions, if I may. Firstly, on airports. The TSA is reportedly considering setting up temperature checks at airports. Given the numbers of people who can be asymptomatic or sick without a fever, do you think that's sufficient? And why wasn't more done to have screening at airports sooner, particularly in light of the House Oversight investigation that called screening from international hotspots, in March, "limited and stagnant"?

MS. MCENANY: So, the President is working with TSA. He's working with airlines. We want to ensure that our TSA employees are safe, that those who are traveling are safe. And he has had those conversations, and we are keeping people safe at the TSA and the passengers as well.

Q Over 500 TSA employees have become sick, and 6 are dead. So again, you know, do you think this has been enough action and soon enough?

MS. MCENANY: We've taken action. We're working with the TSA. We're keeping America's essential workers safe. And we are praying for all of those who have been affected by coronavirus.

Q And then, on another front, I wanted to ask about the President's son and business partner, Eric Trump. He recently said of coronavirus that, quote, "The Democrats are trying to milk this," and predicted it will, quote, "magically, all of a sudden, go away and disappear and everyone will be able to reopen after the election in November." Do you think Eric Trump's comments are accurate and also appropriate?

MS. MCENANY: I think we all hope coronavirus goes away. And I think as we continue to take the President and his family out of context, we should endeavor to --

Q That was a direct quote.

MS. MCENANY: -- quote them accuracy. And I think we should all hope that the coronavirus goes --

Q Are you saying the quote was inaccurate? Because it was correct.

MS. MCENANY: We should all hope that the coronavirus goes away.

Yes.

Q Is there -- is there a timeline for when UK and European Union citizens and visitors are allowed to come back into the United States? And will all European countries be included or could it be a case-by-case basis?

MS. MCENANY: So we don't have a timeline on that just yet. I can tell you the President's preeminent concern is keeping Americans safe. His travel restrictions have saved lives, as Dr. Fauci and others have noted. So we don't have an announcement as to when we'll be rolling those back, but his priority, his number one concern is America first and the health and wellbeing of the nation first.

Yes.

Q Thanks, Kayleigh. A spokesman for Governor Whitmer said that she's been planning to meet with the President and wasn't given any invitation tomorrow. I was wondering if there's a reason why --

MS. MCENANY: That Governor Whitmer -- Whitmer said --

Q Whitmer, in Michigan, wasn't extended an invitation to the President's appearance in Michigan tomorrow. And I was wondering if there is a reason why he wasn't going to meet with her like other governors.

MS. MCENANY: I don't think there was a particular reason. I -- it didn't come up. But, you know, while I -- on that note, I would point to Governor Whitmer. It sounds like she's curious about an invitation, but she should be quite happy that thanks to this federal government, FEMA obligated more than \$216.2 million to Michigan, 8.6 million N95 respirators, 740,018 surgical masks, 311,571 face shields -- I should round these up or we'll be here all day -- 760,000 gloves, 700 ventilators.

The President has done quite a bit for Michigan. And her concern is an invitation, but she should be thanking the President for all the supplies that he's delivered to her state.

Yes.

Q Yes, Kayleigh, the President has made clear that he's concerned about liability issues as companies reopen now. Is the White House engaged with Republican senators about this issue? And would the President sign another bill -- another COVID bill without liability being addressed in that?

MS. MCENANY: So I won't lay out the President's conditions, or lack thereof, for any upcoming legislation. He has mentioned it -- that it's something that needs to be looked at closely -- and he is looking at closely, and he is discussing with members of the Hill about that. But he has made clear, in terms of a phase four, that he wants to be slow as we approach a phase four and not rush forward with spending trillions more dollars of taxpayer money.

We've done a lot so far, and he'll look at doing more in the future. And liability is definitely something that he's concerned about and working on.

Yes. Right back there.

Q One more on G7. Do you -- do you think that it would be appropriate to hold a G7 summit in the U.S. while ordinary citizens are still not allowed to travel freely, for example, from Europe?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, you know, the President wants us to start reopening. Travel restrictions are something that, you know, he wants to make sure American lives are protected before those are lifted. But that being said, I do think it's entirely appropriate, and so does the President, to have a G7 here. America is reopening; the world is reopening.

And what a show of strength and optimism to have all of the leaders of these countries come together at the White House and pursue business as usual as we move forward through this pandemic.

Is there anyone I haven't gotten to? Just -- I guess not. Okay. So we'll do -- we'll do a few more.

Q (Inaudible.)

MS. MCENANY: I had a brief answer to your question, so you go ahead.

Q Kayleigh, Susan Rice wrote an op-ed yesterday in the New York Times that said that President Trump has "kowtowed" to President Xi, and also has said that -- called his response to the coronavirus "deadly" -- classified as a deadly mishandling. What's the White House's response to that?

MS. MCENANY: So you said that that came from Susan Rice, was it?

Q Yep.

MS. MCENANY: Okay. So, first, I would want to take a moment to address the President's response, because the President has had an extraordinary and early response to the coronavirus. I would note Dr. Birx: "The early work of President Trump, both with travel restrictions and quarantine, has bought us the time and space necessary to have this task force be very effective."

Dr. Fauci saying that the President's response has been impressive. He can't imagine under any circumstance that anyone could be doing anything more.

I can go through the actions. There's a detailed timeline out there of: January 6th, Wuhan issuing a travel -- a travel notice issued on Wuhan when there were zero cases in the United States. The 17th, zero reported U.S. cases, and there were public health entry screenings at major U.S. airports. Of course, the infamous travel restrictions that were called xenophobic by Democrats on January 31st. A lot of action in February on developing a test and making sure we were moving forward as speedily as possible on that.

Keep in mind, only -- in February, Pelosi was saying, "Come to

Chinatown. It's very safe." But the President had already taken very early action.

And I know you brought up Susan Rice in that context, but I'm going to bring her up in another context that's equally as newsworthy, and that is the email that was declassified from Susan Rice on Inauguration Day, which is so peculiar.

To set the scene, it's Inauguration Day, you're moving out of the White House. This is the most powerful building on planet Earth. Susan Rice is moving out, reflecting on her time here, and what is she doing? She's not packing her boxes. She's not being nostalgic about her time in the White House. What she's doing is writing an email where three times she writes that President Obama emphasized to conduct the investigation into Michael Flynn, "by the book, by the book, by the book." She writes it three times. As Shakespeare said, "Thou doth protest too much," Susan Rice. He didn't have the Susan Rice part in there, but I'll add that in.

Two, she was asked specifically about the unmasking of Michael Flynn after she discussed it on January 5th in the Oval Office with Obama, after she wrote this email to herself on Inauguration Day. She was asked by a good journalist, Judy Woodruff, about this email and she sa- -- and about the unmasking of Michael Flynn. Not the email, but the unmasking. She was asked specifically about Nunes's claim specifically.

So let me clarify, it was Nunes's claim. And she said, "I know nothing about this, so it was a lie." And then Susan Rice -- since no one brought it up to me, I will bring it up to you. Her attorney said that this was the first opportunity, three weeks after this Oval Office meeting, that she had to write this email memorializing her Oval Office meeting with Barack Obama discussing Michael Flynn. It was her first opportunity, she said.

Ah, interesting, because she had an opportunity in those three weeks on January 10th to do a passing-of-the-baton event with none other than Michael Flynn, where she praised him, wished him success, and talked about the great transition into the White House.

And then, on January 12th, she was able to participate in a story that published on that date in the lifestyle section of the Washington Post. So she never had time to write this email until Inauguration Day, as she's rushing out the door, when, in fact, she had an opportunity to do all of those things.

I'll leave that with you. Thank you for bringing up Susan Rice, not in the context that I wish, but for allowing me to share that with you.

END

4:01 P.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2020

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY KAYLEIGH MCENANY

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

May 22, 2020

1:48 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. At my direction, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is issuing guidance for communities of faith. I want to thank Dr. Redfield and the CDC for their work on this matter and all the other work they've been doing over the past what now seems like a long period of time.

Today, I'm identifying houses of worship -- churches, synagogue, and mosques -- as essential places that provide essential services.

Some governors have deemed liquor stores and abortion clinics as

essential but have left out churches and other houses of worship. It's not right. So I'm correcting this injustice and calling houses of worship essential.

I call upon governors to allow our churches and places of worship to open right now. If there's any question, they're going to have to call me, but they're not going to be successful in that call.

These are places that hold our society together and keep our people united. The people are demanding to go to church and synagogue, go to their mosque. Many millions of Americans embrace worship as an essential part of life.

The ministers, pastors, rabbis, imams, and other faith leaders will make sure that their congregations are safe as they gather and pray. I know them well. They love their congregations. They love their people. They don't want anything bad to happen to them or to anybody else.

The governors need to do the right thing and allow these very important, essential places of faith to open right now, for this weekend. If they don't do it, I will override the governors. In America, we need more prayer, not less.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

MS. MCENANY: All right, everyone. It's a pleasure to join you today. That was a great announcement from President Trump. I'd like to introduce Dr. Birx right now. She has a wonderful presentation pursuant to reopening America, and some great data to share with you.

So I'll let her kick this off.

DR. BIRX: Thank you, Kayleigh. If we can have the first slide,

please.

I wanted to start out with a summary of the number of Americans we have lost to date. But the exciting thing for all of us is the decreasing mortality over time, and I think it both is a real aspect of the amazing healthcare workers on the frontline, the ability of people to share at the frontline how best to care for the patients and the continuous decrease in mortality over time.

Next slide.

The other thing that has decreased significantly over the last month is new hospitalizations. We can see now that there's over a 50 percent decline in new hospitalizations. Although every region of the country is different, we are encouraged to see these new hospitalizations declining.

Next slide.

I've talked before about the extensive surveillance that CDC has made available to this country. This is looking at their syndromic surveillance from emergency rooms. You can see that both COVID-like illnesses shown in the orange, and shown in the blue, influenza-like illness -- taking up both of those cases together -- you can see significant declines week over week of number of people coming to the emergency room with these illnesses. That goes along with our new hospitalizations.

What we like to do is triangulate data, put data together from multiple sources, to see if we're seeing the same trends so that we can ensure that we're making progress together.

Next slide.

This is their influenza-like illness surveillance system that has been up and running for more than a decade now. You can see each

of the influenza peaks of this last year. I think that's very important to remind people of because we had influenza A, influenza B, and then we had COVID-like illness. And while we know it's COVID -- that's the last orange peak -- what we really find encouraging is, across the country, we are below baseline. Why is that particularly important? Now, these are reported state by state, county by county. So each county will be able to see precisely where they are. And then if there is changes in this, it becomes yet again an early alert system.

So I've showed you two early alert systems: one of them emergency rooms visits based on our syndromic illness qualifications that the CDC has up on their website, and then the influenza-like illness. And again, to the American people, all of these are available on the CDC website under "COVID-19 Cases and Surveillance."

Next slide.

Now, I want to show you -- I'm going to go through these very quickly. This is where we started; this is influenza-like illness, the red. And the darker the red, the more significant the influenza-like illness is in that state. So you want to get to green.

So this is the week ending March 28th. I think many of us can remember what that week was, and this was when we were at the very beginning of our acceleration into logarithmic phase.

Next slide.

This is April 4th. You're starting to see some of the states already turn green.

Next slide. April 11th, more of the country. Next slide. April 18th. Next slide. April 25th.

Next slide. May 2nd. And you can see -- and I really call your attention to -- there's a orange area on this slide, and you can see that it's the Maryland area, and we've been calling that out for a while, the high plateau in Maryland. You can also see Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Next slide.

And then you can see Wisconsin still. You can see Maryland is yellow.

Next slide.

And I want to turn just a moment, and I know that took you through a lot of slides quickly, but I think we can see, as a country, we have decreasing amount of illness, both at the emergency room and reported through the influenza-like illness. Two of the surveillance systems at the CDC has up and running. These come from the states; they come from the counties. And many of the states have these also on their websites.

We talked earlier about how we had prioritized testing to the area that had the most significant disease. And you can see now Rhode Island has led all of the states. It's almost up to testing 12 percent of all of their citizens. It's followed by New York, and you can't see New York, but that's the very next one. New York and then North Dakota. And so you can see that. Well, you could.

Yeah, you could see that most of the high-burden areas of the United States had more than 6 percent testing. That's when I think you heard from Admiral Giroir we wanted every state to test at least 2 percent of their population during May. You can see 100 percent of the states now are over 2 percent of their

population. And we'll fix this slide so you can see every state, but many of the states now are over 4 percent. And this is just after getting all the materials to ensure that they have adequate transport media and swabs.

So we're encouraged by the progress that many of the governors and states have made in their testing of their population. It is also why we took the opportunity to really encourage governors, and it was to encourage governors to test 100 percent of the nursing home residents and staff, because many of our outbreaks that we have seen over the last two months have started in nursing homes.

Next slide.

Now, this is a complicated slide, but this is trying to show you how we triangulate data. So I took you through our surveillance systems. I'm taking you now into the start of how we use laboratory data to really understand what's happening, both in the metros and at the state level.

This is every single state. And you can see the triangles -- the top part that you can see, the little triangle-ly pieces or the diamonds -- that is where the states were in the number of positive tests. This is the nucleic acid test. This is diagnosing virus in your nose. You can see where it was 30 days ago and where it is now, by the red squares.

You can see a dramatic decline across the states. And indeed, New York City, just six weeks ago, was almost 40 percent. It is now, for the first time, as a New York -- as a New York State, under 10 percent.

And so this is the progress that we're making in both expanding testing, finding more people, but ensuring that we're getting testing rates of about 10 percent. This line is 10 percent. So

42 states are -- now have less than 10 percent test positive on a rolling seven-day average.

Now, again, I'm going to call your attention to the top three states -- the top three states with the largest percent. And this is so you can all make your decisions about going outside and social distancing, potentially playing golf, if you're very careful and you don't touch the flags and all of those issues; playing tennis with marked balls with just one other person so you're only touching your ball. We found, really, people who enjoy sports have been able to really adjust to social distancing.

But you can see the top three states are Maryland, the District, and Virginia. And so there is still significant virus circulating here. That is followed by Nebraska, Illinois -- because of Chicago -- and what we've talked about before about Minnesota. So those are our top states as far as still having high number of test positives.

When I say high number of test positives, they're all under 20 percent. If I had shown you this slide four weeks ago, half of the country would have been over 20 percent. So this also shows progress, but also very clearly about the region we're living in right now with disease.

Next slide.

Now, I wanted you to see this as a metro, because that's as a state level. So we look at this in multiple different ways. The number one metro with the highest positivity rate is the District of Columbia, which includes Northern Virginia and Maryland -- Montgomery County and PG County. That is followed by Baltimore, Chicago, and Minneapolis. And so these are the places where we have seen really a stalling or an increase of cases, as in Minneapolis.

You can see all the other metros -- all the other metros are almost all exclusively below 10 percent. So we see this as great progress across the board in the metro areas.

Next slide.

So we also look at daily cases and daily case numbers. And I know that you all know that that's a very erratic -- and it depends sometimes on how the tests were reported, how the cases were reported, and so you often have to look at it over a three- or seven-day period. This is looking at daily cases on a seven-day rolling average. You can see the number one -- the top peak that has now come down dramatically -- is the New York metro area.

Underneath that, you can see our concerns about Chicago and our concern in the yellow line of the Washington, D.C. area, because these are two areas that went through the logarithmic phase and are now at a high plateau with an unchanging number of cases day over day. That's the orange line and the yellow line.

You can see that the daily case numbers, per hundred thousand, are below the yellow line and the orange line of Washington, D.C. and Chicago. And that's New York, Boston, and many of the others. Providence is also up as a per hundred thousand. And that's the way we like to look at it, because we can really then understand it in relationship to population.

The other groups that have very low levels that once had a peak -- this is Detroit, a very low level now. This is Boston in the gray, which has come way down also. And you can see down here is Atlanta and Miami.

Next slide.

Now, sometimes, and I think recently, there have been publications about where the world was before we started the Stop the Spread and before many states shut down. And to just to take you back to that moment: On March 14th, before Stop the Spread, this is showing New York. I didn't even put March 14th on there because New York, on March 14th, had less than 50 cases reported. Chicago had less than 10. Washington had less than 10. LA had less than 20. The large state, at that time, that had a significant number of cases was the Washington area -- Washington State, which had 100 cases.

On March 14th, we had about 500 cases distributed around the United States, not in any dramatic hotspot per se, but the majority of those cases and the hotspot at that moment was Washington State. This is how the New York metro area, which includes obviously northern New Jersey, northern parts of Pennsylvania, parts of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and the dramatic decline that they've had in the number of cases. And I know you know that also mortality has started to decrease in that northern New Jersey and New York area.

Next slide.

But I wanted you to see how we bring all this information together on a daily basis. The red line in this graphic are the emergency room visits. So those are the syndromic visits that I discussed with you at the beginning. The blue line is the test positive. And again, it's very erratic because of the reporting of when cases sometimes from the entire weekend are added on a Monday morning. And then you can see the actual case numbers in the black bars.

And so that's how we bring everything together. And what we want to see is all of the -- all of the items trending down. We want to see the number of positives that you find, because we really have states now looking for asymptomatic cases. So we want to

ensure that both asymptomatic cases, symptomatic cases are all declining as shown in the blue line; that emergency room visits are declining; and the actual case numbers are declining together. And of course, then there's mortality behind that in the green lines that are -- green bars that are hard for you to see.

Next slide.

But this is the Washington area. And so that's why I wanted you to see that contrast. You can see there's not been that dramatic decline in the blue line. There's not been that dramatic decline in the black bars of cases. And there's not been a dramatic decline in the emergency room visits with COVID-like illnesses.

So even though Washington has remained closed, LA has remained closed, Chicago has remained closed, we still see these ongoing cases. And I've asked the CDC, and the CDC is working with the local areas in Chicago, in this area, and LA to really understand where are these new cases coming from and what do we need to do to prevent them in the future.

Next slide.

This is Chicago. Again, just to show you going up into this high plateau that has been fairly persistent.

Next slide.

And this is Los Angeles. So you can get a flavor of where we have concerns, of where cities have remained closed and metros that have remained closed but have still persistent high number of cases.

Next slide.

So then I wanted to talk to you about outbreaks, because throughout this all, there's been a large part of America that has been -- and many states -- that have been really finding their outbreaks, containing those outbreaks by testing everyone, and doing contact tracing, and then stopping them and stopping those outbreaks in their tracks, what we have been talking about everybody being able to do across the United States.

And so this illustrates the counties that have had 100 percent increase in new cases over the last few days -- over the last three days.

Now, the reason I wanted to show this is because I see more and more graphics out there that talk about cases going up versus cases going down.

Just to give you an example of Wyoming -- and I think many of the groups now have Wyoming as a red state of cases going up. Wyoming, three days ago, had five cases confirmed and today had -- yesterday had nine. So they qualify, almost, and show up as this large increase. We -- it's a good alert for us. We immediately look and look and see what exactly is happening at the state website.

But you can see, when you have very low number of cases, you can have a doubling from 5 to 10 number of cases and show up as 100 percent increase. And so each of these have to be investigated separately to really understand what this is. It is the way we find outbreaks in prisons. It's the way we have been finding outbreaks in nursing homes. And we have this graphic. It goes through all of the counties as well as -- next slide.

So this is one state's analysis. And what they have shown -- and they have been able to find each of their outbreaks, contain every one of their outbreaks, close those outbreaks, and call them closed cases.

In this case, the dark blue is community spread. The rest of it, 50 percent of their cases, have been coming from outbreaks that they've been able to contain.

The largest group in this is meatpacking plants. And what they've been doing is going in and testing 100 percent of the individuals in the meatpacking plant, and also finding 100 percent of the individuals that are associated with those individuals in the meatpacking plant. They've been able to go into group housing, social gatherings.

So just as we discuss all of this, and when you go out for this weekend, Memorial Day, and you want to do some kind of social gathering, it's very important to maintain that six-foot distance and very important to have your mask with you in case that six feet distance cannot be maintained.

But it also talks about long-term care facilities. Now, interestingly enough, 50 percent of their total cases, since they've been tracking, came from these outbreaks. Almost 70-plus percent -- 76 of all their mortality, though, came from these outbreaks.

And this is why we have been really pushing both in the original Opening up America Again, in the testing blueprint. We talk about proactive surveillance, proactive monitoring and testing in areas that you know are particularly susceptible to outbreaks.

Every state has this knowledge now and this type of analysis. And so when they have these kinds of analysis, what we're asking them to do is proactively go and test everyone in meatpacking plants, to proactively go and test 100 percent of the residents and workers, and then a follow-up of the workers in every single long-term care facility.

And this is to find the asymptomatic cases. I know CDC yesterday released that they thought 35 percent. We started with the understanding that we thought it was around 11 to 15 percent, based on the experience with one of the Princesses. But now we know it's at least 35. It may be greater than that because it may be so age dependent that there may be a lot of people under 30 that have the virus and are shedding the virus and aren't aware that they have the virus. And so, proactive monitoring, proactive testing will become absolutely critical to find these asymptomatic cases.

Next slide.

So this is my last slide. And this is just to show you what an outbreak looks like. So if you look at this axis, it's normalized through 100,000 population. But you can see -- this is what we want to see. We want to see very low case number. We want to see that they've identified an outbreak, they tested 100 percent, they've contained 100 percent, and then they don't find any more cases.

And so this is what's happening across the country, county by county -- this is a county map -- to really show you the work that's going on. And since the last two months, we've gone from, I think, less than 4,000 contact tracers to nearly 50,000 contact tracers. And this is what's been happening behind the scenes.

But I really want to applaud the governors and state and health and local -- the health -- the health commissioners and the local health departments who have really been working quietly, in an unassuming way, to really find these cases, track these cases, isolate these cases, and ensure there's no additional spread. And you can see, in many of these instances, they've gone more than two weeks without any additional spread.

And so this is what we are hoping goes across the United

States. Now, we all have to admit, it's going to be much more difficult in metro areas because you have to really identify where are those asymptomatic cases and how will you find them. And it's why there's been a lot of additional resources go in -- going into disadvantaged areas, into the federal community clinics to be able to proactively be able to test for this virus and find asymptomatic individuals.

When someone gets sick with COVID -- excuse me -- when someone gets sick with COVID, you've -- you've heard the cases; some of them have very high fevers, and so they're not out walking around. So they may have been shedding virus for one or two days before they got significantly ill and they had to be in bed because they felt so terrible.

Now, think of that. They were maybe out two days. And so if they're 50 percent of the cases, they're only out for two of the days that they may be spreading virus. An asymptomatic individual that doesn't know they have COVID, they may be spreading and shedding the entire time that they're in the community. So instead of two days, it may be six days or it may be seven days.

And so when we talk about proportions, 35 percent that are asymptomatic, that are out in the community, is very -- is much more opportunity for transmission than someone who is getting sick and is only out in the community for two days. And so we know we have to find both, and we've been working with states about what proactive surveillance would look like in this case to find people who are asymptomatic.

But it's also why we continue to recommend to the public, very clearly, that you can't tell who's infected. And so that's why you have to continue to social distance, that why -- that's why you need to continue to maintain six feet apart.

I remember in the early days of HIV, people told me all the time that they could -- they knew who was infected. And I would say, "You don't know who's infected. I could be infected. You're just saying you don't think I'm infected because I look healthy." There's a lot of healthy people out there with COVID that look healthy.

And so we're asking continuously for you all to be outside, to enjoy your Memorial Day weekend, to play golf, to hike, as Dr. Fauci said, to play tennis with marked balls, and to be out with your families that you have been in the household with, and to even consider sharing social distance space, as long as you have utensils that are -- belong to individuals and that maybe can be thrown out immediately. There's a lot of things to think through. I know you can do this. I know the American people can do it.

And so, please, as you go out this weekend, understand you can go out. You can be outside. You can play golf. You can play tennis with marked balls. You can go to the beaches if you stay six feet apart. But remember that that is your space, and that's the space that you need to protect and ensure that your social distanced from others. Thank you.

Q Dr. Birx?

MS. MCENANY: I want to start by -- Dr. Birx, if I could have you stay here for just a moment or two. Zeke, I believe you emailed me a question about nursing homes and testing this morning. If you want to ask it, I'll have Dr. Birx give you an answer.

Q Kayleigh, that would be great. Thank you. Dr. Birx, last week -- or two weeks ago, you and the Vice President told governors you wanted 100 percent of nursing home residents and staff tested within two weeks. Most states aren't going to meet that. Some, two weeks later, haven't even started to try, saying

it's impractical and unfeasible. Are you disappointed? And also, what are the consequences of that inaction?

DR. BIRX: No -- I know many of you don't know me. I'm a very aspirational and hopeful person that likes to put out challenges, because I think that's what needs to be done. You know we've had it in the Open Up America guidance where we asked them to test all the nursing homes and nursing home residents and workers. We know that that group is very susceptible and has significant mortality. And so we continue to ask the -- ask the states.

We always look at the side of the ones who haven't been able to get it done. There are some that are getting it done. And I think what we will learn is, from those who are able to get it done, how to do this more efficiently and effectively so that we can work together to ensure that not only we have the baseline testing, but we continuously test the workers within the homes to prevent any asymptomatic spread back to the residents once we show they're negative.

We only have a million nursing home residents. We're testing way over a million people per week, getting closer to two -- over 2 million people a week. So over that 4 million per two weeks, I was hoping that a million of those could be our nursing home residents.

I think week over week, as we see testing expand, it's not going to just be -- and it's why I keep coming back to this -- it's not -- it's not the number of people you have tested. We see this all the time with other diseases. We have a lot of worried well that will come back frequently to get tested.

We want to test, and we want states testing in areas where we know there's higher vulnerability to, susceptibility to worse outcomes, like our nursing homes; areas where we know there have been outbreaks, such as prisons, meatpacking plants, particularly

areas where people are transported to plants together or live together in a single residence or multiple residents, but there's multiple group home kind of housing situations; and among our inner cities, where we know people may have not as much access to testing. It's why money has gone to the federal clinics for testing. It's why money, and working with others, have really improved testing through the pharmacies and ensuring more accessibility.

I know it's a long answer, but we should never be discouraged by those who can't get it done. We should be encouraged by those who have shown us that it can be done.

And then on the governors calls: We have those governors present to the other governors how they did it.

Q And following up on the President's announcement regarding places of worship deemed as essential and then having them all reopen: What guidelines and encouragement do you have for pastors, rabbis, imams, as they prepare to reopen? Should -- is that appropriate nationwide right now? And what precautions do they need to follow if they're going to reopen their houses of worship?

DR. BIRX: So we -- and I've checked all 50 states have -- I've been on their website -- what their new cases were over the last 24 or 48 hours. We're trying to get every state to do by community, by zip code. So -- because I really, firmly believe a knowledgeable community can really make judgments for themselves.

I think each one of the leaders in the faith community should be in touch with their local health departments so that they can communicate to their congregants. Certainly, people that have significant comorbidities, we want them protected. I know those houses of worship want to protect them. And so really ensuring

that maybe items -- maybe they can't go this week if there's high number of COVID cases. Maybe they wait another week.

But there is a way to social distance, like you are here, in places of worship. And I think what we're trying to say with the CDC guidance is there is a way for us to work together to have social distancing and safety for people so that we decrease the amount of exposure that anyone would have to an asymptomatic. And I say it that way because I know all of you, and all of Americans, if they didn't feel well, they wouldn't go to church that day.

Q Dr. Birx?

Q Dr. Birx?

MS. MCENANY: One more for Dr. Birx. Jon.

Q Dr. Birx, could you -- could you comment on the latest study on hydroxychloroquine? There's this Lancet study that suggests, again, that the drug could cause heart problems and even increased mortality. The President has obviously said that he's been taking it. What's your recommendation? And what's your recommendation on using that drug as a prophylactic?

DR. BIRX: Well, first, I think the FDA has been very clear on their website about their concerns about hydroxychloroquine, particularly when it's combined with a macrolide. And I think you see that in the study, and I think the study -- although it is open label and it is -- I tell you what I take home from the Lancet study, and I hope everyone here does, in addition to what you just commented on: It clearly shows that comorbidity that puts individuals at more risk.

And I think it's one of our clearest study, because there were so many thousands -- tens of thousands of individuals involved, that

the doctors clearly annotated who had heart disease and who had obesity. And you can see dramatically the increased risk for that.

There are still controlled trials going on, both for prophylaxis and pre-exposure prophylaxis, and as well as controlled trials looking at, in a hospital setting, how these drugs do. And I think those are still pending. But I hope everyone looks at those comorbidities.

And for all of our millennials out there, they get data like this -- look at that. Go through and see if your parents or your grandparents have any of those things and make sure you're helping protect them. I'm really worried about people in my generation because we're very social at times, and we have a habit of forgetting social distancing or forgetting that glasses, and when you're eating you can't eat in a mask. So even if you're far enough apart, you have to wash every utensil, everything you touch.

I really am asking our great generation of millennials to get some YouTube videos about how to do picnics outside with your friends and still protect everyone and still ensure that there's no co-contamination of food and utensils. I think there's a way to do it, but I want it explained in a YouTube video for all of us.

Q Dr. Birx? Can I do a follow-up for Dr. Birx?

MS. MCENANY: Thank you very much, Dr. Birx. I know you need to get back work. So thank you very much.

Q Can I do a follow-up for Dr. Birx?

MS. MCENANY: You can do a follow-up with me. And -

Q Dr. Birx, is it possible to do a quick follow-up?

MS. MCENANY: Okay, you can go ahead.

But before I start my portion of the briefing, there were just a few things I wanted to note for you all, pursuant to those -- some of those very encouraging graphs we saw where the states move from red and orange to green, and we saw the United States increasingly become green.

It's encouraging to see that America is reopening alongside that with Homebase data from Homebase, noting that two thirds of America's small businesses are opening. An OpenTable study said Americans are now starting to dine out again. Another Homebase study: 67 percent of local food and drink businesses are open. Apple is saying Americans are driving and walking at near-normal levels. And Google Mobility data reflects the same.

So it's encouraging to see America start to reopen and the great work President Trump has done for the faith community going into this weekend. We have a First Amendment. It's very important that we protect that in these -- these churches, these synagogues, these mosques. They are essential. And President Trump underscored that.

And finally, before getting started, I wanted to note that the President, as you all are well aware, donates his salary to various initiatives and parts across the federal government. And this quarter he will be donating his salary to HHS, Health and Human Services, to develop new therapies for treating and preventing COVID-19 so that we can safely reopen.

Here's the check, amounted to \$100,000 that will go directly from President Trump and his paycheck that he does not take, but rather donates it to various noble initiatives, including - in honor of COVID this time, and those who have passed and the

studies underway, he'll be donating it to HHS.

And with that, I will take questions from you all.

Q Kayleigh?

MS. MCENANY: Yes.

Q Kayleigh, a couple of questions to follow up on the President's announcement. First, just to clarify, he came out and said, "I'm calling upon governors to allow churches and places of worship to open up right now." Dr. Birx just said in areas where they have high cases of COVID-19, maybe they should think about waiting a week. So which is it? And why the mixed messaging?

MS. MCENANY: That's up to the governors. As it said in our guidance, we note that while many types of gatherings are important for civic and economic wellbeing, religious worship has particularly profound significance to communities and individuals, including as a right protected by the First Amendment.

The President wants to see these communities open. Dr. Birx was integral to making these guidelines, and they lay out a pretty clear path for faith communities to reopen.

Q But, Kayleigh, the President said he's going to override the governors. Under what authority would he do that? And to your point, he said, several weeks ago, this is all up to the governors.

MS. MCENANY: Well, I think you're posing a hypothetical. And I think we can all hope that we see governors --

Q No, he said he would override the governors.

MS. MCENANY: You're posing a hypothetical though. You're assuming that governors are going to keep churches shut down, and keep mosques shut down, and keep synagogues shut down. That is a hypothetical question, and we will leave it to those faith communities to reopen.

Q The President stood there and said if governors don't listen to him, he's going to override their authority.

MS. MCENANY: And, Kristen, I think we can all -- we can all hope that, this Sunday, people are allowed to pray to their gods across this country. That's a good thing.

Q But what authority would he use to override governors?

MS. MCENANY: And I'd also note there's detailed guidance in here about the way that you can clean your facilities, promote social distancing. So this is something that we should all look at and be thankful that we are encouraging these faith communities to reopen and do so in a safe way. And we'll leave it to parishes to open in a safe fashion.

Q But just what authority was the President referencing?

MS. MCENANY: Yes.

Q Kayleigh, does the White House now support these churches that are defying governors' orders and opening up?

MS. MCENANY: The President has been very clear he wants churches to reopen. He wants them to do it safely. He wants them to do it in accordance with our guidance. It's laid out and very detailed. It's posted now, so you can all take a look through it. And he wants to see all of those churches open in a safe fashion.

Q But if a governor does not allow that, does the White House support churches defying these executive orders?

MS. MCENANY: The President has been very clear he wants to see churches reopen in accordance with his guidelines.

Q So the answer is yes?

MS. MCENANY: I just gave you an answer. The President would like churches to reopen and do it in accordance with the guidelines.

Q But just to follow up what Kristen asked, what specific provision of federal law allows the President to override a governor's decision?

MS. MCENANY: The President will strongly encourage every governor to allow their churches to reopen. And, boy, it's interesting to be in a room that desperately wants to seem to see these churches and houses of worship stay closed.

Q No, but the President said that he has that authority.

MS. MCENANY: Yes, Jeff.

Q Kayleigh, I object to that. I mean, I go to church. I'm dying to go back to church. The question that we're asking you and would like to have asked the President and Dr. Birx is: Is it safe? And if it's not safe, is the President trying to encourage that, or does the President agree with Dr. Birx that people should wait?

MS. MCENANY: Jeff, it is safe to reopen your churches if you do so in accordance with the guidelines, which are laid out in very stringent detail here about promoting hygiene practices -- and

there are five bullet points -- and cloth face coverings, if social distancing is not possible. It's recommended intensifying cleanings, promoting social distance. We lay them out meticulously.

So I am thankful that we have a President that celebrates the First Amendment. The same amendment that gives you all the ability to ask me questions is there to have the freedom of worship so imams and pastors can go to their churches, can go to their places of worship, and can celebrate what is a First Amendment right in this country, which is to pray to your God and to practice your faith.

Chanel.

Q And we celebrate that too. I just want to follow up by saying: We celebrate that too. Certainly First Amendment, but we're not -- but were not asking --

MS. MCENANY: And so we should be thankful that there are guidelines to allow us to reengage in that behavior.

Q We're not asking you if the President or people are allowing Americans to pray. That's not the question that people are asking here.

MS. MCENANY: To gather in their places of worship, to attend church services, to pray together. And the President has laid out a clear path. The CDC has laid out a clear path for this to take place, for our First Amendment to be exercised in a way that is safe and robust. And that is something that is a good thing, and I'm thankful that we have a President who celebrates the First Amendment and helps it to be celebrated in its fullest and most robust way possible.

Chanel.

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. I'd like to switch gears, asking about President Obama. We had a -- does the President -- would -- we had an interesting article from Joel Pollak this morning. And I would like to ask you if the President has considered pardoning President Obama for illegally wiretapping on Trump Towers, illegally spying on U.S. citizens, and other potential crimes out there. Has he considered that?

MS. MCENANY: So I have not spoken to the President about that. But who I did speak to about President Obama and unmasking Michael Flynn were the men and women in this room. I haven't spoken to him on that specific point. I have spoken to him about the matter generally. And I laid out a series of questions that any good journalist would want to answer about why people were unmasked, and all sorts of questions.

And I just wanted to follow up with you guys on that. Did anyone take it upon themselves to pose any questions about Michael Flynn and unmasking the President Obama spokesperson?

Oh, not a single journalist has posed that question. Okay.

Q But Michael Flynn's name wasn't masked.

MS. MCENANY: So I would like to --

Q Kayleigh. Kayleigh.

MS. MCENANY: -- lay out a series of questions and perhaps, if I write them out in a slide format -- maybe we're visual learners and you guys will follow up with journalistic curiosity.

So, number one, why did the Obama administration use opposition research, funded by a political organization and filled with foreign dirt, to surveil members of the Trump campaign?

Number two, why was Lieutenant General Michael Flynn unmasked -- not by the intel community entirely, but by Obama's chief of staff; by the former Vice President, Joe Biden; by Susan Rice; by the Treasury Secretary? I mean, this is extraordinary. And, you know, if they were political appointees in the Trump administration, I can guarantee you I'd have questions in my inbox right now, but apparently Obama's spokesperson does not.

Why was Flynn's identity leaked in a criminal act? It is a criminal act to leak the identity of Michael Flynn to the press, but it happened. Where are the questions to Obama's spokesperson? Because my team would be running around this building should this have happened under the Trump administration.

Why did the DOJ, Sally Yates, learn about the unmasking from President Obama? So much for going by the book, as Susan Rice said three times. "Thou doth protest too much," Susan Rice.

And then, finally, question number five: Why did James Clapper, John Brennan, Samantha Power, and Susan Rice privately admit under oath they had no evidence of collusion, while saying the opposite publicly?

It's a long weekend. You guys have three days to follow up on those questions. And I certainly hope the next time I ask, some hands go up, because Obama's spokesperson should be asked those questions because President Trump's spokespeople certainly would be.

END

2:29 P.M. EDT

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Subject: In-town pool report #1

From: Niels Lesniewski <niels@cqrollcall.com>

Date: May 21, 2020 at 11:45:20 AM EDT

Subject: In-town pool report #1

Good morning from the White House where your pooler has taken the Abbott COVID-19 diagnostic test and is now awaiting the call to gather for the president's departure on Marine One.

POTUS is scheduled to depart the White House at noon for his trip to Michigan.

--



Niels Lesniewski

Chief Correspondent, White House & Congress | CQ Roll Call

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Subject: In-town pool report #4

From: Niels Lesniewski <niels@cqrollcall.com>

Date: May 21, 2020 at 12:42:22 PM EDT

Subject: In-town pool report #4

The president just finished speaking, topics have included the withdrawal from the Open Skies treaty, the efforts to develop vaccines and therapeutics to treat COVID-19 and other matters.

"We don't want them to do mail-in ballots because it will lead to total election fraud," the president said of vote-by mail plans.

He said thought the G7 would be on, most likely at the White House, with a piece possible at Camp David.

More tk

Niels Lesniewski

Chief Correspondent, White House & Congress | CQ Roll Call

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Subject: In-town pool report #1

From: Chris Johnson <cjohnson@washblade.com>

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 8:55 AM

Subject: In-town pool report #1

Good morning from the White House!

I'll be your in-town pooler this Memorial Day. It's a cloudy 72 degrees befitting the somber holiday.

Pool this morning undertook the now customary COVID-19 test. As before, White House officials said pool will only be informed of the result if it comes out positive.

Events on the president's public schedule are the annual wreath-laying at Arlington Cemetery and a visit to Fort McHenry in Baltimore. Your pooler will let you know if anything changes.

--

Chris Johnson

Washington Blade

Chief Political & White House Reporter

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Subject: Out of town pool report #5 — listening session

From: "Stokols, Eli" <eli.stokols@latimes.com>
Date: May 21, 2020 at 3:58:51 PM EDT
Subject: **Out of town pool report #5 — listening session**

No major news from this round table (more details below), which wrapped at 3:56 p.m. — factory tour about to start — but POTUS did take a few questions at the end, even after noting he was behind schedule that “the president of Ford” was waiting for him.

Please check all quotes against transcript—

Asked by John Roberts why not ease social distancing restrictions more rapidly given that hospitals are not being overrun, Trump said it’s happening soon. “Our country’s coming back...we did the right thing, but we now want to get going...

“I think you’ll start with churches,” he continued. He blasted Democrats for keeping things closed, saying they’re “hurting their states” and suggested that voters would look at this as “a November question.”

“Next year’s going to be a big year,” he said.

Some Democrats “should be further along.” Predicting a strong economic rebound late in the year, he also said “we have a lot of ammunition left...in terms of the Fed.”

Jeff Mason also asked Trump about his threat of withholding federal funding from Michigan over voting by mail. Trump said voting by mail is “wrought with abuse” and seemed to reserve the right to withhold federal funding.

“We don’t want to have vote by mail,” Trump continued. “Now, if you’re president of the

United States and you live in Florida and you're not able to be there, you should be able to send in a ballot."

Pressed to be more specific about his threat. Trump said "I'm not going to discuss" what specific funds he could cut off.

John Roberts then asked Trump if he had a message for China about shifting its stance toward Hong Kong. He said he'd comment more another time.

Meridith McGraw then asked if FEMA was ready to address the Michigan flooding. Trump again speculated on what happened with the dams that broke, noting that the dams were "old."

Pool then ushered out.

Here is more of a rundown of the conversation from the listening session, picking up from pool note 4...

POTUS also touted the record low unemployment rate in the African-American community before the pandemic hit. He also mentioned passing criminal justice reform — a thing "nobody else could have done," he said. He also spoke about "record funding" for HBCUs (as the Backstreet Boys' "I want it that way" played on the factory sound system) and jobs created by Opportunity Zones.

"We would have lost millions of lives. We did the right thing," he said, noting that CDC "will be issuing something today or tomorrow" to help churches figure out how to open up.

At 3:10, POTUS called on Ben Carson and then others to speak.

"We've learned about sanitizing everything...social distancing...wearing masks when we can't social distance — you'll notice at this table, we are social distancing," said Carson, who sat next to POTUS, neither in a mask.

Only two of the 10 people seated around the table are wearing masks, including GOP Senate candidate John James, who spoke next after an intro from Trump. He spoke

about the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Michigan's black community and the importance of keeping manufacturing jobs in the US, praising Trump.

"Mr. President, you're moving jobs back from overseas," James told POTUS, who smiled.

"If you do come to Washington, you have my ear," Trump told James. He also said "no one knows" his opponent, Democratic Sen. Gary Peters.

Trump then called on JaRon Smith followed by State Rep. Karen Whitsett, a Democrat who he called a "highly respected" person — "I saw her story on television." Whitsett tested positive for coronavirus and later credited Trump for promoting hydroxychloroquine, which she said helped her recover from the virus.

Trump responded positively to one of her suggestions, that Detroit needs a HBCU, and asked James to work on it.

Then he called on Pastor Darrell Scott, who he credited with pushing him to re-open churches. Scott lavished Trump with praise as the most "pro-black president" he's ever seen and predicted, as The Beatles "Hey Jude" played off in the distance, that "history will treat you better than...the fake news."

"Can't be any worse," Trump said, chuckling.

Listening session wrapped a few moments later.

Seated beside the panelists along one wall: Mark Meadows and Kayleigh McEnany.

Eli Stokols

LA Times, Washington Bureau

(b) (6)(b) (6) (c)

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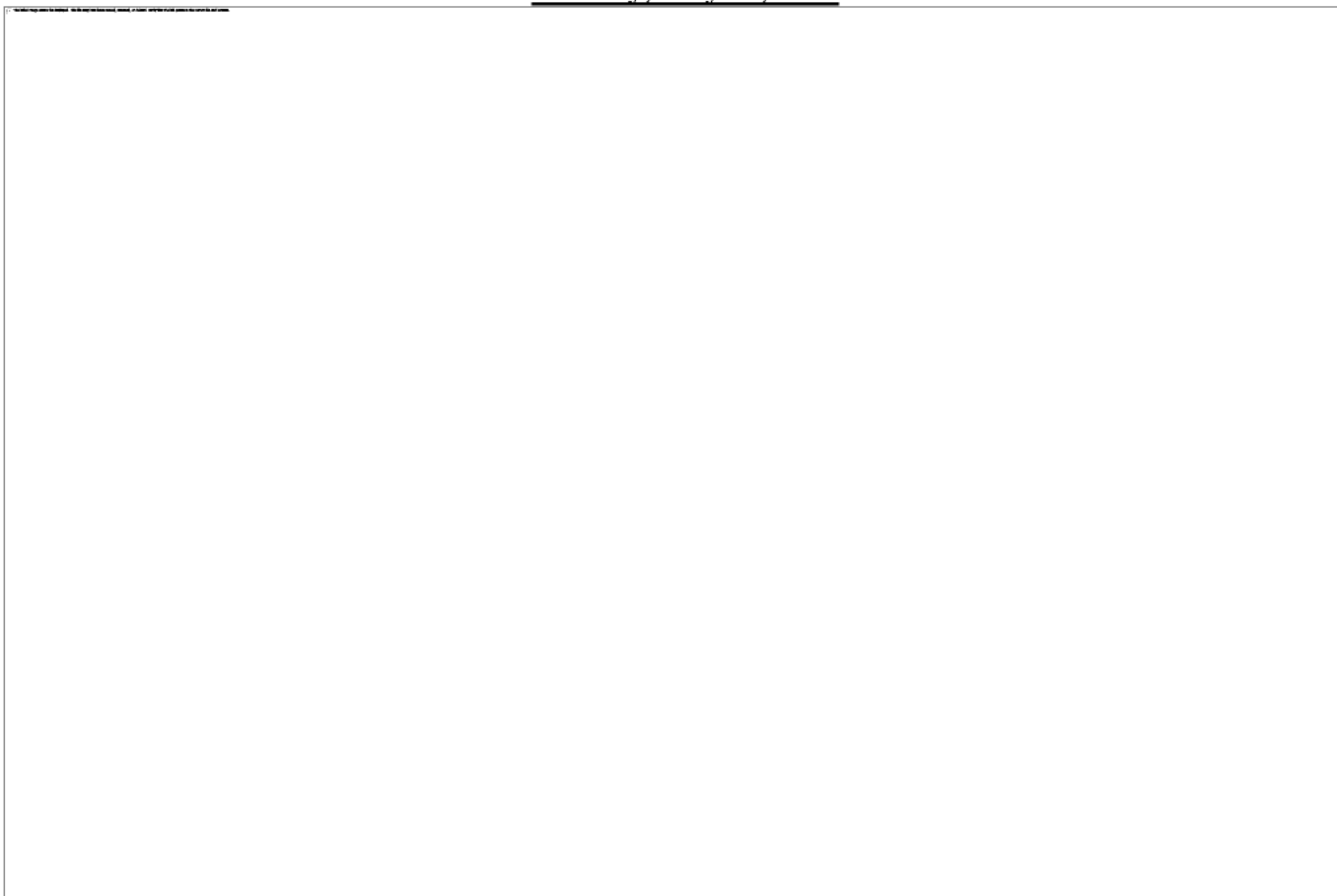
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May 23, 2020

Photos of the Week

Monday, May 18, 2020

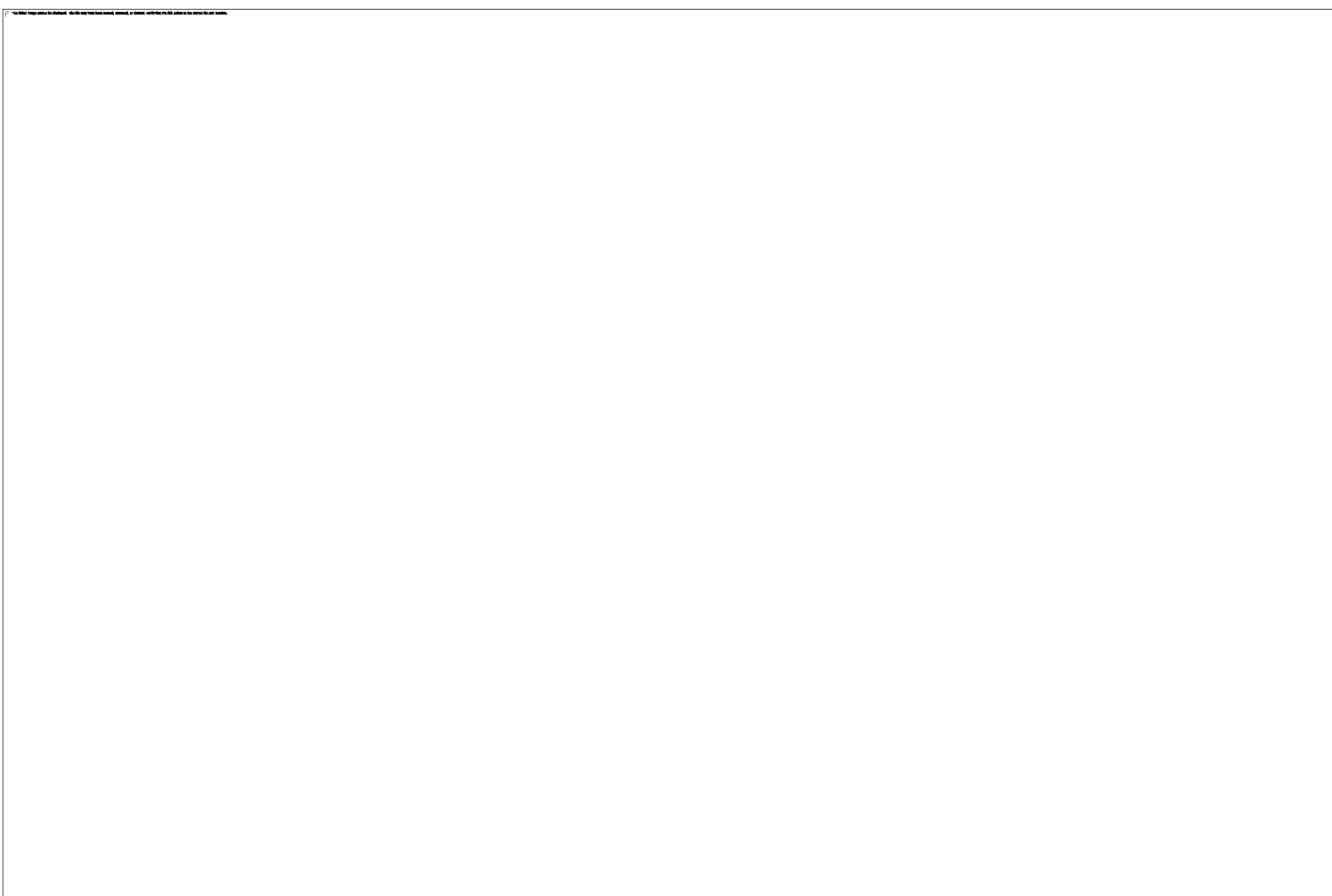


President Donald J. Trump meets with White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council Executive

Director Scott Turner, Senator Tim Scott, R-S.C., and White House senior advisors during a meeting Monday, May 18, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump and White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council Executive Director Scott Turner participate in a meeting with Senator Tim Scott, R-S.C., and White House senior advisors Monday, May 18, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump listens as Senator Tim Scott, R-S.C., delivers remarks during a meeting with White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council Executive Director Scott Turner and White House senior advisors Monday, May 18, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, participates in a roundtable meeting with restaurant executives and industry leaders Monday, May 18, 2020, in the State Dining Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



President Donald J. Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, participates in a roundtable meeting with restaurant executives and industry leaders Monday, May 18, 2020, in the State Dining Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



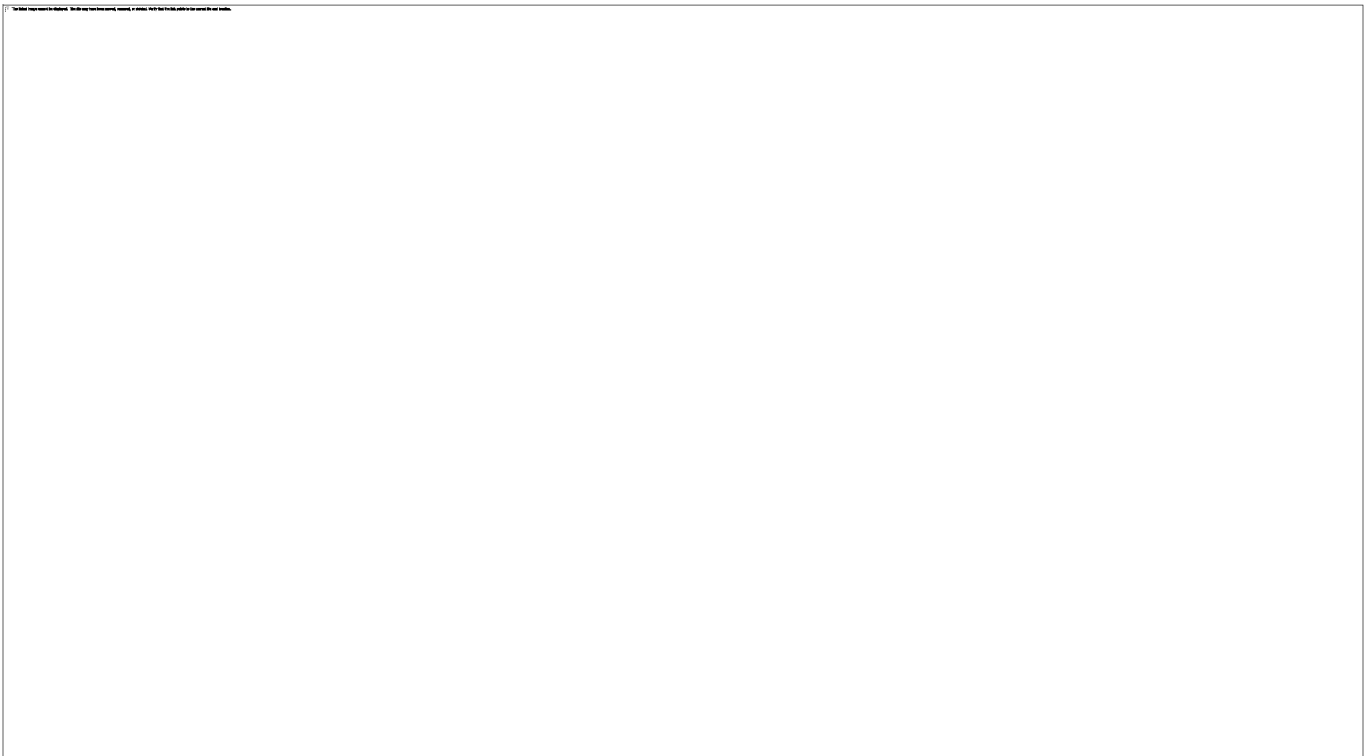
President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force listen as First Lady Melania Trump delivers remarks during a video teleconference with Governors to discuss the response to the coronavirus pandemic and ensuring the well-being of all Americans Monday, May 18, 2020, in the White House Situation Room. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



First Lady Melania Trump holds up documents from the President's coronavirus mental health guidelines during a video teleconference with Governors to discuss the response to the coronavirus pandemic and ensuring the well-being of all Americans Monday, May 18, 2020, in the White House Situation Room.
(Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force listen as First Lady Melania Trump delivers remarks during a video teleconference with Governors to discuss the response to the coronavirus pandemic and ensuring the well-being of all Americans Monday, May 18, 2020, in the White House Situation Room. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, and Vice President Mike Pence, joined by members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, participate in a video teleconference with Governors to discuss the response to the coronavirus pandemic and ensuring the well-being of all Americans Monday, May 18, 2020, in the White House Situation Room. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)

Tuesday, May 19, 2020



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks on supporting our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and the food supply chain Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump listens as Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue delivers remarks on supporting our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and the food supply chain Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump delivers remarks on supporting our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and the food supply chain Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump arrives to attend a Senate Republican policy luncheon Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump speaks to reporters after attending a Senate Republican policy luncheon Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks during a Cabinet Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



President Donald J. Trump displays his signature on an Executive Order on Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery during a Cabinet Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)



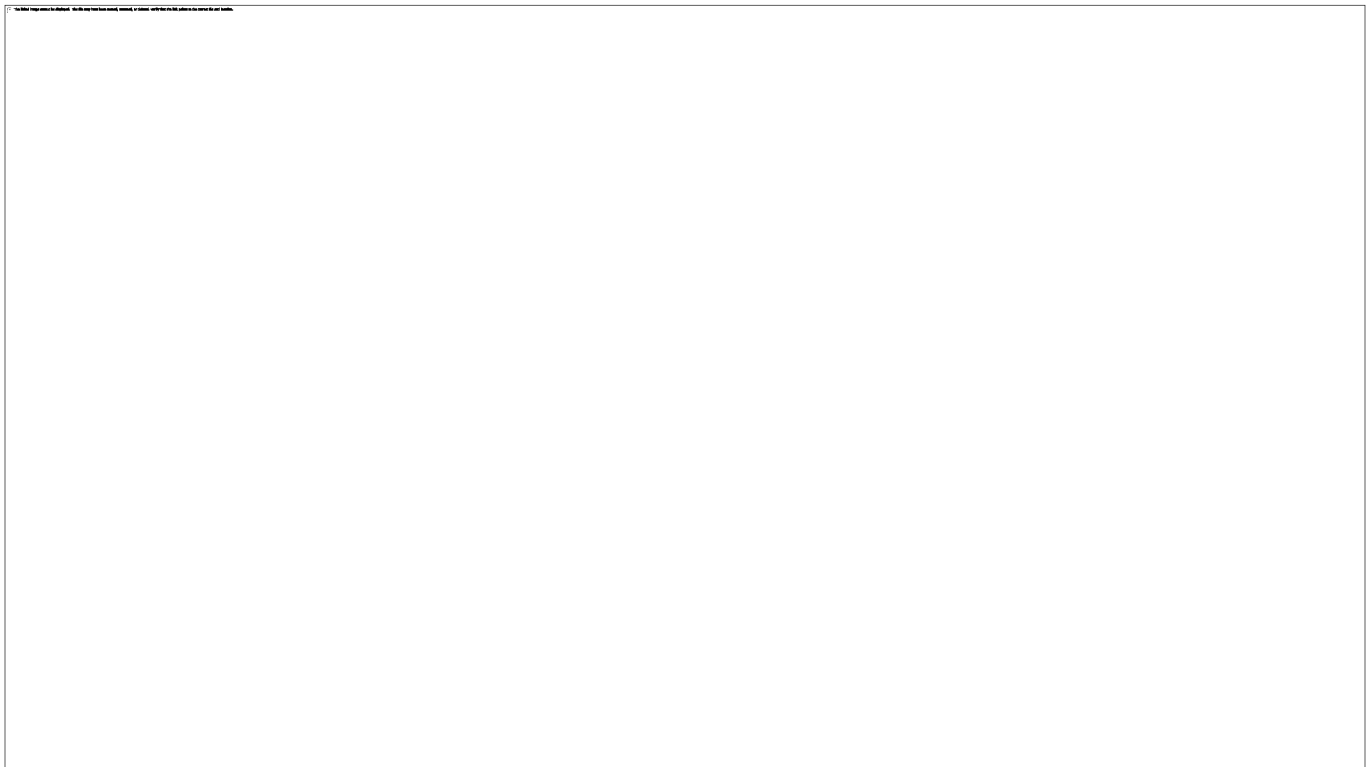
President Donald J. Trump listens as Vice President Mike Pence delivers remarks during a Cabinet Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



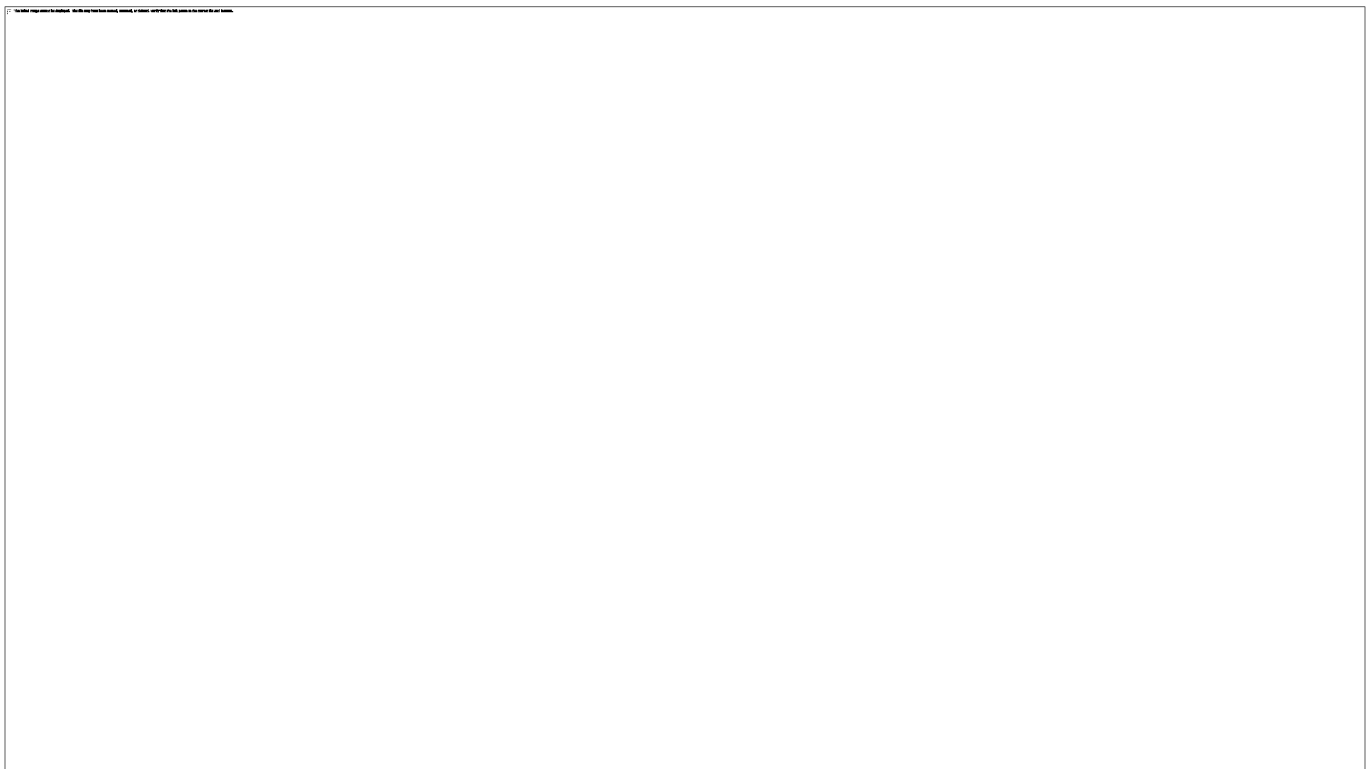
Vice President Mike Pence speaks to NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley during the 7th meeting of the National Space Council Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.
(Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



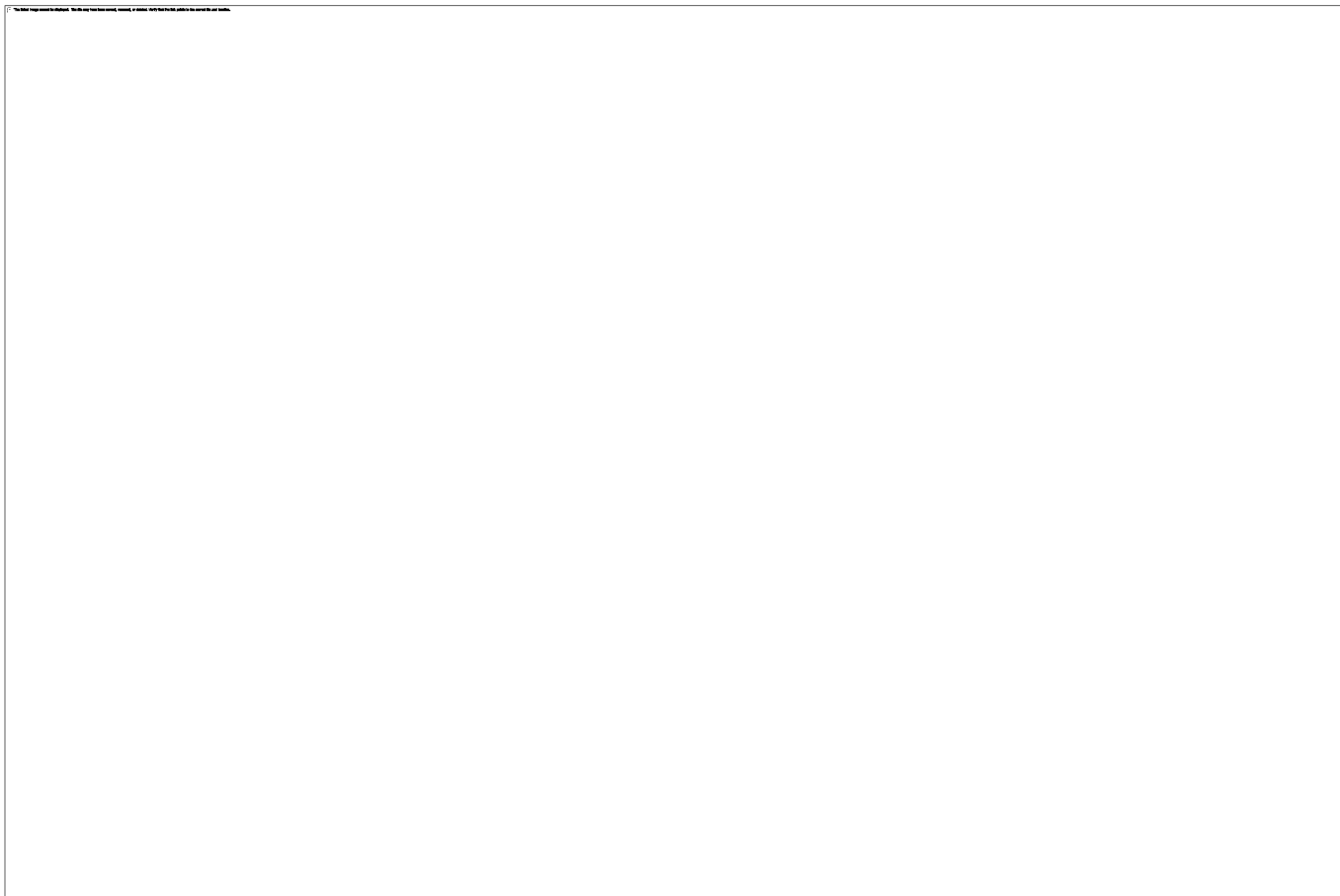
Second Lady Karen Pence, joined by Deputy Interior Secretary Katherine MacGregor, participates in the ceremonial opening of Clingmans Dome Road Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Newfound Gap, Tenn. (Official White House Photo by Amy Rossetti)



Second Lady Karen Pence participates in a hike to the Clingmans Dome Observation Tower for the safe second phase reopening of the park to the public Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Bryson City, N.C. (Official White House Photo by Amy Rossetti)



Second Lady Karen Pence, joined by Deputy Interior Secretary Katherine MacGregor and Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Cassius Cash, hikes to Clingmans Dome Observation Tower for the safe second phase reopening of the park to the public Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Bryson City, N.C. (Official White House Photo by Amy Rossetti)



Second Lady Karen Pence thanks National Park Service staff members for their dedication and service to the public during the safe second phase reopening of the parks to the public Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Gatlinburg, Tenn. (Official White House Photo by Amy Rossetti)

Wednesday, May 20, 2020



President Donald J. Trump meets with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and Kansas Governor Laura Kelly Wednesday, May 20, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump looks on as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx delivers remarks during a meeting with Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson and Kansas Governor Laura Kelly Wednesday, May 20, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



Vice President Mike Pence, joined by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Seema Verma, speaks with medical staff after delivering personal protective equipment (PPE) Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at Westminster Baldwin Park in Orlando, Fla.
(Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



Vice President Mike Pence, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, and Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia participate in a roundtable discussion with hospitality and tourism industry leaders Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, Fla. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

Thursday, May 21, 2020



President Donald J. Trump boards Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Md. Thursday, May 21, 2020, en route to Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport in Detroit, Mich. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump participates in a listening session with African American leaders Thursday, May 21, 2020, at the Ford Rawsonville Components Plant in Ypsilanti, Mich. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump participates in a listening session with African American leaders Thursday, May 21, 2020, at the Ford Rawsonville Components Plant in Ypsilanti, Mich. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump participates in a tour of the Ford Rawsonville Components Plant Thursday, May 21, 2020, in Ypsilanti, Mich. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump participates in a tour of the Ford Rawsonville Components Plant Thursday, May 21, 2020, in Ypsilanti, Mich. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump participates in a tour of the Ford Rawsonville Components Plant Thursday, May 21, 2020, in Ypsilanti, Mich. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump gives a fist pump as he arrives to deliver remarks Thursday, May 21, 2020, at the Ford Rawsonville Components Plant in Ypsilanti, Mich. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks Thursday, May 21, 2020, at the Ford Rawsonville Components Plant in Ypsilanti, Mich. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)

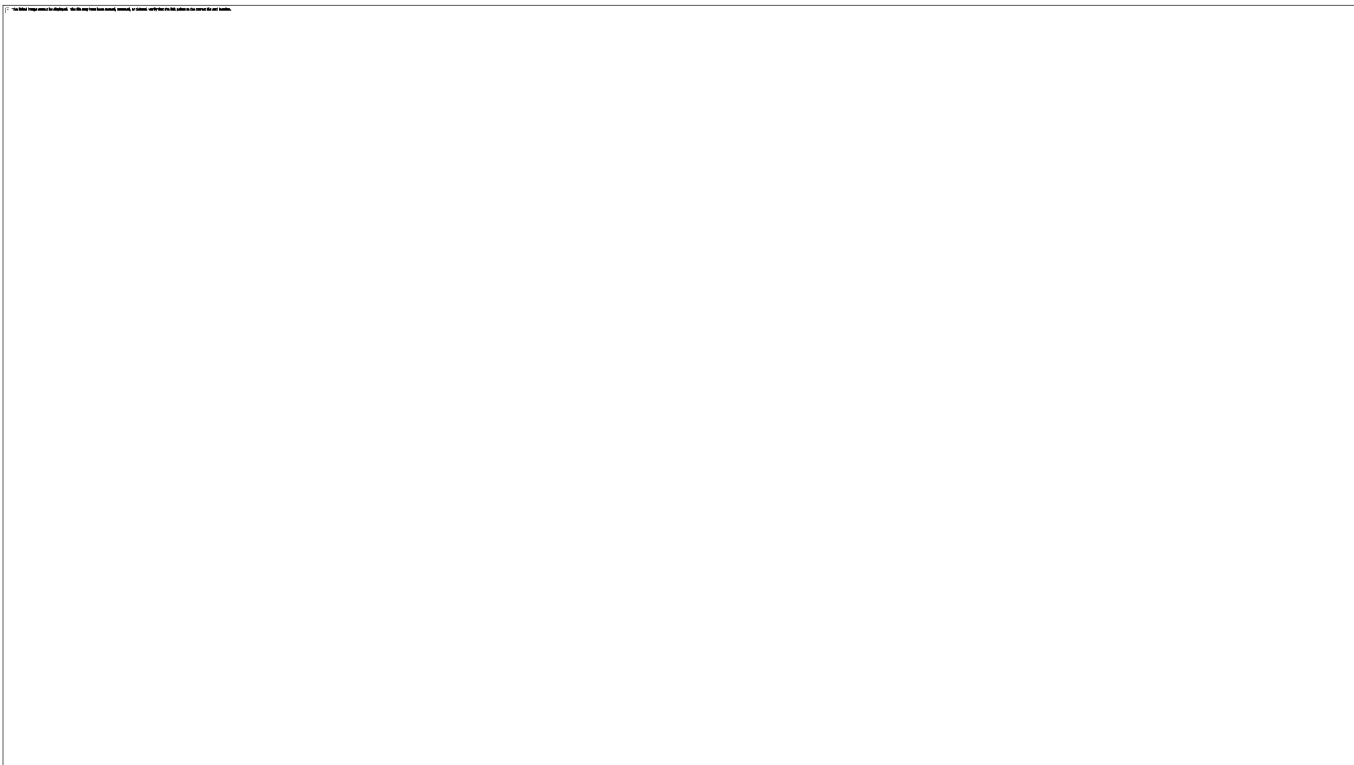


President Donald J. Trump waves to Ford employees as he delivers remarks Thursday, May 21, 2020, at the Ford Rawsonville Components Plant in Ypsilanti, Mich. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



Marine One with President Donald J. Trump aboard prepares to land on the South Lawn of the White House Thursday, May 21, 2020, returning from his trip to Michigan. (Official White House Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian)

Friday, May 22, 2020



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks during the “Rolling to Remember: Honoring Our Nation's Veterans and POW/MIA” event Friday, May 22, 2020, on the Blue Room Balcony of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks during the “Rolling to Remember: Honoring Our Nation's Veterans and POW/MIA” event Friday, May 22, 2020, on the Blue Room Balcony of the White House.
(Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



Actor Robert Patrick, joined by veterans, points to President Donald J. Trump as he delivers remarks during the “Rolling to Remember: Honoring Our Nation's Veterans and POW/MIA” event Friday, May 22, 2020, on the South Drive of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump gives a fist pump as veterans ride their motorcycles along the South Drive of the White House Friday, May 22, 2020, during the “Rolling to Remember: Honoring Our Nation's Veterans and POW/MIA” event. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks during a press briefing where he identified houses of worship as essential and called upon our Nation's Governors to open them immediately Friday, May 22, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Shealah Craighead)



White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx, joined by White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany, delivers remarks during a press briefing Friday, May 22, 2020, in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



Vice President Mike Pence, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, and Waffle House CEO Walt Ehmer pose for a photo with Leigh Rogers Slack and Joseph Rogers III, the grandchildren of Waffle House founder Joseph Rogers, Sr., Friday, May 22, 2020, at Waffle House Corporate Headquarters in Norcross, Ga. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



Vice President Mike Pence participates in a roundtable discussion with Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia, and restaurant owners and executives Friday, May 22, 2020, at Waffle House Corporate Headquarters in Norcross, Ga. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



Vice President Mike Pence boards Marine Two at Joint Base Andrews, Md. en route to the United States Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. Friday, May 22, 2020, returning from his trip to Atlanta. (Official White House Photo by D. Myles Cullen)



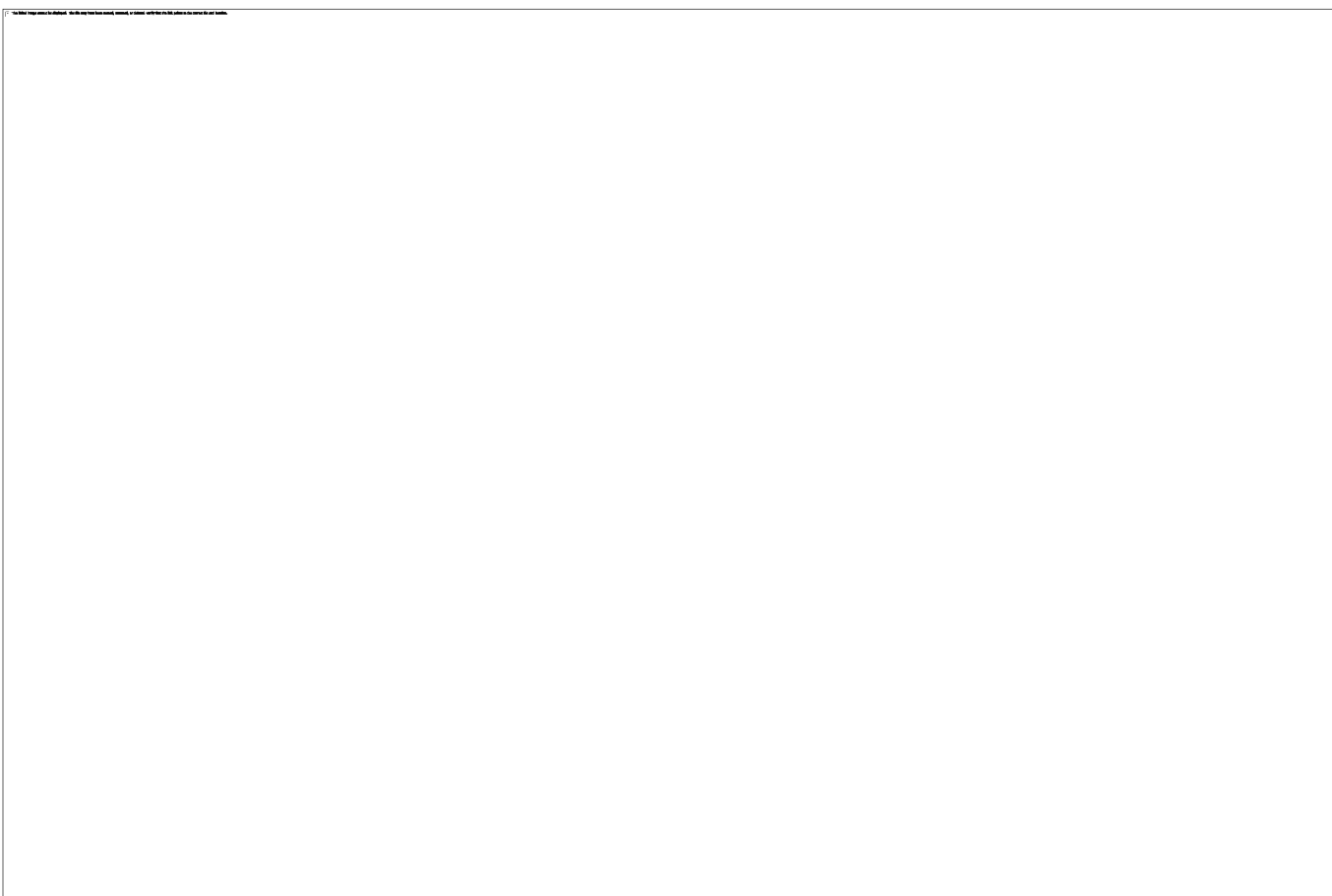
Graduates walk into the East Room of the White House to attend a commencement ceremony with President Donald J. Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos honoring the Nation's Graduating Class of 2020 Friday, May 22, 2020, at the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



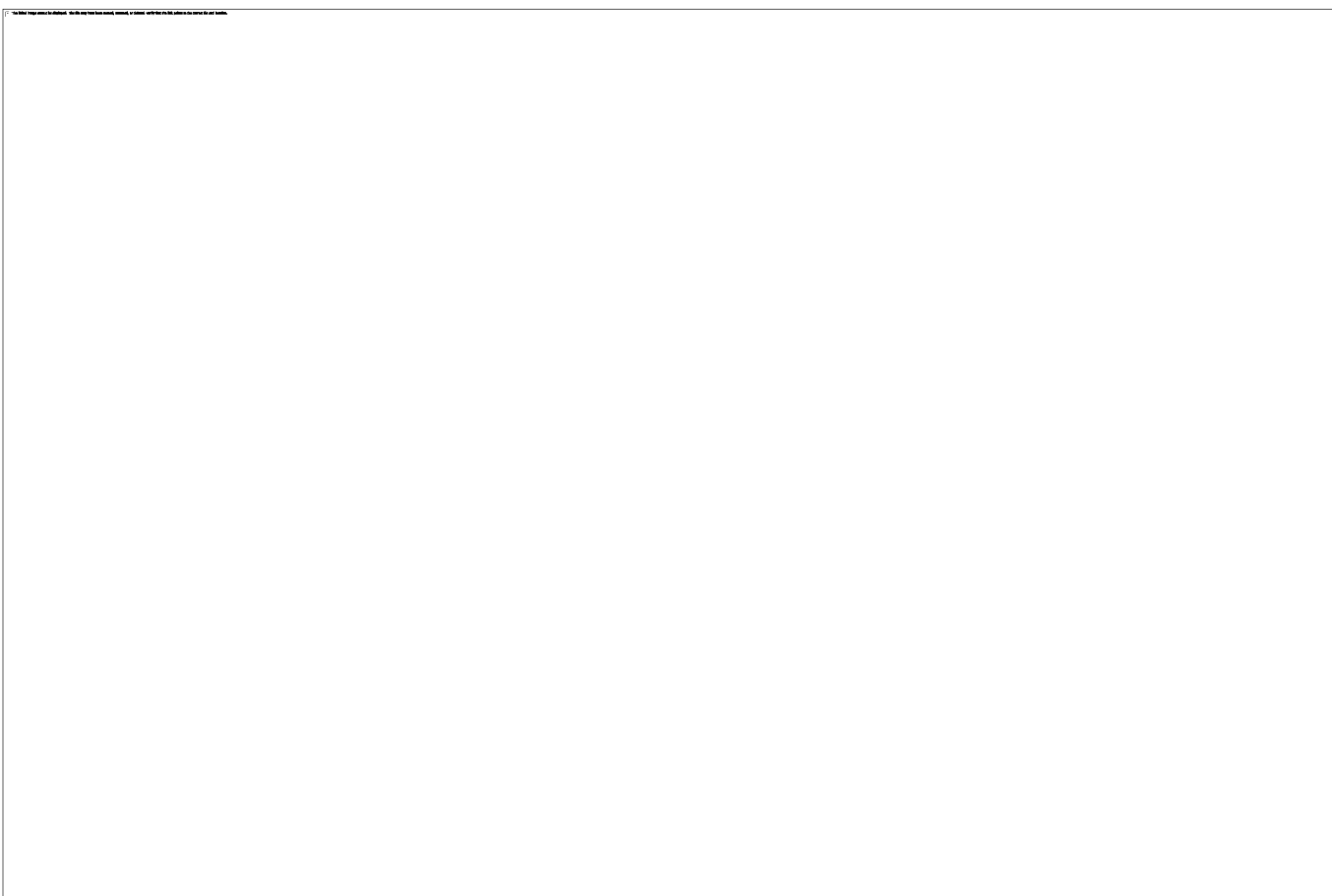
President Donald J. Trump listens as First Lady Melania Trump delivers remarks during a commencement ceremony honoring the Nation's Graduating Class of 2020 Friday, May 22, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



First Lady Melania Trump delivers remarks during a commencement ceremony honoring the Nation's Graduating Class of 2020 Friday, May 22, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump delivers a commencement address during a ceremony honoring the Nation's Graduating Class of 2020 Friday, May 22, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



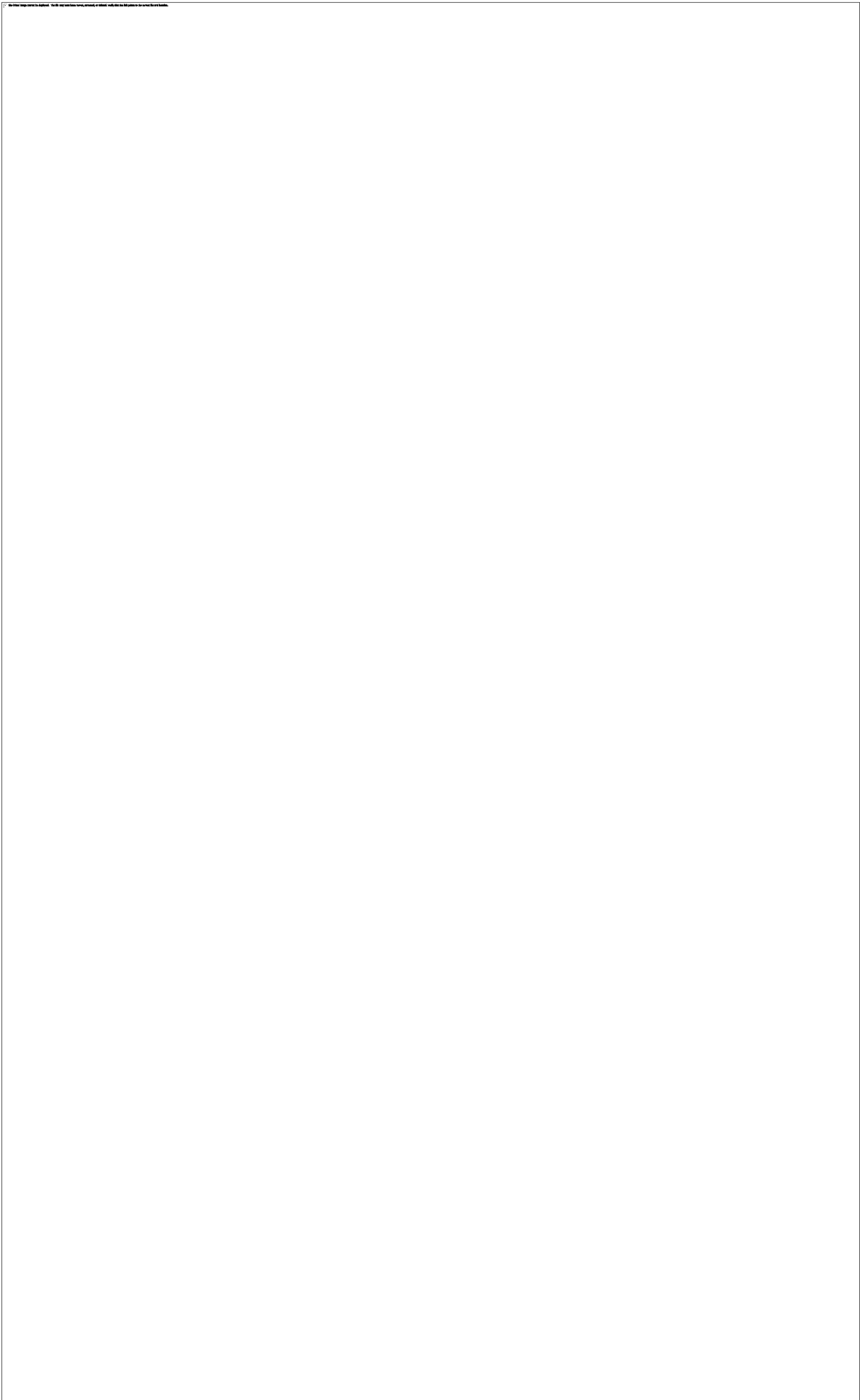
President Donald J. Trump delivers a commencement address during a ceremony honoring the Nation's Graduating Class of 2020 Friday, May 22, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



First Lady Melania Trump listens as graduates are recognized during President Donald J. Trump's commencement address honoring the Nation's Graduating Class of 2020 Friday, May 22, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump recognizes his daughter Tiffany Trump, a 2020 graduate of Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C., as he delivers a commencement address during a ceremony honoring the Nation's Graduating Class of 2020 Friday, May 22, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Donald J. Trump delivers a commencement address during a ceremony honoring the Nation's Graduating Class of 2020 Friday, May 22, 2020, in the East Room of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



Graduates from across the Nation toss their caps up in celebration after attending President Donald J. Trump's commencement ceremony honoring the Nation's Graduating Class of 2020 Friday, May 22, 2020, on the steps of the North Portico of the White House. (Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour)



The American Flag is seen flying at half-staff atop the North Portico of the White House Friday, May 22, 2020, honoring the victims of the coronavirus pandemic. (Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks)

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Subject: in-town pool report #1: good morning

From: Tessa Berenson <tessa.berenson@time.com>
Date: May 22, 2020 at 9:27:08 AM EDT
Subject: in-town pool report #1: good morning

Happy Friday from a rainy morning at the White House. I'll be your print pooler today.

The restricted in-house pool is currently receiving COVID-19 tests in lower press.

Per the daily guidance, pool is expecting to see POTUS once today, at an 11:30 am ceremony honoring veterans. Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany will then brief at 2 pm.

Pool will advise if there are any changes to the schedule, and please let me know if you have any questions throughout the day.

--

Tessa Berenson

White House Correspondent

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Subject: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany | 5/26/2020, #8



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2020

PRESS BRIEFING
BY PRESS SECRETARY KAYLEIGH MCENANY

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:11 P.M. EDT

MS. MCENANY: Hello, everyone. I hope you all had an enjoyable weekend. I have some brief announcements for you today -- just that now we have 760 sites and retail locations in 45 states, plus the District of Columbia. CVS is planning to open an additional 650 sites. These are encouraging numbers. It's, again, a testament to our private sector for all that they've done in partnering with the administration and helping to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Also skilled nursing facilities -- there was an announcement that I just want to underscore that \$4.9 billion in additional relief funds were distributed to nursing homes and other skilled nursing facilities, and these funds are provided under the CARES Act.

So just those two items for you this morning, and we'll go ahead and we'll start with questions.

John.

Q China is making more -- sending more overtures that it will crack down on Hong Kong. What's the message from the administration to the Chinese government about changing the special status of Hong Kong?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah. And I know, Jen, you also emailed a question about this this morning, so I went directly to the President to get an answer on this. And he said to me that he's displeased with China's efforts and that it's hard to see how Hong Kong can remain a financial hub if China takes over. So, that's --

Q Which means what? Would the United States change its relationship with Hong Kong?

MS. MCENANY: So I have no further announcements as to the precise action that the President will be taking, but he did want me to share that with you this morning -- this afternoon, I should say.

Yes.

Q Thanks, Kayleigh.

MS. MCENANY: Yep, no problem.

Q There's nobody over my shoulder, I realize now. We saw a lot of images over the Memorial Day weekend of people gathering and large crowds not maintaining social distancing. Those images from the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri was one example we saw all over television news.

Does the President have any concerns about those kinds of gatherings? We haven't heard any message from him addressing

that specifically.

MS. MCENANY: Well, the President, as he's noted, he wants to see society reopen, wants to see the economy reopen, but we do want to do so safely. And there are institutions that have put into place these social distancing measures, and people are making it cognizant and a part of their everyday lives.

For me, for example, I went to mass this weekend, and people were socially distanced. They were washing their hands. There are ways to do this. And the President would underscore to everyone that we should be taking into account these measures.

So, yes -- everyone, while you go out, let's keep cognizant the recommendations of the CDC because those, in the end, are very important to making sure that there is no spread of the virus.

And I would just also note one point -- I did have some updated numbers for you on reopening and what we're seeing across the country that I think are important: that 42 states are now under 10 percent in their positivity rate for the virus. Mortality is now equivalent to what we saw at the end of March. That's the lowest level in two months. So we are seeing these encouraging signs as we start to reopen.

Anyone else? Jeff.

Q Kayleigh, the President tweeted -- or retweeted something which seemed to be criticizing Joe Biden for wearing a mask over the weekend. Was that his intention? And if it was, why would he criticize that?

MS. MCENANY: I think -- look, you know, the President is excited to see that Joe emerged from the basement. It is a bit peculiar though that, in his basement, right next to his wife, he's not wearing a mask, but he's wearing one outdoors when he's socially

distanced. So I think that there was a discrepancy there.

He's not shaming anyone. As the President noted himself, he wore this mask in private at the Ford facility, and he said he's open to it if the circumstance mandates it.

Q Isn't the guidance to wear a mask when you're outside though, not when you're necessarily in your home?

MS. MCENANY: The guidance says it's recommended but not required. So it's the personal choice of the individual, but it didn't strike him as a very data-driven decision in that particular incidence.

Yes, Peter.

Q Hi, Kayleigh. Thanks. If we could just do a little housekeeping. First, we know Katie Miller tweeted that she's back at work today. Is the White House valet back at work? And has anybody else within the White House complex tested positive for the virus besides those two individuals that we learned about a couple weeks ago?

MS. MCENANY: So I don't know about the valet. I haven't inquired about that. No updates as to who's tested positive or not; that's not something I regularly keep tabs on. But Katie Miller is back at work. We're very happy to see her recovered. I spoke to her yesterday. I haven't seen her today. But she did have several negative test results before she reentered the building.

Q Would you get back to us and let us know if anybody else? People are worried about the President's safety, the Vice President's. Can you let us know that nobody else has tested positive in the two-plus weeks that have now passed since those cases?

MS. MCENANY: I can inquire about it, but it's people's personal medical decisions, so I'm not entirely sure that that would be given to me.

Q Okay. Let me follow up then, if I can. The President, in a tweet earlier today, said that he's made governors look very good by getting them what he said was "unlimited testing." That's not true. You've said that it's not even necessary. So why is the President saying that?

MS. MCENANY: He's saying -- what he means by that is that the governors requested a specific amount of testing to reopen, and he indeed has provided that. That's --

Q So it's not "unlimited testing," you would agree.

MS. MCENANY: It's what they asked for in phase one; it's the full panoply of what every governor asked for that was given to him -- given to them. And it's 300- to 400,000 tests per day that we're doing. That's a really good number.

I did talk to Admiral Giroir before coming out here, and the metric that -- if you're to believe the WHO; I don't particularly these days -- but they say it's -- a good barometer of testing is 10 percent positivity or under. And Admiral Giroir shared with me that we're nationally at 7.5 percent. So we're in a pretty good spot.

Q Kayleigh, is Stephen Miller back? Is Stephen --

MS. MCENANY: Is Stephen Miller back? Yes. I just saw him in Outer Oval, so he is back and at work.

Q And he took -- did he take some time away from the White House, though, for a while?

MS. MCENANY: He did. He did. He's self-quarantined with his wife, but they're both back at work and healthy and happy, and we're very happy to see them around.

Q Glenn Fine, at the Pentagon -- the top watchdog over at the Pentagon -- he submitted his resignation today. Can you say if that was encouraged? Did anyone ask him? And can you talk about the importance about those internal watchdogs that are in our government agencies?

MS. MCENANY: So -- you said it was Glenn Fine that was -- that's the first that I'm hearing about this.

But with regard to the other IGs, I would note that the President -- it's within his authority -- his legal and executive authority -- to appoint new IGs. And he said, I think last week at some point, that it's within the decision-making process of each entity, at the State Department and each department, whether to keep their IG or not.

And I would note that President Obama has a precedent of firing IGs as well. And there were, in fact, 47 IGs that signed a letter claiming the Obama administration hindered their efforts. So this is not without precedent when it comes to IGs.

Yes.

Q Kayleigh, is it the President's position that the Republican National Convention should go forward no matter what -- no matter what the COVID infection rate is by late August?

MS. MCENANY: The President wants to see the convention take place -- he's noted that -- and he wants to have a cooperative governor in making that pursuit happen.

That being said, of course we always assess the facts on the ground at any time, but at this moment, the President wants to see this convention take place and sees no reason not to, as the nation begins to reopen.

Q So if there was a significant spike in the cases, he would be open to the idea of a virtual convention and understanding that there couldn't be a traditional convention?

MS. MCENANY: So I won't engage on a hypothetical as to where the cases will be, but I would just note that we assess the facts on a day-by-day basis. And currently, we're coming down on, and that's really encouraging to see, and we're ready for the convention to take place.

Yes.

Q Yes, has the President seen the letter that Lori Klausutis's husband -- widower -- sent to Jack Dorsey, the Twitter CEO, saying that his tweets were "emotionally traumatic" for him and for his ex- -- his wife's family?

MS. MCENANY: I don't know if he's seen the letter, but I do know that our hearts are with Lori's family at this time.

Q Why is the President making these unfounded allegations? I mean, this is -- this is pretty nuts, isn't it? The President is accusing somebody of possible murder? The family is pleading with the President to please stop unfounded conspiracy theories. Why is he doing it?

MS. MCENANY: Well, you know, I would note that the President said this morning that this is not an original Trump thought, and it is not. In fact, in 2003, on Don Imus's show, it was Don Imus and Joe Scarborough that joked about killing an intern -- joked and laughed about it. So that was, I'm sure, pretty hurtful to

Lori's family. And Joe Scarborough himself brought this up with Don Imus, and Joe Scarborough, himself, can answer it.

Q Nor was she an intern, though.

Q But he's the President. He's the President of the United States and he's accusing somebody of possibly murder. I mean, this is different. He's -- he's not a private citizen; he's the President.

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, and Joe Scarborough -- if we want to start talking about false accusations, we have quite a few we can go through about Mika asserting --

Q No, no, I'm asking about -- I'm asking about the President's --

MS. MCENANY: -- Mika Brzezinski --

Q I'm asking about the President's allegation here, of --

MS. MCENANY: And I'm replying to you and saying, this morning, as recently -- I believe it was this morning or yesterday -- Mika accused the President of being responsible for 100,000 deaths in this country. That's incredibly irresponsible. They've dragged his family through the mud. They've made false accusations that I won't go through -- that I would not say from this podium -- against the President of the United States. And they should be held to account for their falsehoods.

Joe Scarborough should be held to account for saying people will die by taking hydroxychloroquine. Never mind the millions of Americans and people across the world who take it for rheumaty [sic] arthritis and other reasons.

There are a litany of false headlines, like Mika --

Q Does that justify the President spreading a false conspiracy theory that suggests that --

MS. MCENANY: I would point you back to --

Q -- he's responsible for murder?

MS. MCENANY: I would point you back to Joe Scarborough who laughed and joked about this item on Don Imus's show. It's Joe Scarborough that has to answer these questions.

Steven.

Q So will he apologize and will he stop, Kayleigh?

MS. MCENANY: Steven.

Q Thank you. If I could, two questions. John Ratcliffe was sworn in as intelligence director today. Has the President decided what's next for Ric Grenell in terms of an appointment?

MS. MCENANY: He hasn't, but Ric Grenell is a very valued member of this administration. He's done extraordinary work at ODNI. He has a great history. We'll see where he goes next. But just know that Ric Grenell has done an excellent job in that position; I expect that John Ratcliffe will, as he takes over.

Q And my second question, if I could: I asked the President last week, on Capitol Hill, about his involvement in FISA reform. And obviously, it's -- FISA is something he cares a lot about, but he told me that he had left it up to the senators to figure out. And, you know, it's still ongoing, this process. The House has to pass the legislation that the Senate passed and send it. Senators tried and failed by just one vote

to ban the warrantless collection of Internet records.

So I'm wondering now, how the President -- if you could describe a little more about how the President sees himself as part of this debate and whether he might intervene at some point going forward.

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, it's very personal to the President when it comes with FI- -- comes to FISA. This is an important tool in the intelligence community; he knows that. But he also knows that it was used and abused and politicized.

The fact that you had 29 members of the Obama administration -- 29 individuals of the intel community and Obama administration unmasking dozens of times, using these tools that are so much power to spy on an American citizen, to listen to their phone calls, to unmask their names. We have a Fourth Amendment in this country; it protects the rights of Americans, but the rights were not protected when it came to President Trump and his administration and Michael Flynn, whose name was leaked in a criminal fashion to the press.

FISA was not used appropriately when a Steele dossier full of lies that was, quote, "salacious and unverified," in the words of Jim Comey, was used as the basis to get a FISA warrant and attested to as if it were truthful and a reason to spy on Carter Page. These tools were used and abused. The Fourth Amendment rights of several Americans were violated. A political campaign was spied upon.

So any FISA concerns the President has, they're real, they're personal, and they should be considered as we move forward to reauthorize this valuable tool.

Q Can I follow on that, Kayleigh --

MS. MCENANY: Sure.

Q -- if I could? Ric Grenell, as one of his last official acts, at the request of Adam Schiff, declassified transcripts of the phone calls between General Michael Flynn and Sergey Kislyak. Would President Trump encourage John Ratcliffe to facilitate the release of those transcripts?

MS. MCENANY: I haven't spoken to him on that, but this President has released -- not the President, rather, but this President has overseen an ODNI that has given the American people a lot of information that I think they're entitled to see. And one of the things the President has asked for is, where are the 302s -- the summaries of that interview with Michael Flynn?

302s, so the American people understand, these are summaries when you interview an individual. And it's routine that those 302s are given in short order right after the interview is done. It's when your memory is at its best. But in the case of Michael Flynn, those 302s were lost and, in fact, edited afterwards by corrupt Peter Strzok and Lisa Page.

So there's a lot of questions. And this President has encouraged transparency on this issue, and I think it's a great thing.

Q So in the absence of the 302s, would he encourage the release of the transcripts so that the American people can see exactly what transpired during those conversations?

MS. MCENANY: I haven't asked him that. I'd have to ask them that particular question.

Q Can I ask a follow-up on John's question?

MS. MCENANY: Yes. Yeah, let me -- let me get a few people in the back because I want to make sure -- equal opportunity

question caller. So, yes.

Q Kayleigh, we're about to cross the 100,000 dead American milestone. What would -- what does the White House view as having -- by Election Day, what does the White House view as the number of dead Americans, where you can say that we successfully defeated this pandemic? Is there a number?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, you know, every loss of life counts. We say 100,000, but like the President says, you know, one death is something to be mourned. These 100,000 individuals have a face. The President takes this very seriously. It's why he lowered the flag to half-staff for three days, to remember these men and women.

I think, you know, Dr. Birx said it best when she said that in their estimates they had anywhere between 1.5 and 2.2 million people in the U.S. succumbing to the virus if we didn't shut down the economy. The President made the very hard choice of shutting down the economy, so we avoided that extraordinary number.

Every -- one death is too many. We never want to see a single individual lose their life. But that being said, to be under, significantly, that high mark shows that the President did everything in his power and helped to make this number as low as humanly possible.

Q When Americans -- when voters go to the polls in November, and they want to judge the President on his response to this pandemic, what is the number of dead Americans that they should tolerate as have -- and where they can argue that, yes, he successfully defeated the pandemic?

MS. MCENANY: I think, you know, you're asking the wrong question. The right question is where did --

Q Well, no, no --

MS. MCENANY: -- where did the data --

Q -- that's the question I want to ask, Kayleigh. So please don't tell me --

MS. MCENANY: Where did --

Q -- whether I'm asking the right or wrong question.

MS. MCENANY: And I answered your question once, but if you ask it twice, it doesn't make it any better of a question. So I'll respond in kind. I've given you one answer, and I'll continue to extrapolate upon that: that he always listened to the science. The President -- when Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx said, "You need to shut down the economy," that was hard for the President. You know, in a typical year 120,000 people die of suicide and drug overdose. That's in a typical year.

And doctors have said, when you shut down an economy for an extended period of time, that number gets greater. People don't show up for their cancer diagnoses. There are a litany of results when you close down an economy. But closing down the economy for this amount of time kept us far below the 2.2 million number.

As we start to reopen, we keep in mind the people who are missing their screening appointments, the people who are not -- who are succumbing to suicide and drug overdose because of economic hardship. This President made the right choice. It was a delicate balance, and he did it exactly as he should, guided by data, and we are far below 2.2 million dead Americans because of the actions of President Trump.

Yamiche.

Q Hi. I have -- I'm going to read something really quickly. Timothy Klausutis wrote, quote, "Conspiracy theorists, including most recently the President of the United States, continue to spread their vile and misinformation on the platform, disparaging the memory of my wife." Why won't the President give this widower peace, and stop tweeting about this conspiracy theory involving his wife? Why won't -- why can't this widower get peace from the President?

MS. MCENANY: I've already asked and answered this question, and our hearts are --

Q You did not. You did not ask and answer this question.

MS. MCENANY: -- our hearts are with -- our hearts are with Lori. And I think I'll -- the onus is on Joe Scarborough to explain --

Q The onus is on the President. The widower is talking specifically about the President.

MS. MCENANY: -- his interaction with Don Imus and his laughing on this very matter on Don Imus's show.

Chanel.

Q But the widower -- the widower --

Q Hey, Kayleigh. So, going back to the FISA Courts and the FISA warrants --

Q Excuse me, the widower is talking specifically about the President. Are you not going to answer that?

Q -- with regards to ex-CIA chief, John Brennan: How far or

how willing are you able to go forward and say that he lied to the FBI or obstructed justice in the process of discussing Russian collusion and the Trump family?

And on that note, we now have new information showing that Obama himself used foreign intelligence to actually request surveillance on the 5th and 26th floor of Trump Towers. So to what extent was John Brennan behind that? To what extent can you share with us what you know?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, John Brennan, of all of the -- I'll call them bad actors, because indeed they were -- of the Obama administration, John Brennan probably has the most to answer, because it was John Brennan who sat before Congress and said the Steele dossier -- paid for by Hillary Clinton, paid for by the DNC -- that that document played no part of the role in opening the Russia probe, when, in fact, we know it did; when, in fact, we know it was the impetus. And testified before a FISA Court for its truthfulness to spy on the Trump campaign.

So John Brennan, of all people, probably has more to answer. So too do Samantha Power and Susan Rice and these individuals who had admitted under oath that they, in fact, spoke to foreign leaders and representatives of foreign leaders during their transition, but yet somehow, during the Trump transition, that was uncalled for; what has been done all throughout history was uncalled for and meriting unmasking and meriting cornering General -- Lieutenant General Michael Flynn.

All of these people have really legitimate questions to answer. I think we're slowly getting to the bottom of this, but it's a real travesty and really one of the biggest political scandals in modern history.

Yes.

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. It's about the G7 Summit. So the area still has a very high number of cases. Prime Minister Trudeau spoke yesterday with Chancellor Merkel and President Macron. Is the President still confident of being able to organize the event in, like, three weeks? It'd be three weeks from now, if we stick to the date.

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, it's a really great question and an important one because the G7 -- the President wants to see this take place. As America reopens, as we try to approach a place of normalcy where people go back to work, where people do recreational activities but socially distance while they do it, the President thinks no greater example of reopening in this transition to greatness would be the G7, and G7 happening here and happening probably more towards the end of June.

Robert O'Brien, I believe it was, was asked about this, this weekend. And Robert O'Brien said that he's getting a great reception from world leaders who are asked about coming. We will protect world leaders who come here, just like we protect people in the White House.

So we want to see it happen. We think it will happen. And, so far, foreign leaders are very much on board with the idea.

Q So it will be last week of June and here in D.C. or at Camp David?

MS. MCENANY: I don't know if it will be the last week of June, but towards the end of June. And the goal for it is for it to be here at the White House.

Yes.

Q Right. So after the lowering of the flags this past weekend, does the President have any other plans in the works to

honor the victims of the virus? And --

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, I think he's -- oh, go ahead.

Q Sorry. And a larger question is: Does he see his role as mourner-in-chief, in some way, which would be the traditional role of President?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, I think he takes that, that responsibility, very seriously. He said that this is the hardest part of his presidency -- going through this pandemic. He says so many times that he thinks about many of his friends -- some of his friends, I should say -- who have perished because of this disease. It's real to him. It's personal to him. It's why he says, you know, one death is too many. And he thinks about it all of the time.

So he does see his role as that -- comforting the nation, but reopening the country, giving the country hope at this time as we look forward to going back to work and resuming our lives, although in a new reality with new CDC guidelines.

Q Any concrete actions in the works?

MS. MCENANY: I think lowering the flags is a great example. And when we have further announcements on that front, I will be sure to share those with you.

Yeah.

Q Thanks. So going back to the Klausutis -- Klausutis family, I think is how you pronounce it -- the Florida family: They have asked the President that -- the widower has asked the President in that letter to stop talking about this and for Twitter to take down those tweets.

I just wanted to ask you: Is the President asking for someone, for law enforcement to reopen this cold case? Is that what he's intending? Is he going to ask the DOJ to reopen something? What is he asking for when he talks about the cold case?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, I don't have any future announcements on the President's action, but I would just refer everyone, for those of you who haven't heard it, go back and listen to the Don Imus soundbite. It was very callous; it was very cruel. And I think laughing and joking about the death of an intern is really uncalled for, and that's something we can all agree to.

Thank you all very much.

END

2:32

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump in Cabinet Meeting



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
IN CABINET MEETING

East Room

3:12 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, everybody. Please. So, welcome to our Cabinet meeting. And every member of my Cabinet is working tirelessly to defeat the invisible enemy. That should have never happened to our country. It should have never happened to the world. It's a disgrace. It could have been stopped at the source, but they decided not to do that.

But we're going to safely reopen our country and our economy, and it's happening very rapidly. And it's happening, interestingly, where numbers are actually going down; you look at Florida, the state of Florida. Done a great job. You look at Georgia, you look at others -- they're open. And some are doing extremely well, far beyond what people thought.

And the numbers are going down. The numbers that we have been talking about for the last two months, they're actually going down. So it's really terrific.

In our drive to crush the virus, the U.S. has completed nearly 12 million tests. And that test -- that number today is almost 14 million. Nobody is close. Germany would be second with approximately 10 million less than us. And we also have the best tests. South Korea is doing very well, but we're at 14 million, and they're at numbers that are very small by comparison.

What has been done with testing, what's been done with ventilators, what's been done with the distribution of product has been incredible. We've made a lot of governors look very good. We've actually made all of the governors look very good. Some have done a good job, but we've made them all look very good. We got them equipment, and we got them their gowns and their ventilators and their tests like nobody would have thought possible.

Vaccines are moving quickly into phase one and phase two trials, and trials of dozens of therapies and cures are underway. And we're making tremendous strides with therapies, cures, and vaccines. I think we're way ahead of schedule.

And you probably heard: Logistically, we have our military engaged. And as soon as we have whatever it is that we're going to have, whether it's therapeutic or vaccine, it will be distributed very rapidly. Our military is ready to go. They can deploy hundreds of thousands of men and women a day. And now what they're going to be doing is they're going to be doing the vaccine, which we are geared up for even before we have it. But the chances of us having it are extraordinary.

Secretary Azar will update us on all that we're doing to safeguard Americans. He'll be talking in a second.

To protect our people and defeat the virus, we must also defend the health of our nation's economy. Secretary Mnuchin will

report on the economic recovery efforts and the good numbers that are being produced ahead of schedule.

Secretary Carson will update us on the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council. And, Ben, you've done a fantastic job. We appreciate it. He's looked at HUD much differently than people that would have been in the pure real estate business, and he has a way of seeing things that's different and really good for our country. And Ben is working on -- very hard -- different plans to restore health and prosperity to disadvantaged and minority communities, and that's really working out well.

One of the things we're very proud of is Opportunity Zones. Tim Scott of South Carolina came to me with a proposal, and few people understand how successful the Opportunity Zones have been. It's a great tribute to Tim and to others in the Senate that helped us with that.

The pandemic has shown once again the vital importance of economic independence and bringing supply chains back from China and other countries. I probably got elected -- one of the primary reasons was that. "Make America Great Again," "America First" -- call it whatever you want. But we went way out of bounds; we build a car and we go to 12 countries to build a car. I want to build a car from one country: We make the parts.

To achieve this goal, we've slashed red tape and bureaucracy and unleashed the largest industrial mobilization since World War Two, especially when it comes to big things like a ventilator. It's a very big, clumsy, highly sophisticated product. And we have now assembly lines. We're the talk of the world. We're supplying them to other countries. We're helping other countries that are going through this plague and they're never going to be able to do ventilators.

So we are -- it's really been an incredible thing what's

happened. It's the biggest mobilization since World War Two. And we're fighting for the livelihoods of American workers, and we must continue to cut through every piece of red tape that stands in our way. And that's why this is such an exciting meeting -- beyond being a Cabinet meeting, which is always good -- because with millions of Americans forced out of work by the virus, it's more important than ever to remove burdens that destroy American jobs.

In a few minutes, I will sign an executive order instructing federal agencies to use any and all authority to waive, suspend, and eliminate unnecessary regulations that impede economic recovery. And we want to leave it that way. We want to leave it that way. In some cases, we won't be able to, but in other cases, we will.

And you've heard me say many times -- I've said and I've said it very strongly that regulations -- we've done more regulation cutting than any President in history, whether they're there for four years, eight years, or, in one case, more. We've done more regulation cutting -- I don't mean just in a year or two years. I mean in the three and a half years that we've been here, we've cut far more regulations by a factor of a lot than any other administration, any other presidency. So that's really something.

I'm directing agencies to review the hundreds of regulations we've already suspended in response to the virus and make these suspensions permanent where possible. I'm also instructing agencies to use the emergency authorities to speed up regulation cuts or new rules that will create jobs and prosperity and get rid of unnecessary rules and regulations.

We had cases where it would take 20 years to build a highway. You'd have to go through various agencies to get the same permit. I lived with it in the private sector, so I know it

better than anybody, where you'd go years and years and years to build a simple roadway or a simple building, and it would end up costing an absolute fortune -- many, many times what it should cost.

And it would take years before you could even seek final approval -- 5 years, 7 years, 20 years, 21 years. A certain highway built recently -- a small highway; I would call it a road -- 21 years to get it approved. And then, by the time they get it approved, it costs 100 times more, in some -- numbers that you wouldn't even believe. We're getting rid of all of that.

We're down now, on roads -- working with Elaine and the Department of Transportation, we're down to a two-year period. We want to see if we can do better. We have roads in there for 18, 17, 20, 21 years, over the years. I'm not blaming Elaine for that. I'm just saying, over the years, there have been roads that have gone through a process for many years -- roads and highways.

So we're going to be getting it down to a year. And maybe it's not going to get passed for environmental reasons or safety reasons, but we're going to know quickly. But if it does pass, it's going to happen fast.

Acting OMB Director -- soon to be permanent director -- where's Russ? Did you hear what I said? "Soon to be permanent director." (Laughter.) Okay? That's a big statement. Some people would say that's big news. He's done a fantastic job, so congratulations. But we have to get them to approve but -- good. (Applause.) We'll give you a congratulations just prior to approval, right? So you're doing great. Thank you very much.

So Acting OMB director Russ Vought will present details on this effort, and we'll go into that. So Russ has done a great job on

exactly what we're -- he used to come into my office and he'd say, "I think we can cut a lot of different things, in terms of regulation." And, Russ, I think also, very importantly, we'll have a better product. It's actually going to give us a better result. And we're adhering to environmental -- the environmental impact studies and all of the other things we have to do to get these permits. But -- so, Russ Vought, thank you very much.

I want to once again thank every member of the Cabinet for your commitment to helping our nation reopen, to recover and rebuild. I'd like to now ask a man who has done a fantastic job as the head of the task force -- he's worked -- literally, I mean, I think literally 24 hours a day, sometimes, to make sure everything has gone well.

Today we had a really great article by Rich Lowry, who talked about the tremendous job that we've done in terms of the task force, in terms of the coronavirus, and getting things going and getting people what they need -- whether it's ventilators, testing, or many other things. And I appreciated that article very much because there's been a very false narrative. People have no idea what an incredible job the people in federal government have done. And that includes generals and admirals and lots of others.

So I want to thank Mike Pence for the great job you've done, Mike. And, please, say a few words.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you, Mr. President. And I think everyone around this Cabinet knows that, from the first day of this administration, you've made it clear that you have no higher priority than the safety and security of the American people.

In January, when you took the unprecedented action of suspending all travel from China, before there was a single case of community transmission in the United States, it is inarguable,

Mr. President, that your decision bought us a critical amount of time to stand up a national response all across this country.

At the same time, in January, you stood up the White House Coronavirus Task Force. And over the course of February, you began to suspend more travel, establish screening at more than 11 airports around the United States -- again with a priority of protecting the health and safety of the American people.

And from the first day, Mr. President, that you asked me to lead the White House Coronavirus Task Force, we have -- we have focused on the health of the American people.

It would be on March 15th, at your direction, that we released the -- the White House Coronavirus Guidelines for America. We asked a lot of the American people and the American people responded. Fifteen days would become forty-five days, and in that time it was our objective, Mr. President, as you made clear, to save lives, to slow the spread, to flatten the curve. And because of what the American people did, because of the direction that you gave, and all the dedicated members at HHS and FEMA and all of those around this table who served on the task force, because of the partnership that you forged with every governor of both political parties across the country, we've made great progress.

That being said, Mr. President, I know that you believe, as we all do, that one life lost is too many. And -- and we grieve today for the loss of more than 90,000 Americans to the coronavirus. At a time like this -- the first Cabinet meeting that we have had since the advent of this epidemic -- it's important to remember that when we asked the American people to make all of those sacrifices, the estimates before you were that if we did nothing, we could lose between 1 million and 2.2 million American lives. And in fact, even by taking the steps that we took, the estimates were still clear that even if we

flattened the curve that we could still lose 100,000 to 240,000 Americans.

And so, while we grieve the loss of those more than 90,000 Americans -- and their families are on our hearts today -- we recognize -- we recognize the progress that we have made.

Among the progress that we made, Mr. President, in flattening the curve and slowing the spread was preserving, as you directed, the capacity of our healthcare system. One of the great concerns that we had early on was that our healthcare system, our hospitals would be overwhelmed by the coronavirus. That did not occur, Mr. President. Truth is, as you've reflected many times, because of the ingenuity of the American people, because of our partnership with states, because of a great logistics team that worked with the task force, no American who has needed a ventilator was ever denied a ventilator in the United States. It is an extraordinary accomplishment.

And the report that I received today is that the National Stockpile now has more than 15,000 ventilators. And because of the public-private partnerships that you've forged, we'll actually see American companies manufacture more than 110,000 ventilators in 100 days.

Over 13 billion supplies and critical PPE were also delivered to doctors and nurses and first responders and to Americans on the frontlines of this pandemic.

And on the subject of testing, Mr. President, when you tapped me to lead this task force, we had fully done, under the old system of public labs -- we had fully done only 8,400 coronavirus tests at the end of February. But as you just reflected, because of the public-private partnership that you formed with commercial labs across the country, we've now performed nearly 12 million coronavirus tests, and more than 400,000 in a single day this

past weekend.

And, Mr. President, as I'll share with the team, as we're increasing testing, the good news to Americans is, nevertheless, cases are going down. You reflected on that in your visit to the Capitol today and in your opening remarks. And in that, I hope -- despite the heartbreak and the hardship that we have all endured, I hope the American people can sense that they've made progress. That as we continue to scale testing all across the country, our team -- with Admiral Giroir at the helm, and FEMA at the helm -- estimates that we'll be able to conduct maybe 40- to 50 million tests a month by this September. And even as testing is expanding across the country, we're seeing cases coming down, and that's a tribute to the American people.

But it's not just been a health of the American people that's been challenged, Mr. President. As you rightly observed, businesses large and small who have had to shutter their operations -- we heard from restaurant owners earlier this week. And with the great work of our Secretary of the Treasury and your leadership, Mr. President, \$188 billion in loans have been approved to small businesses, nearly \$583 million have been awarded through community health centers to all 50 states. We have been there at the point of the need for businesses large and small. We have been there for vulnerable populations. And at your direction, Mr. President, we'll continue to lean forward in that fight.

The action that you're taking today with signing the executive order is going to make it even more possible for us to -- to build this economy back again for the American people. And it was in that spirit that one month ago, Mr. President, as I close, you directed the White House Coronavirus Task Force to release guidelines to open up America again.

And I'm proud to report to the Cabinet today that our best

information is that all 50 states, as of today, are partially reopening their economies, and the American people are responding and breathing that free air again. They're doing it responsibly. They're -- they're enjoying the opportunity to be out; in many states, to enjoy restaurants, businesses opening back up. The big three automakers went back to work this last Monday in Ben Carson's hometown of Detroit. And America is on its way back through a great, great season of hardship. It's a testament to the resilience of the American people.

So, Mr. President, you charged the White House Coronavirus Task Force to have one mission and that was save lives, to have one team and that was to forge relationships all across the country. And because of your leadership, because of the great work of this Cabinet, because of governors around the country, but mostly because of our incredible healthcare workers and the cooperation of the American people, we've slowed the spread, we've flattened the curve, and we are reopening America.

And, Mr. President, I'm proud to report to you that we're on our way. And I promise you, this entire team is going to continue to work with governors around the country, at your direction, until we bring the American economy all the way back, as you often say, "bigger and better than ever before."

So thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mike. And again, thank you very much for doing a great job.

So I'm going to sign this now, and then Ben and Steve will speak, and then we'll go around the room a little bit, and we'll say what we want.

I'd like to congratulate Rick Grenell for doing such a fantastic job as Acting -- I don't think you want to be permanent, so I

think you're very happy to be Acting. But what a job. I think you'll go down as the all-time great Acting ever, at any position. So thank you very much, Rick. Thank you very much. (Applause.) Would you like to say something? Go ahead, please.

MR. GRENELL: Sure. I would just say greetings from an intel community that is very interested in providing policymakers, everybody around this table, with raw intelligence that is not politicized in any possible way.

And I have to tell you, Mr. President, that I have heard from hundreds of members of the current intel community who are extremely pleased with transparency of their work. And that's what they're shooting for. That's what they want to provide to policymakers -- is information that is not politicized by politicians in any way, on any side of the aisle, but to be able to protect their intelligence estimates -- we all know that they're estimates -- and they're proud to give them when not manipulated by others.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we appreciate your great work. Thank you, Rick, very much.

MR. GRENELL: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I'm going to sign this now. And so this is regulations are going to be cut. And the potential is that you're going to find regulations that nobody has ever thought of before because you're going to be doing it yourselves. And this gives you great authority to cut regulations. So we've already had the record by a lot. It's not even close. But you'll have a chance to cut regulations.

When I look at EPA sitting here and I look at the Veterans sitting here and I look at all of the different people --

Homeland Security, Chad -- I look at all of the great talent around this table, you'll have a right to do something that nobody would ever have thought you would have the right to do that.

And so I just want you to go to town and do it right. Do it proper. Make sure everything is safe and make sure it's environmentally good, for those of you that are in that category, but it's very, very important. Elaine, you can do things that nobody would believe in your department: Department of Transportation.

So, good luck. And I'm signing this. It gives you tremendous power to cut regulation.

(The executive order is signed.)

Here you go, Ben. Here, take that. (Applause.) Okay, Ben, would you like to say something please?

SECRETARY CARSON: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. President. And a big thank-you to all the Cabinet members. Almost everybody has been deeply involved in the refocusing of the Opportunity and Revitalization Council. And Jared and Christian and Brooke also big, big help.

Just as was done during the Greatest Generation, many sectors of our society are being reconfigured to meet the singular goal of winning our war against this invisible enemy. Companies that made bedding linen are now making masks, and plants that produce vehicles are now producing ventilators. I worked at some of those plants growing up in Detroit.

And now the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, which was formed by you to help long-forgotten communities achieve economic opportunity will refocus and expand to help

America's hardest-hit communities and achieve economic recovery, overcome health disparities, and thrive through educational advancement -- education being the ticket. It doesn't matter where you came from. If you get a good education, you can write your own ticket.

Since your historic Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, billions of dollars from the private sector have been invested in these designated Opportunity Zones, which are home to nearly 35 million people. Through this initiative, we've fostered partnerships between people who seldom sit down together. We're talking about business leaders, community leaders, faith-based leaders, housing advocates, investors, builders, state and local and federal officials.

The Revitalization Council, which I have the privilege to chair, alongside our executive director Scott Turner, who's here in this room somewhere -- oh, there he is over there, okay -- has played a big role in the success, identifying more than 270 different federal actions to support and increase investment in Opportunity Zones through things like grant preference points, loan qualifications, reduced fees, eligibility criteria, modifications, and a number of other incentives.

And at your direction, we're now taking our considerable capacity to discover opportunity and drive recovery in disadvantaged and minority communities that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Based on our work and analysis, the Revitalization Council is identifying diverse policy approaches in areas including housing, education, technology, broadband, workforce, entrepreneurship, health, and long-term community development. And under your leadership, this administration has shined a light on the forgotten men and women whose job prospects and health disparities are often hidden in the shadows.

Mr. President, you've been a champion for all Americans, especially our low-income and minority communities. And we're committed to continuing -- continuing your work not only to restore, but to advance the historic gains and prosperity many enjoyed before this global epidemic. Your council will not only continue its focus to bring more jobs and better jobs, but it will also expand to better fortify public health services that will improve medical and social health outcomes and uplift our most distressed communities.

The American people will come out the other side of this crisis stronger and more determined than ever. Thanks to the authority you have vested in the Revitalization Council, we will leverage these powers to heal America's hardest-hit communities and return to prosperity as safely and swiftly as possible. And thank you for not giving in to the naysayers and to the people who use fear to control people, and instead giving people hope not with just your words, but with your actions. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much, Ben.

You know, I had to run against him, and he was very tough. And he was even tougher when he'd run onto a stage holding a Bible up in the air. That was tough. I said, "That's tough to beat." But I said, "If I'm ever so lucky, I have to get him in the administration." So that's what happened, and you've done a great job. Thank you very much.

Steve, where are we and what are we doing?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Thank you, Mr. President. So I'm pleased to report your administration has been hard at work implementing the CARES Act. We've really made incredible progress over the last month working on putting over \$3 trillion into the economy -- unprecedented amount of support for American business and

American workers. And I just want to highlight a few of the things.

Working with SBA, we were able to develop the Paycheck Protection Program from scratch. That's now impacted over 4.3 million companies, impacting over 50 million workers; \$513 billion, having 5,500 lenders working. And we are extremely pleased that we have increased the number of CDFIs and minority lenders and fintech lenders, now making sure we get this across the country with an average loan size of \$118,000. So this program is really impacting American workers.

Working with the Federal Reserve, I have approved nine special facilities, totaling about two and a half trillion dollars. That's about half of our capacity. And in particular, I'd just like to highlight the Main Street Lending Program, which is for small- and mid-market companies, will be up and running by the end of this month.

And then I would just comment on the economic impact payments, Mr. President, have really had a big impact. We delivered over \$239 billion to 141 million Americans. And I want to highlight, we couldn't be more pleased 114 million of those we did direct deposit into people's accounts. We did 27 million checks.

And, Mr. President, we now have developed debit cards. So in an effort to expedite money to people even quicker, in a very safe way, I'm pleased to show you what a debit card looks like with your name on it, Mr. President.

Now, there's no money for you on it. This is a blank debit card. But I want you to see what many Americans will now get so that we can get their money to them even quicker. And going forward, we think debit cards are a safe and secure way of delivering refunds.

So, thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Do I sign the letter again or not? (Laughs.)

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: The next time we send money, you'll get to send another letter.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. Thank you, Steve. Steve has had a great career. He had a great educational career -- a tremendous student -- and went on to very, very tremendous business success. And all of that experience was necessary for what you're doing, right? But there's nobody better with money and controlling money and handling money. So I want to thank you very much.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Alex, please. Say a few words.

SECRETARY AZAR: Well, thank you, Mr. President. You know, your top priority has always been the health, safety, and wellbeing of the American people as we've been going through this pandemic. And that's been our priority throughout this crisis.

We've got to get life back to normal, and we've got to restart the roaring Trump economy, and we have the tools to do that. The right mindset for reopening is not about balancing health versus the economy. It's actually about balancing health versus health. By one estimate, the virus-induced recession will see an extra 65,000 deaths from suicide, drug overdose, alcohol abuse in the coming years. Possibly even more.

States are seeing a decline in the reporting of child maltreatment because kids aren't at school. They're not seeing

doctors and teachers who would otherwise report maltreatment in the home environment, and so it goes unaddressed.

Mammograms are down 87 percent. Colonoscopies are down 90 percent. Approximately 1.7 million new cancer cases are diagnosed per year in our country, and if we're seeing an 80 percent drop in cancer cases identified, we could already have 300,000 or more undiagnosed cancer cases as a result of this crisis.

A CDC report found a 60 percent reduction in vaccine administrations including, for our kids, pediatric vaccinations. Millions of kids not getting vaccinated.

The good news is that, under your leadership, we've built a path forward so that we can have safe reopening. We have the surveillance tools. We have the testing tools. We have the containment methodologies and resources. We are developing therapeutics, and we're developing vaccines. So we have the strategy and the recipe to support the safe reopening of our economy. And for the sake of Americans' health and wellbeing, we've got to support this and move ahead with safe reopening.

You know, I mentioned some of the physical health risks of the -- of keeping our country closed down, but we have here today with us our Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse -- for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Dr. Eli McCance-Katz, who's a psychiatrist and is the first-ever psychiatrist to lead SAMHSA.

And she, if you don't mind, was going to say a couple words, really, about how extended stay-at-home orders can impose really lasting mental health challenges for us. If that's okay, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: We'd love that. Please, Doctor.

DR. MCCANCE-KATZ: Mr. President, Vice President Pence, members of the Cabinet, and colleagues, as I've listened to states and communities struggle with mental illness issues that have arisen as a result of the virus, I wanted to ensure that governors, yesterday, heard these concerns from a medical perspective.

As my physician colleagues on the task force have been careful to rightly note, their perspective and advice centers on one aspect of the pandemic: virus containment. However, even medically, it is not the sole perspective. I felt that it was important to offer the governors a different, albeit equally important, medical perspective.

As such, I made the following remarks:

It is my privilege to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. But today, I really speak to you more as a psychiatrist who also happens to hold a PhD in infectious disease epidemiology.

Never did I imagine the nation would be experiencing the coinciding of mental health issues and infectious disease that my training addressed. The research literature is clear on the effects of quarantine and stay-at-home practices on mental health. We know that the longer the duration of these orders, the greater the intensity of the mental health problems experienced. We also know that these symptoms persist for years to come, even once quarantine is lifted. The data tells us that when the lives of adults, children, and families are drastically changed for extended lengths of time, for many, anxiety, depression, and stress disorders will become manifest and will persist. These are real health conditions with potentially long-lasting consequences that must be taken seriously.

To put all of this in perspective, I believe it is important to point out that, pre-pandemic, we lose 120,000 lives a year to

drug overdose and suicide. How many more lives are we willing to sacrifice in the name of containing the virus?

When we look at strategies to reopen, as a medical doctor, I ask that you take into account whole health, not just one narrow aspect of physical health. We continually ask ourselves what the health costs and risks may be of reopening, but I ask: What might they be of not reopening or reopening in such a restrictive way that American lives are not restored? Of course, containing the effects of coronavirus are critically important, but so too is preventing suicide. So too is keeping a person from being terrified to ever leave their home. So too is protecting the mental health of our nation's young people.

I ask you to remember that not every home is a safe home. Not every individual can withstand the trauma of not seeing or interacting physically with loved ones. Not every parent can survive the mental anguish of not being able to feed their children because of lost employment. Not every child can exist in a healthy way without the structure and support of school. We have to take a step back and recognize the other effects of our policies.

While we contain the virus, are we increasing the risk for suicide and drug overdose? Are we creating a future of substance use and addiction for millions of additional Americans? And if we are doing those things, why have we decided collectively that this is okay? We've worked so hard in states and communities across this country to combat epidemics like the opioids crisis. Why are we willing to forget those efforts now or deem them less important?

As a psychiatrist, I would argue that a life lost to suicide is just as important as a life lost to coronavirus. A family who loses someone to drug overdose experiences the same grief as a family who loses a loved one to coronavirus. Let us not forget

that all American lives are precious.

Our citizens count on us to remember their health and safety in all aspects of life. The preservation of Americans' health and the health of our citizens cannot be measured by only one metric. Virus containment cannot be our only goal, no matter the cost to Americans.

If we ignore the reality of the enormous mental health strain we've put on our citizens on the backdrop of an already overburdened mental healthcare system, I'm saddened but certain that the next major public health crisis of our time will be that of mental and substance use disorders, and it is not far behind.

I urge you to factor this reality into your planning, and I thank you for the work you've done thus far on behalf of the millions of Americans with mental and substance use disorders.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Doctor. Appreciate it. Very sobering. It's tough. It's very tough, but we're getting there. We're getting back. That's very important. Thank you. Great job.

I'd like to ask Chad Wolf from Homeland Security just to say -- maybe discuss the record-low numbers we have of people crossing the border -- our southern border, in particular.

ACTING SECRETARY WOLF: Absolutely, Mr. President. I think we are taking -- at your direction, the Vice President's direction, the task force -- we've taken a number of measures that -- protecting public health: proactive and prudent measures at the border. Those include nonessential travel restrictions that we have with both Canada and Mexico. Those also include continued construction of the border wall system. But perhaps most importantly, new measures that we've instituted along that southwest border regarding illegal border entries. And those are

the numbers that you're referring to.

Last month, in April, we had a little under 17,000 folks that crossed the border illegally. Compare that to a year ago: April of '19 was over 120,000 individuals. So --

THE PRESIDENT: And they were all brought out, right?

ACTING SECRETARY WOLF: That's right. And so 80 percent of those --

THE PRESIDENT: Seventeen thousand crossed, but seventeen thousand were brought out and sent back.

ACTING SECRETARY WOLF: Eighty percent of those 17,000 were removed within 120 minutes -- two hours. The rest took just a little bit longer, but are continuing to be removed as well. So --

THE PRESIDENT: And that's a first. That's a first in the last 40 years.

ACTING SECRETARY WOLF: That's absolutely right. Again, at the -- at your leadership, the task force leadership, we continue to make progress on that border. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Thank you very much, Chad.

ACTING SECRETARY WOLF: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Also, Mark Meadows, who's our Chief of Staff, he's been around Washington for a while. He's very popular in North Carolina. He had a seat that was very easy for him to keep. And I talked to him long and hard for a while -- for a long while. But he's a friend of mine but he's -- he's going to go down as the ultimate, hopefully, Chief of Staff. So, Mark,

it's really nice to have you. Would you like to say a few words?

MR. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. President. Obviously, your work and the work of this Cabinet on behalf of the American people is very evident. It's critical that we make sure that Americans are healthy, safe, secure, and prosperous. And because of the work of everyone around this table, and, more importantly, your leadership, we're setting the example of how not only to tackle one of the most difficult, silent killers that we've ever faced in our history, but also how to come out of that more united.

And because of your executive order today, we are not only ready to reopen our com- -- country, but we're open for business once again. So I thank you for your leadership. And it's an honor to serve you and the people of this great country.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mark. You're doing really - - really well. Appreciate it.

And Bob Lighthizer is working on the trade deal with UK -- United Kingdom. And I hear they want to very much do it. And we'd like to do it. How are you doing?

AMBASSADOR LIGHTHIZER: Well, thank you, Mr. President. We're doing well. I'm never in a hurry to do a deal, as you know. So, yeah, we'll see how that works out. I would like to report though, that on July 1st, we will have USMCA fully in effect, which is just in time for the reopening. We'll have the new rules that will help American workers, farmers, and ranchers. And we're now beginning to see some substantial new sales -- I'd defer to Sonny, of course, on agriculture -- but in the agriculture area and a variety of others, because of this and the other deals that you've done.

But in terms of the UK deal, we're just beginning that and we'll see how that turns out. As you said to me 1,000 times, "We'll

see how that turns out." (Laughter.) So, that's what I tell them: "We'll see how that turns out."

THE PRESIDENT: It's through experience. You never know. You never know, do you? Well, we usually do. And actually, we've signed a great deal with Japan: \$40 billion. We've created a new deal with South Korea, which was many, many billions of dollars. It was a defective deal; now it's a very good deal.

But USMCA is actually the largest trade deal ever made anywhere in the world. People don't realize the amount of mon- -- of business that we do with Canada and with Mexico is monumental. It's the biggest trade deal in the world. Bigger than the deal we've made with China. Most people don't know that. And the China deal is kicking in. They're buying a lot, but I feel differently now about that deal than I did three months ago. And we'll see what all happens.

But it's been a very disappointing situation. Very disappointing thing happened with China because the plague flowed in. And that wasn't supposed to happen, and it could have been stopped.

So, I want to thank you very much, Bob. You're doing really a fantastic deal. You have a lot of records. And one of the people I wanted to get when I was elected was Bob Lighthizer because he had the record and really had the reputation as being the best trade negotiator anywhere in the world that everybody respected. He was the authority. So I got him and you've lived up to your reputation. Now let's see if you can exceed it, because you have plenty of work to do.

AMBASSADOR LIGHTHIZER: It's going to -- it's going to take four years.

THE PRESIDENT: How is going with UK? What do you think?

AMBASSADOR LIGHTHIZER: Four more years to do any of that.

THE PRESIDENT: I know. (Laughter.)

AMBASSADOR LIGHTHIZER: That's all -- that's all I ask.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the Boris -- the first thing Boris did when he got -- when -- fortunately, he was better, because he's a great guy -- Boris Johnson, Prime Minister. He called me, and he wanted to talk about the trade deal: "How's it going?" That was his first words to me: "How's the trade deal going?" I said, "How are you feeling?" So it was really something.

But great job. And Mike Pompeo has done a fantastic job at State, and he's been doing a lot of traveling. Working hard. Anything to say, Mike?

SECRETARY POMPEO: Sir, I'd just add that, in the course of this, we have brought 93,000 Americans back home who were stuck because travel had ceased. The State Department has done fantastic work getting these Americans back to their families. There's still a few more out there. We still got a little more work to do. And we're working to make sure that the global economy gets back on its feet too. So, along with Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Transportation, we're trying to make sure that we've got all the processes in place so people can travel again in the way that they did before this virus hit this entire world.

THE PRESIDENT: Good, Mike. Thanks. Great job.

I'd like to maybe ask Scott Turner to finish. He's somebody who's young and strong and powerful. And he's done an incredible job with Opportunity Zones and other things. And maybe you could finish it off. And we could take a couple of questions from the media if you'd like.

But, Scott, make the media so crazed -- (laughter) -- that they say, "Boy, are they doing a great job." (Laughter.)

MR. TURNER: Well, thank you, Mr. President for the -- is this on? Okay. Thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership, and Secretary Carson and Mr. Vice President. Thank you all.

And, you know, I was sitting here listening to all the remarks and what's going on, and I'm very encouraged. And I was reminded of my time from playing peewee football, all the way to the NFL. And one of the greatest times that we had was the huddle.

The last time I was with you all was last summer. We had traveled to 21 cities in 12 weeks, and you all encouraged me greatly. And so we finished by traveling to over 60 cities with the Opportunity Zone and the council. And much fruit came about in America because of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council.

And many of you, your staff members and your teams from your agencies have been tremendous, and that has been a great team effort. Not one man, not one person; it's been a great team that's brought much fruit because of Opportunity Zones in America to the people inside the distressed communities.

And I'm so humbled by that. But we have a lot of work to do. Our resolve is still the same. Our spirit is the same. Our fortitude is even stronger.

The President has refocused the council, so our vision is broader. And because of that, we will not quit.

And I want to thank all of you for your leadership. Thank you for your vision. Thank you for your encouragement.

But back to the huddle. In the huddle, it was time to

refocus. It was a time to reset and to encourage one another. "I know you got beat on that play, but you won't get beat on the next one. And we have you. We have your back." We were a team. The enemy was on the other side of the ball.

In America, we are a team. The enemy is COVID. And I want to remind everybody in the room and everybody listening in America: We're all one team. This is the huddle today. We're encouraging each other. We have each other's back. We know to anticipate what's happening on the next play. We have a great game plan. We got great leadership. All around the room, it's a tremendous team and it's called the United States of America. COVID will get whooped. (Laughter.) It will. But it's going to take all of us.

And I say that, Mr. President, because this is a blessing to me to be in this huddle. But when we say, "Ready? Break," the enemy better look out because we're going to be victorious against the enemy and have long-term sustainability and a generational vision for America. So, long after we're gone, the people that come behind us will be blessed. So I want you all to be encouraged.

And I want thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Dr. Carson and Mr. Vice President, and all of you for your leadership. And I'm encouraged to be here. So thank you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: So, you know, we have a couple of seats available -- congressional seats -- (laughter) -- where I'm not overly impressed with the candidate. (Laughter.) And I think -- would you like to move to a little different section of the United States? Because I could guarantee this guy would be in Congress in about two minutes. (Laughter.)

And, you know, I know somebody that knew Scott from the NFL. I said, "What kind of a player was he?" He said, "He was fast, but

more than anything else he was tough. He was just mean and tough." And that's what we want. He's tough but he's got a great heart. He's got a great heart. And I've known him now a long time, Scott. And we're lucky to have you. Thank you very much.

Thank you. Fantastic. (Applause.) True and tough.

Okay, any questions? Please. Yes. Steve, go ahead.

Q When you say you feel "differently" now about the China trade deal, could you amplify on that a little bit?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it just seems to mean less to me, because, you know, we did this great deal with China -- they have to buy billions and billions of dollars of product, farm product and other product, and it was very exciting. One of the biggest deals ever made. Actually, not as big as the USMCA, which surprises people. But it could have been bigger over a period of time, because the potential there is just beginning, in a sense. And it was very exciting.

But once the virus came in -- once the plague, as I call it, came in, I said, "How did they let that happen? How did they let that happen?" And how come it didn't go into other sections of China? Why did they block it from leaving Wuhan but they didn't block it from going to the rest of the world, including the United States? Why is that? Beijing doesn't have it; other places don't have it. So why is it that it was blocked very effectively from leaving that area and going into China, but it went out to the rest of the world, including the United States? And why didn't they let us go in and help them fix it? So I'm very disappointed in China.

Yeah.

Q Mr. President, can I follow?

Q Mr. President, why --

Q Just to follow up: You've been talking about possible retaliation for that. Are you any closer to a decision on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't talk about retaliation. Go ahead.

Q Mr. President, why haven't you announced a plan to get 36 million unemployed Americans back to work? You're overseeing historic economic despair. What's the delay? Where's the plan?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think -- I think we've announced a plan. We're opening up our country. Just a rude person you are. We're opening up our country. We're opening it up very fast. The plan is that each state is opening and it's opening up very effectively. And when you see the numbers I think, even you will be impressed, which is pretty hard to impress you.

Yeah, go ahead. Please.

Q But, Mr. President, a lot of these jobs are --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. That's enough of you.

Q -- not coming back, according to these studies --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Canada has confirmed that the border is going to remain closed until June 21st, 10 days before the UM --

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q -- the USMCA. Aren't you worried for the economy of the border states?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, we do. And we speak to Canada all the time. Obviously, the relationship is very good with the Prime Minister and myself and with the two countries. You know, Canada is our neighbor. We have a great relationship. We love Canada. So we're going to be talking, and at the right time we'll open that up very quickly. That'll go very easily.

Yeah, please.

Q It could happen before June 21st?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, it could. Sure. It could. They're doing well. We're doing well. We're both doing well.

Q Thank you. Mr. President, you've said repeatedly that the United States is now the "king of ventilators" and that we have so many that we're sending them overseas -- selling them and then, in some cases, actually gifting them to other countries. My question is: Are you looking to use these diplomatically to strengthen ties with other nations and counter Chinese influence in some parts of the world?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I'm not looking to do diplomatically. I'm looking to save lives. If we can save lives of another country, that's a great thing. So I'm only looking to save lives. Probably, that's good diplomatically, but I'm not looking at that.

You have countries that have no chance; they have no ventilators. They would -- they don't have a capacity to build them. And we're sending hundreds and even thousands -- and we have thousands now -- and they're being produced at a very rapid

pace. Jared and his whole team of geniuses from Silicon Valley and other places came in, and they've done an incredible job. So we have them by the thousands.

We had none, essentially. We had very few, and they were obsolete. They were broken. We're building not only a lot of them, but we have a very high-quality ventilator, one of the highest. So, countries know that, and they're calling us and they're asking for help. They need help.

So I -- I only think in terms of saving lives. The country -- we've gotten some very unusual calls from people that normally wouldn't be calling us too easily, calling -- asking for help. You know, you can get swabs and you can get gowns and you can get a lot of things, but getting ventilators is very tough -- very, very tough -- because it's a very complex machine, very expensive machine.

So we've done a very good job. And probably it does help diplomatically, but we do it for helping people's lives -- save lives.

Yes, please. Please.

Q Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q Do you -- so, Ford Motor Company has previously required visitors to wear masks when they visit their facilities. Do you plan to wear one when you go there on Thursday?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. It's -- I haven't even thought of it. It depends. I mean, you know, in certain areas, I would. In certain areas, I don't. But I will certainly look at it. It depends on what situation. Am I standing right next to

everybody or am I spread out? And also, you look -- you know, is something a hospital? Is it a ward? Is it -- what is it exactly? I'm going to a plant. So we'll see. Where it's appropriate, I would do it. Certainly.

Yeah.

Q Mr. President, you continue to talk about helping minority communities. What specifically are you looking at to help those communities? What actions?

THE PRESIDENT: So one of the things I was most proud of was the minority community and all of the work we've done for the minority communities. Black unemployment, Hispanic unemployment, Asian unemployment was the best ever in the history of our country. We've never had anything like it. We've never had so many African American jobs ever -- ever -- in the history of our country, by far.

And we are bringing our country back, and a big focus is exactly that with the minorities. Specifically, if you look at the Asians, they've done incredibly well; Hispanics, incredibly well; African Americans, record-setting, every month. You know that. Every month it was a record-setting jobs number. And that's what we want to do. We want to get it back to that level.

We had to artificially close our country. One day, we had to -- we did the right thing. We would have lost millions of lives if we didn't. Think of it: If we lost 100,000 lives, the minimum we would have lost is a million-two, a million-three, a million-five maybe. But take it to a million. So that would mean 10 times more than we lost already.

Now I've seen hospitals like Elmhurst Queens, where -- I grew up near that; I know that hospital -- where they had, one day, 11

body bags in a hallway and they had some outside. And that -- they had refrigerated trucks coming to take bodies away.

Now multiply that times 10. It would have been unacceptable. And that's the lowest number possible. It probably would have been times 20 or maybe 25. So we did the right thing.

But now we have to get back to work, and we want to open up, and the people want to open up.

But we've learned a lot about the disease. We've learned about distancing -- nobody ever heard of social distancing before. We've learned about the washing of hands. I used to wash my hands a lot, but I'll tell you, right now I wash them more. We learned a lot. And we also learned how to put out the embers or the fires, whatever may come -- we learned -- without having to close down the whole country.

And we have big sections of our country that don't have much of a problem. We have some sections that don't have any problem at all. So we're opening up our country, we're doing really well, and most excitingly, we're working on vaccines, therapeutics, and cures that are really moving along at a level that nobody would have thought possible.

And the military, I can say, Mark Esper -- okay, you know Mark Esper? He's become a very important person in the world of medicine because his military is going to be distributing -- whether it's therapeutically or whether it's cures or whether it's a vaccine. And, by the way, I have to say, all three are doing unbelievably well. But Mark and the military are going to be getting them out. So he has hundreds of thousands of people that he is immediately -- that work for us right now. They're fully ready to deploy. They're ready to get the job done. They'll be doing it at a record business.

And everything we've done with the military has been terrific. We've had admirals. We've had generals. I remember when Cryin' Chuck Schumer said, "We should get the military involved." I said, "They are." He said, "We should use one of our generals." I said, "We do." Our generals have done a great job, Jared, right? And our admirals have done a great -- we had everybody involved. And they are tremendously talented people. And this isn't what they do; they fight. They're great fighters, and they fight.

But, yeah, the minority communities are really going to be well served. I think we are going to get it right back -- and this includes everybody; this includes our whole country -- but right back to where it was, which was record-setting numbers.

Q But are there specific options right now that you are considering for those communities?

THE PRESIDENT: Right now, we're opening up areas and a lot of people are getting jobs. I heard some numbers yesterday that were really incredible -- the amount, percentage-wise, of the country that opened up so quickly over the last few days. I think you're going to see some very big numbers. And I think next year is going to be an incredible year, economically.

You can never make up for all of the loss of life; you can never do that. From an economic standpoint, however, next year is going to be -- I think, it's going to be potentially a great year for us.

Yeah, please.

Q The FDA has said hydroxychloroquine should not be used outside of a hospital setting or outside of a research study.

THE PRESIDENT: No, that's not what I was told. No.

Q So can you --

THE PRESIDENT: There was a false study done where they gave it to very sick people -- extremely sick people, people that were ready to die. It was given by, obviously, not friends of the administration. And the study came out. The people were ready to die. Everybody was old, had bad problems with hearts, diabetes, and everything else you can imagine. So they gave it. So, immediately, when it came out, they gave a lot of false information, just so you understand. Great studies came out of Italy on hydroxy. You know what I'm talking about, right? Right? Great studies came out. And the combination of the three.

But we had some great studies come out: Italy, France, Spain, ourselves. Many, many doxes [sic] -- doctors. Many doctors came out, and they said, "It's great." Now, you have to go to a doctor. I have a doctor in the White House. I said, "What do you think?" And it's just a line of defense. I'm just talking about it as a line of defense. I'm dealing with a lot of people. Look at all the people in the room. You know, I'm the President, and I'm dealing with a lot of people. And it's a very inexpensive drug. It's -- it's almost pennies. It's very inexpensive. And it's been out for close to 70 years for a couple of different things, right? Lupus and malaria and even arthritis, they say.

But I think it's worth it as a line of defense. And I'll stay on it for a little while longer. I'm just very curious myself. But it seems to be very safe. But that study was a phony study put out by the VA. You may want to talk about that. I mean, we could talk about that if anybody wants to. And maybe I'd ask Alex to talk about that -- if you would introduce our great, talented head of the VA and let him say a couple of words.

But that was a phony study, and it's very dangerous to do it. The fact is, people should want to help people, not to make political points. It's really sad when they do that.

Go ahead.

SECRETARY AZAR: Yeah. So hydroxychloroquine has been approved by the FDA for decades here in the United States for the treatment of malar- -- for the prevention of malaria, the treatment of lupus, the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. And the system we have here in the United States is: Once a drug has been approved and on the market, a doctor, in consultation with a patient, may use it for what we call "off-label" purposes, which are indications that are not yet proven and not yet in the label.

And this is the Right to Try President. He, for the first time, got the historic Right to Try legislation for experimental therapies, but that applies to our existing regime, which is approved products may be used in the judgment of a physician in consultation with their patient.

As the President said -- and I'll ask Secretary Wilkie to talk a bit about the VA study -- there has been -- there's been some studies around the use of hydroxychloroquine later in disease progression. But we are still working on some controlled studies earlier in the disease progression to see if we can measure the effectiveness of it in preventing the replication of the virus's spread in mild to moderate cases rather than the more serious. And that data is still pending, but --

THE PRESIDENT: And it's got -- well, it's got very good reviews. Very good. From many, many doctors. Many, many doctors.

Secretary, please.

SECRETARY WILKIE: Thank you, Mr. President. I -- and I want to clear up something that the media has not reported accurately. That was not a VA study.

THE PRESIDENT: Can you hear him? Because I think it's important. You asked the question.

SECRETARY WILKIE: Yeah. That was not --

Q Yes. Yes, I can hear him.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you want to listen? Because I don't even think you're listening.

Q I can hear him.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, why don't you listen to him?

Q I am listening.

SECRETARY WILKIE: That was -- that was not a VA study. Researchers took VA numbers and they did not clinically review them. They were not peer-reviewed. They did not even look at what the President just mentioned -- the various comorbidities that the patients who were referenced in that study had.

I also want to echo what the Secretary of HHS said. The instructions I received from the President were very clear, and that was to preserve and protect life. Those of us who've had a military life -- some of us around this table -- we've been taking this drug for years. As the President mentioned, the Department of Defense and VA have been using it for 65 years. On every -- any given day, VA uses 42,000 doses of this drug. And

what we did, when this virus first hit us, was to use every means necessary to help preserve life.

We believed that the Congress was right, and the President signed legislation to protect life: the Right to Try. And we did this in consultation, not only with the families of those veterans, but we did this in consultation with our doctors, under FDA guidelines.

So I want to knock down the phony story that this is somehow the VA going back on what the President told us to do, which was to use every means possible to protect and preserve the lives -- the lives of our veterans. And I think, as the President mentioned, we've seen in many cases across this country -- in fact, I was on the news the day that the Governor of New York was asking you for tens of thousands of doses.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

SECRETARY WILKIE: We are doing everything we can to protect the lives of our veterans. And this is one of the means that we used.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Hydroxychloroquine is used by thousands and thousands of frontline workers, so that hopefully they don't catch this horrible disease or whatever you want to call it. It is a -- a terrible virus. It's a terrible thing. And a lot of people are taking it. A lot of doctors are taking it. A lot of people swear by it.

It's gotten a bad reputation only because I'm promoting it. So I'm obviously a very bad promoter. If anybody else were promoting it, they'd say, "This is the greatest thing ever." But because of me --

So, a lot of doctors swear by it; I think we can say that, Mr.

Secretary. A lot of doctors think it's great. But the one thing that is true, one way or the other way, whether you like it or not: It's been around for 70 years. Unbelievably effective for malaria and for lupus, and probably effective for arthritis. And what has been determined is it doesn't harm you. It's a very powerful drug, I guess, but it doesn't harm you.

And so I thought, as a frontline defense, possibly it would be good. And I've had no impact from it. I've now -- I've had no -- I feel the same. I haven't changed, I don't think, too much.

And at some point, you know, I won't take it. Might be soon, might be in a little bit. It doesn't -- it doesn't seem to have any impact on me. But it seems to be an extra line of defense, and it's gotten tremendous reviews from some people, including many, many doctors all over the world.

And you should look at some of the studies. They've been amazing, some of the studies. But that's up to people and it's up -- I think, strongly recommend to people with their doctor's advice and acknowledgement. Okay?

Q Is anyone else in the Cabinet taking that regimen, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

Q Is anyone else in your Cabinet taking hydroxychloroquine?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know. I -- that's a personal thing as to whether or not they want to answer that question. But I think many of them would take it if they felt it was necessary.

I also had a case where we had somebody fairly close to me -- a very nice, young gentleman -- he tested positive.

Q Your valet?

THE PRESIDENT: And he tested positive. Plus, I deal with Mike alike -- a lot, and Mike had somebody very close to him, who I also see, who tested positive. So I think -- I thought, you know, from my standpoint, not a bad time to take it, because we had the combination of those -- the two people. It's two people in a very big building with a lot of people working. But -- so I thought it would be appropriate, but it has had no impact, in terms of me. Okay?

Any other question, please?

Q Mr. President --

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can I ask you --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. Do you want to go? Go ahead.

Q I just want to ask you a question on Brazil, which is now --

THE PRESIDENT: Brazil?

Q -- yes -- in third position -- place now, catching up to Russia in second place for the number of cases. Are you finally considering a travel ban from -- from Brazil and Latin America?

THE PRESIDENT: We are considering it. We hope that we're not going to have a problem. The governor of Florida is doing very, very well. Testing is -- in particular Florida, because big majority come into Florida.

Brazil has gotten more or less "herd." You know what that is -- herd. And they're having problems.

By the way, you know, when you say that we lead in cases, that's because we have more testing than anybody else. So we test much more than anybody else. Again, we're close to 14 million and we said 12, 12 and a half. It's actually close to 14 million now.

And so we have 14 million tests. And Germany, if they do 2 million, that's a lot. And others are doing 1 million. So if you're testing 14 million people, you're going to find many more cases. Many of these people aren't very sick, but they still go down as a case. So actually, the number of cases -- and we're also a much bigger country than most.

So when we have a lot of cases, I don't look at that as a bad thing; I look at that as -- in a certain respect, as being a good thing because it means our testing is much better. So if we were testing a million people instead of 14 million people, we would have far fewer cases. Right? So, I view it as a badge of honor. Really, it's a badge of honor. It's a great tribute to the testing and all of the work that a lot of professionals have done. Okay?

Q Aren't you worried that they're going to bring their cases and --

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yeah. No, I see -- I mean, as to your first part of your question: Yeah, sure, I worry about everything. I don't want people coming in here and infecting our people.

I don't want people over there sick either. We're helping Brazil with ventilators. We're sending them ventilators, okay? They -- they need ventilators. I'm sending them ventilators. We have so many thousands of them. We're sending them. We're sending a lot

of people. No, Brazil is having some trouble. No question about it.

Sweden, by the way -- you know, I've heard a lot about Sweden and the way they're doing. Well they have -- you have Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden. That little group of beautiful countries. Well, Sweden, took a little different attitude, but Sweden has far more deaths than the other three. You know that, right? Do you know that?

Q Mm-hmm.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, a lot more death -- many times the deaths. But they did it a different way, and, you know, I understand that too. And -- and as Mike said very well before, there is death on both sides. There's death on both sides. There is death in staying in a shutdown also and lots of other things, but there's also death. Okay?

Q What do you -- sir, what do you want to see in terms of travel between the United States and Europe -- lifting travel restrictions?

THE PRESIDENT: I'd love it to open up as soon as it can, but we have to make sure that we're doing well and they're doing well. And in many cases, we are. But, you know, we have a very big country. We have some areas that have done incredibly well. We have other areas where the results are -- it's tougher. New York and New Jersey are tougher.

People don't realize New Jersey is the most dense state. A lot of people don't realize that. The governor is a terrific person. He's very liberal, but that's okay. He's a very liberal guy, but we like him. He's a good man and he's working very hard. But New Jersey is a very dense area -- very, very dense.

And I speak to Andrew a lot -- Andrew Cuomo -- a lot. We're working very well together. And, you know, those are the two spots that have really been very heavily hit -- a big portion, a big percentage. I don't know what it is. It's a very big percentage. Almost half of our deaths would be to those two.

Now, at the same time, the numbers, even in those two places, are coming down. They're coming down very rapidly. And I put out yesterday a statement: Numbers are coming down, with the exception of very little -- few exceptions -- the numbers are coming down all over the United States very rapidly. Very rapidly. It's a beautiful thing to watch. But it's left behind serious death, and it shouldn't have happened.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

END

4:21

P.M. EDT

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From: Riggs, Charlotte R. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 5/11/2020 4:40:17 PM
To: Shah, Anand [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e2172ebbd96946c08e189fd612855f51-Anand.Shah]
CC: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: RE: Principals Committee Meeting on Essential Medicines EO - 5/12 10:30AM
Attachments: Essential Meds EO - for PC Discussion.docx; 20200511093919605.pdf

Yes, they are attached here and in the invite that I will send you now!

From: Shah, Anand <Anand.Shah@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:38 PM
To: Riggs, Charlotte R. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Principals Committee Meeting on Essential Medicines EO - 5/12 10:30AM

Thanks, Charlotte. Do you have the read-ahead items you note below?
Anand

Anand Shah, MD
Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

PRE-DECISIONAL, CONFIDENTIAL

From: Riggs, Charlotte R. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:35 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Shah, Anand <Anand.Shah@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Principals Committee Meeting on Essential Medicines EO - 5/12 10:30AM

Great, confirmed on our end! Will send a calendar invite now. Thank you all for your help! Please let me know if you have any other questions or concerns.

Charlotte

From: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Riggs, Charlotte R. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Shah, Anand <Anand.Shah@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: Principals Committee Meeting on Essential Medicines EO - 5/12 10:30AM

Charlotte, Anand Shah is our Deputy Commissioner and can take this for the commissioner in the SCIF tomorrow at HHS. Mind sending him the details? Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 11, 2020, at 4:07 PM, Riggs, Charlotte R. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov> wrote:

Copy, thank you for letting us know. Is there a designee he can request to send on his behalf that can call in from a secure line or SVTC?

Charlotte

From: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Riggs, Charlotte R. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: Re: Principals Committee Meeting on Essential Medicines EO - 5/12 10:30AM

Hahn has a virtual HELP hearing tomorrow during this time. He will not be able to join. He also, does not have a secure line and is self quarantining at home.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 11, 2020, at 11:09 AM, Riggs, Charlotte R. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well.

(b) (5)

. Out of an abundance of caution, we request all cabinet/agency attendees to call into the WHSR via SVTC or secure line, if your principal has a strong desire to attend in person please email me separately.

Participants are below, read ahead items attached. Please confirm your principals RSVP ASAP. Once confirmed I will send around a calendar invite with details regarding dial in instructions.

Thank you,
Charlotte

Title:

(b) (5)

Purpose:

(b) (5)

Participants:

Secretary Pompeo
Secretary Esper
Secretary Ross
Secretary Azar
Secretary Wilkie
Administrator Wheeler
Ambassador Lighthizer
Acting Secretary Wolf
Acting Administrator John Barsa (USAID)

Commissioner Hahn
Mark Meadows
Russ Vought
Chris Liddell
Jared Kushner
Robert O'Brien
Marc Short
Peter Navarro
Larry Kudlow
Derek Lyons
Pat Cipollone
Kelvin Droegemeier
Tomas Philipson

(b) (5)



From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 4/27/2020 9:27:57 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]; Amin, Stacy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb3764b7438648838c22881a06fc6afb-Stacy.Amin]
Subject: Importation Timing

What is the timeline to finalize importation amidst COVID-19?

From: Keller, Catherine B. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 4/26/2020 8:58:14 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
CC: Lyons, Derek S. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov]
Subject: FW: Testing Strategy
Attachments: 20200422 Testing Strategy SUNDAY2.docx; 20200422 Testing Strategy SUNDAY2 (redline).docx; Testing Updated 042620 800pm.pptx

Keagan,

(b) (5)

Thank you,
Catherine

From: Lyons, Derek S. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 8:06 PM
To: Meadows, Mark R. EOP/WHO <mrmcos@who.eop.gov>; Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO <jck@who.eop.gov>; Hicks, Hope C. EOP/WHO <Hope@who.eop.gov>; Gilmartin, Kayleigh M. EOP/WHO <Kayleigh.McEnany@who.eop.gov>; Birx, Deborah L. EOP/NSC <Deborah.L.Birx@nsc.eop.gov>; Boehler, Adam <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)] Short, Marc T. EOP/OVP <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@ovp.eop.gov>; Farah, Alyssa A. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Liddell, Christopher P. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Philbin, Patrick F. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Vought, Russell T. EOP/OMB <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]>
Cc: Kan, Derek T. EOP/OMB <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]>; brad.smith@cms.hhs.gov; Rader, John N. EOP/NSC <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]>; Storch, Thomas H. EOP/NSC <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]>; Rinat, Ory S. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Butterfield, Nicholas W. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Dumbauld, Cassidy M. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Miller, Katie R. EOP/OVP <Katie.R.Miller@ovp.eop.gov>; Keller, Catherine B. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Porter, Madison F. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Testing Strategy

All – Once again, thanks for your input. I've attached the latest documents. We had to implement quite a few comments from the last versions, particularly on the Word Document. My hope is that the changes did not affect the substance, but I've attached a redline for those who might need it. Please review and send any RED FLAGS no later than 700 am tomorrow.

Thanks,
Derek

From: Lyons, Derek S. EOP/WHO
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 7:16 PM
To: Meadows, Mark R. EOP/WHO <mrmcos@who.eop.gov>; Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO <jck@who.eop.gov>; Hicks, Hope C. EOP/WHO <Hope@who.eop.gov>; Gilmartin, Kayleigh M. EOP/WHO <Kayleigh.McEnany@who.eop.gov>; Birx, Deborah L. EOP/NSC <Deborah.L.Birx@nsc.eop.gov>; 'Boehler, Adam' <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)] Short, Marc T. EOP/OVP <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@ovp.eop.gov>; Farah, Alyssa A. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Liddell, Christopher P. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Philbin, Patrick F. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Kan, Derek T. EOP/OMB <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]>; 'brad.smith@cms.hhs.gov' <brad.smith@cms.hhs.gov>; Rader, John N. EOP/NSC <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]>; Storch, Thomas H. EOP/NSC <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]>;

Rinat, Ory S. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Butterfield, Nicholas W. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Dumbauld, Cassidy M. EOP/WHO (b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: RE: Testing Strategy

All – Thank you for your input over the past few days. Please find revised documents attached. (b) (5). Please let me know if you have additional comments or edits.

I've added Pat Philbin to this chain for legal review.

Derek

From: Lyons, Derek S. EOP/WHO
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 7:59 PM
To: Meadows, Mark R. EOP/WHO <mrmcos@who.eop.gov>; Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO <jck@who.eop.gov>; Hicks, Hope C. EOP/WHO <Hope@who.eop.gov>; Gilmartin, Kayleigh M. EOP/WHO <Kayleigh.McEnany@who.eop.gov>; Birx, Deborah L. EOP/NSC <Deborah.L.Birx@nsc.eop.gov>; Boehler, Adam (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6); Short, Marc T. EOP/OVP (b) (6)(b) (6)@ovp.eop.gov>; Farah, Alyssa A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Liddell, Christopher P. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Cc: Kan, Derek T. EOP/OMB <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)>; 'brad.smith@cms.hhs.gov' <brad.smith@cms.hhs.gov>; Rader, John N. EOP/NSC (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6); Storch, Thomas H. EOP/NSC (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)>; Rinat, Ory S. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Butterfield, Nicholas W. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>; Dumbauld, Cassidy M. EOP/WHO (b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: Testing Strategy

All –

Please see the latest iteration of the testing documents for Monday. If possible, I would appreciate any comments/concerns about noon tomorrow so we can continue to progress. In addition to content, I believe we still need to do the following:

(b) (5)



I also think we probably need to reconvene at some point this weekend to ensure everyone is comfortable with the products before they go live on Monday. We'll work to find a time.

Derek

From: Fleming, John C. Jr. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 4/17/2020 4:43:23 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: RE: EUAs for Serology Tests

Keagan,

Thanks for the information below. However, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee called again today and indicated that she was confused in that the test she is questioning is an antigen (diagnostic) test, not a serology test. The company is Seegeen (Seegene?) of South Korea. (b) (5)

Regards,

John C. Fleming, MD

Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor to the Chief of Staff
White House West Wing Rm. 121
Office 202.456.7702
Mobile (b) (6)(b) (6)
(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov

From: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:14 PM
To: Fleming, John C. Jr. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: EUAs for Serology Tests

Hello Dr. Fleming,

The FDA has only issued 3 Emergency Use Authorizations for COVID-19 serology tests. They are listed below:

- Chembio Diagnostic System, Inc. "DPP COVID-19 IgM/IgG System": Tests for IgM and IgG
- Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Inc. "VITROS Immunodiagnostic Products Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Total Reagent Pack": Total Antibody Test
- Cellex Inc. "qSARS-CoV-2 IgG/IgM Rapid Test": Tests for IgM and IgG

Thanks,
Keagan

From: Policy Coordinator [PolicyCoordinator@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 5/12/2020 10:12:48 AM
To: Policy Coordinator [PolicyCoordinator@who.eop.gov]; Butterfield, Nicholas W. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Riggs, Charlotte R. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Juarez, Damon [Juarez.Damon@epa.gov]; Hyman, Alana [Hyman.Alana@epa.gov]; Dickerson, Aaron [dickerson.aaron@epa.gov]; John Barsa [jbarsa@usaid.gov]; Scott, Corey [scott.corey@epa.gov]; 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]; S_Scheduling [S_Scheduling@state.gov]; D_Scheduling [D_Scheduling@state.gov]; Goudarzi, Talat (Federal) [TGoudarzi@doc.gov]; Walsh, Michael (Federal) [MWalsh@doc.gov]; Tignor, Beth (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=44f3651e3b164ef786d33dc18b5112a4-HHS-Beth.Ti]; Colli, Jacqueline [Jacqueline.Colli@va.gov]; Carrington, Belinda L. [belinda.carrington@va.gov]; Pruitt, Mark [pruitt.mark@epa.gov]; Lighthizer, Robert E. EOP/USTR (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @ustr.eop.gov; Knight, Jaclyn C. EOP/USTR (b) (6)(b) (6) @ustr.eop.gov; BRISTOL, JULIA [julia.bristol@hq.dhs.gov]; Gonzalez, Hannah CIV SD [Hannah.Gonzalez@sd.mil]; Graham Higgins [ghiggins@usaid.gov]; Eibhilin Whittimore [ewhittimore@usaid.gov]; Meadows, Mark R. EOP/WHO [mrmcos@who.eop.gov]; Thurston, Eliza C. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Vought, Russell T. EOP/OMB (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) ; Conant, Ann M. EOP/OMB (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) ; Liddell, Christopher P. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Boyd, Charlton J. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Dumbauld, Cassidy M. EOP/WHO (b) (6) @who.eop.gov; DL NSC NSA FO Staff [DL.NSAFOStaff@whmo.mil]; Short, Marc T. EOP/OVP (b) (6)(b) (6) @ovp.eop.gov; Hurst, Natalie R. EOP/OVP (b) (6)(b) (6) @ovp.eop.gov; Navarro, Peter K. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Miller, Joanna R. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Kudlow, Larry A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Varga, Susan C. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Lyons, Derek S. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Harris, Shane M. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Cipollone, Pat A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Lair, Kate E. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Droegemeier, Kelvin K. EOP/OSTP (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @ostp.eop.gov; Doster, Kim M. EOP/OSTP (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @ostp.eop.gov; Philipson, Tomas J. EOP/CEA (b) (6)(b) (6) @cea.eop.gov; Tubb, Emily A. EOP/CEA (b) (6)(b) (6) @cea.eop.gov
CC: Philbin, Patrick F. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; DeBacker, Devin A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Hemme, Jake W. EOP/NSC (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) ; Hoffman, Jason M. EOP/OMB (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) Gray, Alexander B. EOP/NSC (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)

Subject: PC on Made-in-America Medicines and Medical Countermeasures
Attachments: Essential Meds EO - for PC Discussion.docx; 20200511093919605.pdf; PC on Medicines Agenda 5.12.docx
Location: WHSR JFK / SVTC OR Secure line
Start: 5/12/2020 10:30:00 AM
End: 5/12/2020 11:30:00 AM
Show Time As: Free
Recurrence: (none)

All,

There will be a Principals Committee meeting on the Essential Medicines EO tomorrow morning at 10:30AM. Read ahead materials are attached, and an agenda is below.

Agenda

(b) (5)

Thank you,
Policy Coordinator

Purpose:

(b) (5)



Participants:

Secretary Ross
Secretary Azar
Secretary Wilkie
Administrator Wheeler
Ambassador Lighthizer
Acting Secretary Wolf
Deputy Secretary Biegun
Deputy Secretary Norquist
Deputy Commissioner Anand Shah
Acting Administrator John Barsa (USAID)
Mark Meadows
Russ Vought
Chris Liddell
Robert O'Brien
Marc Short
Peter Navarro
Larry Kudlow
Derek Lyons
Pat Cipollone
Kelvin Droegemeier
Tomas Philipson
John Brooks

SVTC/ Secure Line Instructions:

Please have your agencies video operator connect with the WHSR beforehand to have your principal called in. If you have any trouble the WHSR can be reached at either of the numbers below:

(b) (6)



From: Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov [Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: 5/18/2020 1:21:39 PM
To: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov]
CC: Hurst, Natalie R. EOP/OVP [(b) (6)(b) (6)]@ovp.eop.gov]; Taylor, Elizabeth A. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov]; Troye, Olivia EOP/NSC [Olivia.Troye@nsc.eop.gov]
Subject: Re: State Phase Data

Thanks! (b) (5)

Just let me know who is most appropriate. Thanks!

Keagan

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 18, 2020, at 1:04 PM, Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov wrote:

>
> Hi Keagan,

> Attached is the latest, hot off the press.

>
> -Doug

>
> -----Original Message-----

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

> Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 12:01 PM

> To: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov

> Subject: State Phase Data

>
> Hi Doug,

> We are starting to institute inspections again of medical products and food suppliers. (b) (5)

>
> Thanks,
> Keagan

>
> Sent from my iPhone

> <COVID-19 State Re-Open Actions Key Metrics for States - 05-18-2020_v1.3.pdf>

From: Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov [Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: 5/5/2020 9:43:34 AM
To: Gross, Karas [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0b6d3dc4ee4b415d86ec634c536453b6-Kara.Gross]
CC: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov]; Black, Jennifer [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=aaf8a19f3672492293a7c1b2d1498059-Jennifer.BI]; Telle, Adam R. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov]; Schipper, Jodi [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2373b9ecd1654e65992a9a5fbee59630-SCHIPPERJ]; Tantillo, Andrew [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c43045bfeef846fa99daa0c3d4772a1c-Andrew.Tant]
Subject: Re: Remdesivir

Yes. The distribution will be by FEMA and [(b) (4)(b) (4)(b) (4)], the allocations will be handled by [(b) (4)] Still waiting to hear from [(b) (4)] who the point of contact is.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 5, 2020, at 9:17 AM, Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)



From: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>
Date: May 5, 2020 at 9:00:15 AM EDT
To: Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Black, Jennifer <Jennifer.Black@fda.hhs.gov>, Telle, Adam R. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>, Schipper, Jodi <jodi.schipper@fda.hhs.gov>, Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov>, Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: Re: Remdesivir

Ok thank you, I'll follow up with Sarah Arbes.

Virginia McMillin
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Legislative Affairs
[(b) (6)(b) (6)]

On May 5, 2020, at 8:59 AM, Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

+Keagan

We're getting the incoming as well. I know Keagan has been trying to track down a contact or process we can share but ultimately I don't think that decision is FDA's nor will we be the contact. Keagan can add anything she has tracked down since she and I spoke yesterday.

From: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 8:54 AM

To: Black, Jennifer <Jennifer.Black@fda.hhs.gov>

Cc: Telle, Adam R. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov>; Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>; Schipper, Jodi <jodi.schipper@fda.hhs.gov>; Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Remdesivir

Jen, thank you again for this. (b) (5)

Virginia McMillin
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Legislative Affairs
(b) (6)(b) (6)

On May 4, 2020, at 12:58 PM, Black, Jennifer <Jennifer.Black@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

Hi Adam,

(b) (5)

Thanks,
Jen

From: Telle, Adam R. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 4, 2020 12:53 PM

To: Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov>

Cc: McMillin, Virginia D. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov>; Schipper, Jodi <jodi.schipper@fda.hhs.gov>; Black, Jennifer <Jennifer.Black@fda.hhs.gov>; Tantillo, Andrew <Andrew.Tantillo@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: Re: Remdesivir

Jodi, Jennifer, and Andrew,
Many thanks on any advice you can provide.

Thank you.

Adam

On May 4, 2020, at 12:46 PM, Gross, Karas <Karas.Gross@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

From: Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov [Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: 5/25/2020 10:55:19 AM
To: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>
Subject: Re: (b) (5)

We are not anticipating record numbers this year, which is due to approval actions of original ANDAs normalizing. (b) (5)

To note, at this time, COVID-19 has not had a significant impact on the ANDA program's review output. We had higher approvals in March-May as compared January and February. However, that could change as more supply disruptions emerge or travel bans remain in effect.

Here are some monthly comparative data for October-May approval actions from FYs 2020 and 2019.

Year	Month	Approvals	Tentative Approvals
2019	October	57	(b) (5)
2018	October	110	(b) (5)
2019	November	59	(b) (5)
2018	November	99	(b) (5)
2019	December	63	(b) (5)
2018	December	70	(b) (5)
2020	January	49	(b) (5)
2019	January	82	(b) (5)
2020	February	51	(b) (5)
2019	February	82	(b) (5)
2020	March	60	(b) (5)
2019	March	89	(b) (5)
2020	April	65	(b) (5)
2019	April	94	(b) (5)
2020	May	51	(b) (5)
2019	May	83	(b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On May 24, 2020, at 1:02 AM, Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov> wrote:

Keagan,

(b) (5)

James

From: Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov [Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: 5/25/2020 9:17:50 AM
To: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]
Subject: Re: (b) (5)

Team is pulling the numbers. (b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 25, 2020, at 8:36 AM, Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) who.eop.gov> wrote:
>

(b) (5)

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) who.eop.gov>
> Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2020 1:02 AM
> To: Keagan Lenihan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
> Subject: (b) (5)

> Keagan,

(b) (5)

> James

From: Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov [Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: 5/19/2020 5:33:23 PM
To: Taylor, Elizabeth A. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]
CC: Pottebaum, Nic D. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]; Iyer, Ram [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=28892c5491d741619d351b38cf70ffa6-Ram.Iyer]; Sigg, Jim [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=37695069dc214f5cb20e6056dd4d7cf7-sigg]
Subject: Re: State Phase Data

Wonderful! Thanks so much Elizabeth. Can you pls include Ram and Jim, who are included on this email?

Appreciate it!
Keagan

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 19, 2020, at 4:50 PM, Taylor, Elizabeth A. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov] wrote:
>
> Hi Keagan,
>
> Following up on this request. I am happy to add you or whomever you deem most appropriate from your office to our DL of this data tracker. As for timing, this is updated several times a week.
>
> Please let me know if you have any questions, thanks.
>
> Elizabeth
>
> Elizabeth Taylor
> Executive Assistant
> The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
> Office: 202-456-1686 | Cell: [(b) (6)(b) (6)]

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
> Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 1:22 PM
> To: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]
> Cc: Hurst, Natalie R. EOP/OVP [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @ovp.eop.gov]; Taylor, Elizabeth A. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]; Troye, Olivia EOP/NSC <Olivia.Troye@nsc.eop.gov>
> Subject: Re: State Phase Data

> Thanks! [(b) (5)]
Just let me know who is most appropriate. Thanks!

> Keagan
>
> Sent from my iPhone

>> On May 18, 2020, at 1:04 PM, Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov] wrote:
>>
>> Hi Keagan,
>>
>> Attached is the latest, hot off the press.
>>
>> -Doug

>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
>> Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 12:01 PM
>> To: Hoelscher, Douglas L. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov]
>> Subject: State Phase Data

>> Hi Doug,
>>
>> We are starting to institute inspections again of medical products and food suppliers. [(b) (5)]

(b) (5)

>>
>> Thanks,
>> Keagan
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>> <COVID-19 State Re-Open Actions Key Metrics for States - 05-18-2020_v1.3.pdf>

From: Policy Coordinator [PolicyCoordinator@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 5/11/2020 4:57:01 PM
To: Policy Coordinator [PolicyCoordinator@who.eop.gov]; Butterfield, Nicholas W. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) (6) @who.eop.gov; Riggs, Charlotte R. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Juarez, Damon [Juarez.Damon@epa.gov]; Hyman, Alana [Hyman.Alana@epa.gov]; Dickerson, Aaron [dickerson.aaron@epa.gov]; John Barsa [jbarsa@usaid.gov]; Scott, Corey [scott.corey@epa.gov]; 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]; S_Scheduling [S_Scheduling@state.gov]; D_Scheduling [D_Scheduling@state.gov]; Goudarzi, Talat (Federal) [TGoudarzi@doc.gov]; Walsh, Michael (Federal) [MWalsh@doc.gov]; Tignor, Beth (OS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=44f3651e3b164ef786d33dc18b5112a4-HHS-Beth.Ti]; Colli, Jacqueline [Jacqueline.Colli@va.gov]; Carrington, Belinda L. [belinda.carrington@va.gov]; Pruitt, Mark [pruitt.mark@epa.gov]; Lighthizer, Robert E. EOP/USTR (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @ustr.eop.gov; Knight, Jaclyn C. EOP/USTR (b) (6)(b) (6) @ustr.eop.gov; BRISTOL, JULIA [julia.bristol@hq.dhs.gov]; Gonzalez, Hannah CIV SD [Hannah.Gonzalez@sd.mil]; Graham Higgins [ghiggins@usaid.gov]; Eibhilin Whittimore [ewhittimore@usaid.gov]; Meadows, Mark R. EOP/WHO [mrmcos@who.eop.gov]; Thurston, Eliza C. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Vought, Russell T. EOP/OMB (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) ; Conant, Ann M. EOP/OMB (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) ; Liddell, Christopher P. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Kushner, Jared C. EOP/WHO [jck@who.eop.gov]; Boyd, Charlton J. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Dumbauld, Cassidy M. EOP/WHO (b) (6) @who.eop.gov; DL NSC NSA FO Staff [DL.NSAFOStaff@whmo.mil]; Short, Marc T. EOP/OVP (b) (6)(b) (6) @ovp.eop.gov; Hurst, Natalie R. EOP/OVP (b) (6)(b) (6) @ovp.eop.gov; Navarro, Peter K. EOP/WHO [Peter.K.Navarro@who.eop.gov]; Miller, Joanna R. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Kudlow, Larry A. EOP/WHO [Lawrence.A.Kudlow@who.eop.gov]; Varga, Susan C. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Lyons, Derek S. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Harris, Shane M. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Cipollone, Pat A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Lair, Kate E. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Droegemeier, Kelvin K. EOP/OSTP (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @ostp.eop.gov; Doster, Kim M. EOP/OSTP (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @ostp.eop.gov; Philipson, Tomas J. EOP/CEA (b) (6)(b) (6) @cea.eop.gov; Tubb, Emily A. EOP/CEA (b) (6)(b) (6) @cea.eop.gov
CC: Philbin, Patrick F. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; DeBacker, Devin A. EOP/WHO (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov; Hemme, Jake W. EOP/NSC (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) ; Hoffman, Jason M. EOP/OMB (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) ; Gray, Alexander B. EOP/NSC (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)

Subject: (b) (5)
Attachments: (b) (5)
Location: WHSR JFK / SVTC OR Secure line

Start: 5/12/2020 10:30:00 AM
End: 5/12/2020 11:30:00 AM
Show Time As: Free

Recurrence: (none)

All,

There will be a (b) (5) . Read ahead materials are attached, and an agenda is below.

Agenda
(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thank you,
Policy Coordinator

Purpose:

(b) (5)

Participants:

Secretary Ross
Secretary Azar
Secretary Wilkie
Administrator Wheeler
Ambassador Lighthizer
Acting Secretary Wolf
Deputy Secretary Biegun
Deputy Secretary Norquist
Deputy Commissioner Anand Shah
Acting Administrator John Barsa (USAID)
Mark Meadows
Russ Vought
Chris Liddell
Robert O'Brien
Marc Short
Peter Navarro
Larry Kudlow
Derek Lyons
Pat Cipollone
Kelvin Droegemeier
Tomas Philipson
John Brooks

SVTC/ Secure Line Instructions:

Please have your agencies video operator connect with the WHSR beforehand to have your principal called in. If you have any trouble the WHSR can be reached at either of the numbers below:

(b) (6)

From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 6/1/2020 3:26:15 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: In town pool report # 7 -- POTUS/Putin on G7, Ventilators and More

From: Kadia Goba <kadia.goba@buzzfeed.com>

Sent: Monday, June 1, 2020 3:15 PM

Subject: In town pool report # 7 -- POTUS/Putin on G7, Ventilators and More

Sent to the pool by Judd Deere:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. President Trump and President Putin discussed the latest efforts to defeat the coronavirus pandemic and reopen global economies. President Trump conveyed that the United States is working hard to care for Americans at home and provide assistance to other countries in need, including the donation of 200 ventilators to the Russian people. President Trump also reiterated the need for effective arms control. Additionally, the two leaders discussed progress toward convening the G7.

--



Kadia Goba | Politics Reporter - DC | c: 917-202-3696 | [@kadiagoba](https://twitter.com/kadiagoba)

1630 Connecticut Avenue NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20009

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

From: Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov [Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: 4/28/2020 4:23:56 PM
To: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov]
CC: Brooks, John (CMS) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d8d251ad1ebd447f8378d71031e0dabf-HHS-John.Br]; Schiller, Lowell [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=77949b06919e4f91aa788e9a616c50c7-Lowell.Schi]; Amin, Stacy [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cb3764b7438648838c22881a06fc6afb-Stacy.Amin]
Subject: Re: Importation Final Rule

Lowell, can you check with the working group for their thoughts and get back to the group? Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 28, 2020, at 4:09 PM, Williams, James H. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov wrote:

Keagan,

Thank you for the timeline. I will discuss this with Dir. Grogan. [REDACTED]

(b) (5)

James

From: Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:15 AM
To: Williams, James H. EOP/WHO <[(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov>; Brooks, John (CMS) <John.Brooks@cms.hhs.gov>
Cc: Schiller, Lowell <Lowell.Schiller@fda.hhs.gov>; Amin, Stacy <Stacy.Amin@fda.hhs.gov>
Subject: Importation Final Rule

Hello,

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Thanks,
Keagan

From: Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov [Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov]
Sent: 4/18/2020 5:25:01 PM
To: Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO [Joseph.J.Grogan@who.eop.gov]
CC: Cacco, Stephanie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=950c32cebc4b4f80b302c50cf31c8524-Stephanie.C]; O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP [Devin.M.O'Malley@ovp.eop.gov]
Subject: Re: FDA statement on serology statement?

No worries.

(b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2020, at 5:19 PM, Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO <Joseph.J.Grogan@who.eop.gov> wrote:

That was obviously a spellcheck mishap Keagan. Did not mean to refer to you as Megan.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2020, at 4:09 PM, Lenihan, Keagan <Keagan.Lenihan@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

Adding Stephanie - did we rework?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2020, at 3:48 PM, Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO <Joseph.J.Grogan@who.eop.gov> wrote:

Megan, looping you in with Devin. (b) (5)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2020, at 3:18 PM, O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <Devin.M.O'Malley@ovp.eop.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2020, at 2:37 PM, Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO <Joseph.J.Grogan@who.eop.gov> wrote:

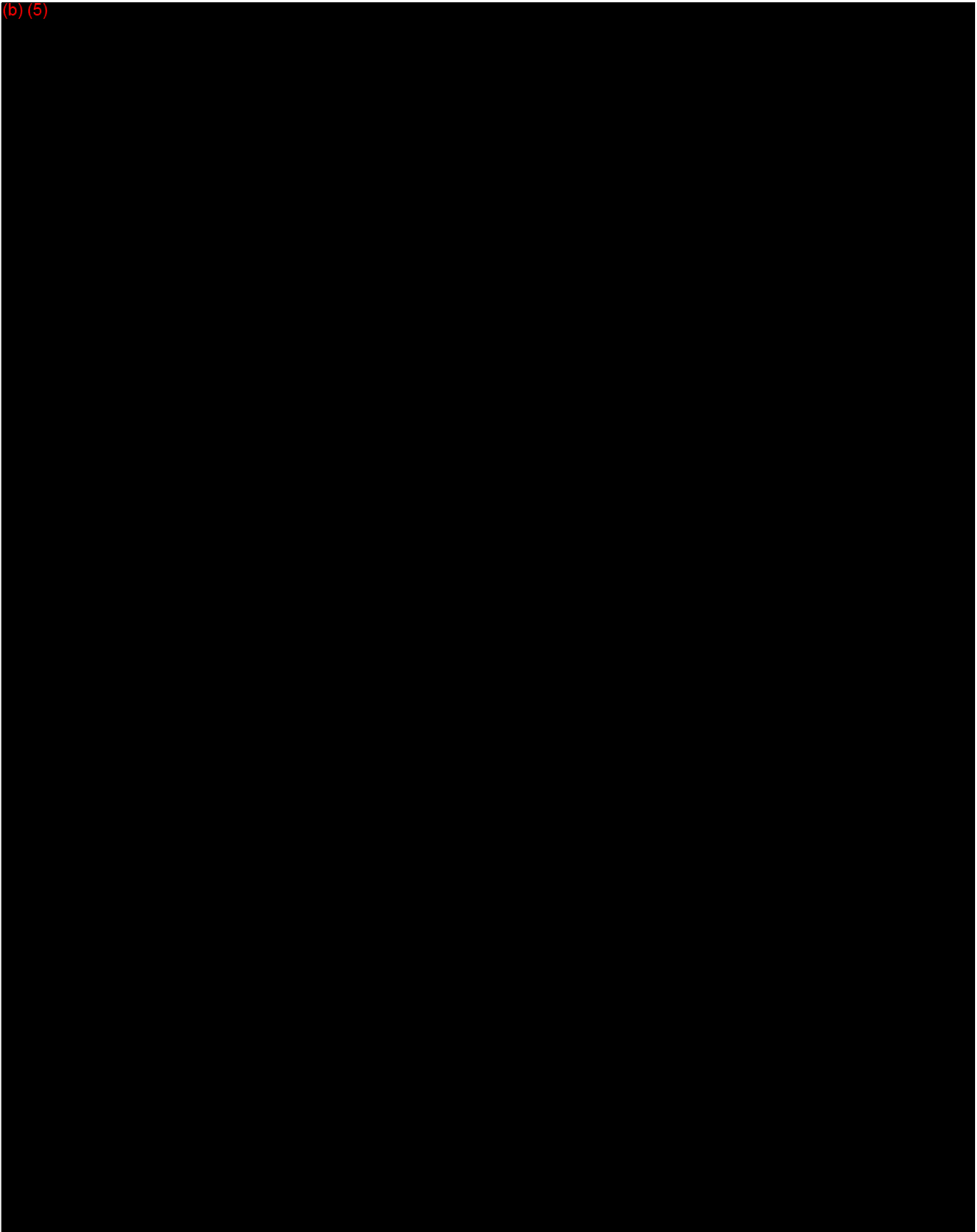
I see what you're saying. Let's let them get it though for now.

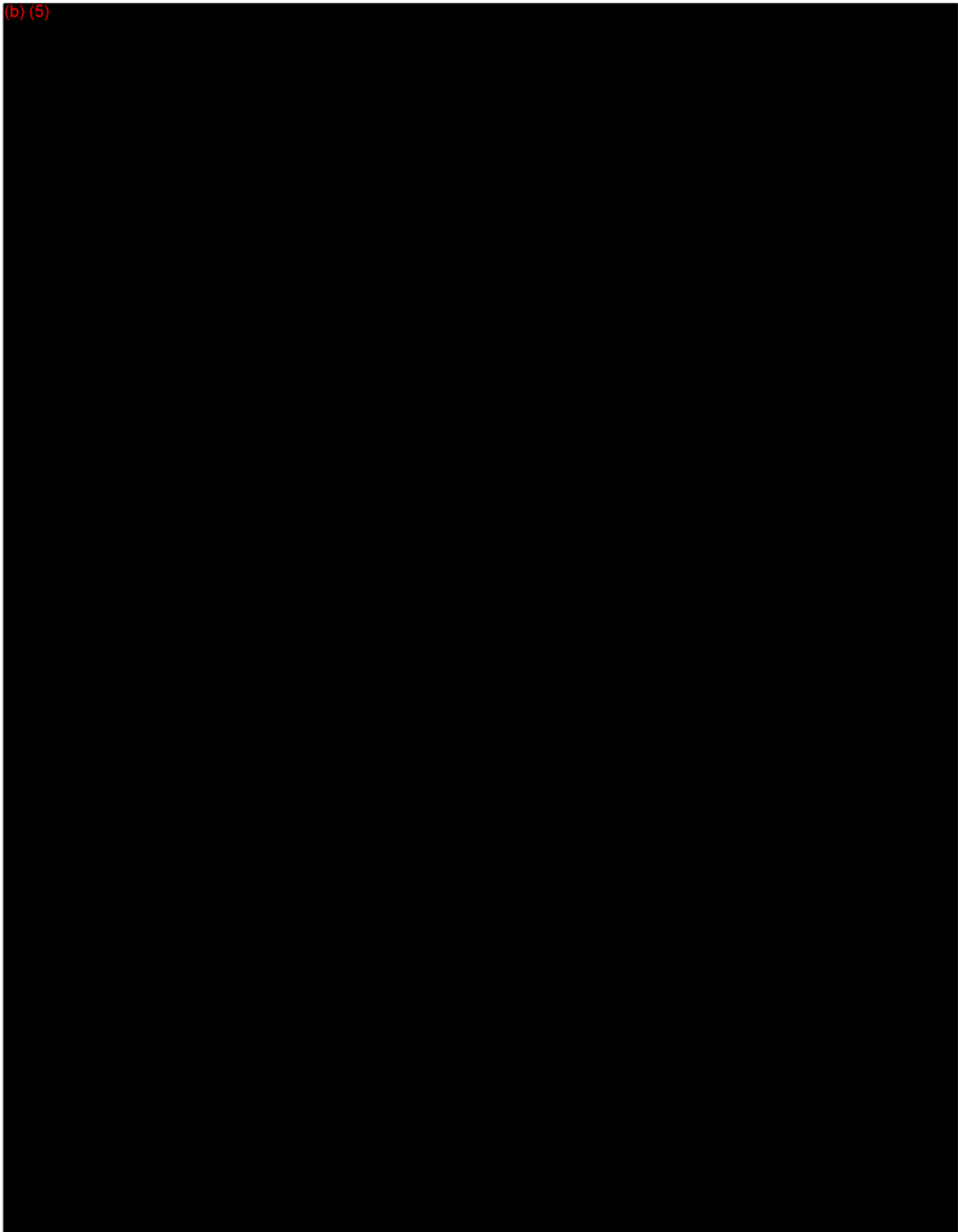
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2020, at 2:21 PM, O'Malley, Devin M. EOP/OVP <Devin.M.O'Malley@ovp.eop.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)







(b) (5)



Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2020, at 12:51 PM, Grogan, Joseph J. EOP/WHO <Joseph.J.Grogan@who.eop.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)



Sent from my iPhone

From: Abbott, Christopher J. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov]
Sent: 7/24/2020 1:36:19 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: FW: SDVOSB team US made: K201479_S001: file accepted

Keagan,

Thanks for the call. See below for what we discussed. (b) (4)

[REDACTED]

Appreciate all of your team's work.

Best,
Chris

From: Chang, Cynthia <Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:03 PM
To: William Wade <wwade@sagrpllc.com>
Cc: Schwartz, Suzanne <Suzanne.Schwartz@fda.hhs.gov>; Abbott, Christopher J. EOP/WHO [(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)]@who.eop.gov
Subject: Re: SDVOSB team US made: K201479_S001: file accepted

Dear Bill,

Thank you for this update. The team will continue to review the file.

Best regards,
Cynthia

Cynthia J. Chang, Ph.D.

Director

DHT4B: Division of Infection Control and Plastic Surgery Devices
OHT4: Office of Surgical and Infection Control Devices
Office of Product Evaluation and Quality

CDRH | Food and Drug Administration
White Oak, Bldg. 66, Rm. 4646 | 10903 New Hampshire Avenue | Silver Spring, MD 20993
Ph: (301) 796-6970 | [(b) (6)(b) (6)]
Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov

-
Excellent customer service is important to us. Please take a moment to provide feedback regarding the customer service you have received: ><https://www.research.net/s/cdrhcustomerservice?ID=1624&S=E><

From: William Wade <wwade@sagrpllc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Chang, Cynthia <Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Schwartz, Suzanne <Suzanne.Schwartz@fda.hhs.gov>; Abbott, Christopher J. EOP/WHO

(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) @who.eop.gov>

Subject: Re: SDVOSB team US made: K201479_S001: file accepted

Dear Cynthia,

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Our file was 'accepted' for substantial review at 0830hrs this morning, so now we're awaiting that process for approval.

Looking forward to our continued service to the nation and new US jobs creation.

All the best,

- Bill

William Wade

Founder/CEO

SAG/Sterling Holdings

Mobile: (b) (6)(b) (6)

a US Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)

On Jul 21, 2020, at 8:40 PM, Chang, Cynthia <Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov> wrote:

Dear Bill,

Thank you for this information. We will make sure that the team works quickly on the submission.

Best regards,

Cynthia

Cynthia J. Chang, Ph.D.

Director

DHT4B: Division of Infection Control and Plastic Surgery Devices

OHT4: Office of Surgical and Infection Control Devices

Office of Product Evaluation and Quality

CDRH | Food and Drug Administration

White Oak, Bldg. 66, Rm. 4646 | 10903 New Hampshire Avenue | Silver Spring, MD 20993

Ph: (301) 796-6970 | (b) (6)(b) (6)

Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov

-
Excellent customer service is important to us. Please take a moment to provide feedback regarding the customer service you have received: ><https://www.research.net/s/cdrhcustomerservice?ID=1624&S=E><

From: William Wade <wwade@sagrpllc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:00 PM

To: Chang, Cynthia <Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov>; Schwartz, Suzanne <Suzanne.Schwartz@fda.hhs.gov>

Cc: Abbott, Christopher J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>

Subject: RE: SDVOSB team US made: K201479_S001: file accepted

Dear Cynthia,

FYI – we’re optimistic for FDA review and approval this week; but attached is the Acknowledgement Letter from FDA on our re-submitted file with the final Nelson Lab reports (also attached is Team authorization memo from our manufacturing partner DemeTECH).

We’re looking forward to (b) (4) PPE production.

Many thanks again for checking the status of our file. We greatly appreciate it.

All the best,

- Bill

William Wade
Founder/CEO
SAG, LLC/Sterling Holdings
Mobile: (b) (6)(b) (6)
a US Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)
<image002.png>

From: Chang, Cynthia [mailto:Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov]

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 4:18 PM

To: William Wade <wwade@sagrpllc.com>; Schwartz, Suzanne <Suzanne.Schwartz@fda.hhs.gov>

Cc: Abbott, Christopher J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>

Subject: Re: SDVOSB team US made: K201479: final tests submitted for FDA 510(k)

Bill,

Thank you very much for the good news. We look forward to continuing the review of your submission.

Best regards,
Cynthia

Cynthia J. Chang, Ph.D.

Director

DHT4B: Division of Infection Control and Plastic Surgery Devices

OHT4: Office of Surgical and Infection Control Devices

Office of Product Evaluation and Quality

CDRH | Food and Drug Administration

White Oak, Bldg. 66, Rm. 4646 | 10903 New Hampshire Avenue | Silver Spring, MD 20993

Ph: (301) 796-6970 | (b) (6)(b) (6)

Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov

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From: William Wade <wwade@sagrpllc.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 12:22 PM

To: Schwartz, Suzanne <Suzanne.Schwartz@fda.hhs.gov>; Chang, Cynthia <Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov>

Cc: Abbott, Christopher J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)@who.eop.gov>

Subject: SDVOSB team US made: K201479: final tests submitted for FDA 510(k)

Dear Dr. Chang and Suzanne,

1. FYI, please see update below on submittal **K201479**. Our Nelson Lab Bio-compatibility final lengthy test passed yesterday, and we resubmitted for 510k approval this morning. (K201479 DemeTech surgical mask. (our previous request for waiver under FDA guidelines was not approved while pending this lab report; which has finally arrived to permit a full review).

2. (b) (4) pending the 510k approval, (b) (4)

Many thanks again for your assistance with our Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) and our partner looking into this matter. We greatly appreciate it.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

All the Best,

- Bill

William Wade

Founder/CEO

SAG, LLC/Sterling Holdings

Mobile: (b) (6)(b) (6)

a US Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)

<image003.png>

From: tracy.chadwick@demetech.us [mailto:tracy.chadwick@demetech.us]

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:45 AM

To: 'Hu, Zonglin' <Zonglin.Hu@fda.hhs.gov>

Cc: 'Claverie, Elizabeth F' <Elizabeth.Claverie@fda.hhs.gov>; 'Murray III, Clarence' <Clarence.Murray@fda.hhs.gov>; k201479@docs.fda.gov; William Wade <wwade@sagrpllc.com>; luisjr@demetech.us; 'Qian, Bifeng' <Bifeng.Qian@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: K201479 DemeMask Questions

Good Morning Dr. Hu,

Please be advised that we sent the e-copy of the revised submission including via FedEx and it will arrive today by 10:30a. We appreciate you and your team's guidance on this submission, we believe that all of the outstanding issues have been addressed.

><https://we.tl/t-NxSyAkm3Ez><

Thank you,
Tracy T. Chadwick
Quality Director

From: Hu, Zonglin <Zonglin.Hu@fda.hhs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 2:32 PM

To: tracy.chadwick@demetech.us

Cc: Claverie, Elizabeth F <Elizabeth.Claverie@fda.hhs.gov>; Murray III, Clarence <Clarence.Murray@fda.hhs.gov>; k201479@docs.fda.gov; wwade@sagrpllc.com; luisjr@demetech.us; Qian, Bifeng <Bifeng.Qian@fda.hhs.gov>

Subject: RE: K201479 DemeMask Questions

Good afternoon Tracy,

We would like to have a phone call with you this afternoon at 3:00pm, the phone and code are listed below:

Meeting number (access code): (b) (6)(b) (6)

Meeting password: (b) (6)(b) (6)

Join by phone

Tap to call in from a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-877-465-7975 US Toll Free

+1-210-795-0506 US Toll

Please let me know if you are available.

Thanks,

Zonglin "Tony" Hu, Ph.D.

Scientific Reviewer

CDRH/OHT4/DHT4B/THT4B2

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Tel: 240-402-0215

Email: Zonglin.hu@fda.hhs.gov

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<image019.jpg>

<image020.jpg>

<image021.jpg>

<image022.jpg>

From: tracy.chadwick@demetech.us <tracy.chadwick@demetech.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Hu, Zonglin <Zonglin.Hu@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Claverie, Elizabeth F <Elizabeth.Claverie@fda.hhs.gov>; Murray III, Clarence <Clarence.Murray@fda.hhs.gov>; Stansberry, John <John.Stansberry@fda.hhs.gov>; k201479@docs.fda.gov; wwade@sagrpllc.com; luisjr@demetech.us
Subject: RE: K201479 DemeMask Questions

Good Morning Dr. Hu,

Please find attached a revised list of correspondents.

Thank you,
Tracy T. Chadwick
Quality Director

From: tracy.chadwick@demetech.us <tracy.chadwick@demetech.us>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 4:04 PM
To: 'Hu, Zonglin' <Zonglin.Hu@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: 'Claverie, Elizabeth F' <Elizabeth.Claverie@fda.hhs.gov>; 'Murray III, Clarence' <Clarence.Murray@fda.hhs.gov>; 'Stansberry, John' <John.Stansberry@fda.hhs.gov>; 'k201479@docs.fda.gov' <k201479@docs.fda.gov>
Subject: RE: K201479 DemeMask Questions

Hello Dr. Hu,

Thank you for the feedback on our submission.

I have attached the following:

1. List of Correspondents
2. Cytotoxicity Report- Attached
3. Performance Reports
 - a. BFE
 - b. PFE
 - c. Fluid Resistance
 - d. Flammability
 - e. Delta-P

As you may be aware, DemeTECH is an American manufacturer of medical devices for over 20 years. We pivoted to production of surgical masks when the Covid-19 crisis occurred. All of our raw materials are being sourced from major US raw material suppliers, who supply to other mask manufactures in the US. Below please find pending dates for Irritation and Sensitization. We hope that you will accept our justification on these tests, as these are commonly used raw materials that do not illicit reactions, furthermore it is being supplied by US mills that have been producing this material for surgical masks for many years.

Besides the reports that are already attached, DemeTECH has initiated the following tests.

*Irritation – Target Completion Date: 07/17/2020, Nelson Labs Test ID# 1302991-01

*Sensitization – Target Completion Date: 08/01/2020, Nelson Labs Test ID# 1302998-01

The above tests are pending with Nelson Laboratories. This 510k approval is the last step for us to sign a contract with HHS to supply the national stock pile with AMERICAN MADE masks, and (b) (4) [REDACTED]. Again, we hope you accept the justification on Irritation and Sensitization, as we feel that material will not present a safety risk to the end-users and is substantially equivalent to currently marketed surgical masks.

Thank you,
Tracy T. Chadwick
Quality Director

From: Schwartz, Suzanne [<mailto:Suzanne.Schwartz@fda.hhs.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 6:01 PM
To: William Wade <wwade@sagrpllc.com>; Chang, Cynthia <Cynthia.Chang@fda.hhs.gov>
Cc: Abbott, Christopher J. EOP/WHO <(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) [REDACTED]@who.eop.gov>
Subject: surgical masks and FDA 510(k)

Dear Mr. Wade,
Chris Abbott reached out to me a little while ago regarding your firm and the surgical masks you will be manufacturing.

I'd like to connect you with Dr. Cynthia Chang, who is the Director of the Division of Infection Control and Plastic Surgery Devices, at FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Her division is responsible for the premarket review of submissions for surgical masks among other medical devices.

Dr. Chang will be happy to guide you through the 510(k) process and to answer any questions you have.

Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of any additional help as well.

Thank you sir for your service!

Cynthia –

I understand from Chris that Mr. Wade's company is preparing to manufacture (b) (4) [REDACTED] surgical masks. I leave it in your capable hands to engage with Mr. Wade on the status of his firm's efforts.

Suzanne
Suzanne B. Schwartz, MD, MBA
Deputy Director (& Acting Office Director) Office of Strategic Partnerships & Technology Innovation
Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH)
Office of Strategic Partnerships and Technology Innovation (OST)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
WO66, Room 5410
Tel: 301-796-6937
Cell (b) (6)(b) (6) [REDACTED]
Suzanne.Schwartz@fda.hhs.gov

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<image025.jpg>

<image026.jpg>

<image027.jpg>

<image028.jpg>

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From: White House Press Office [info@mail.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: 6/5/2020 7:25:00 PM
To: Lenihan, Keagan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ee7320ee8c184d66bfd521b0105d17d2-Keagan.Leni]
Subject: Out-of-town pool report #14: Phone call

From: "Collins, Michael" <mcollins2@gannett.com>
Date: June 5, 2020 at 7:10:26 PM EDT
Subject: Out-of-town pool report #14: Phone call

From Judd Deere:

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates Sheik Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The two leaders discussed ongoing efforts to combat the coronavirus, ways to restore the economy, and various bilateral and regional security issues.

Michael Collins

White House Correspondent

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Subject: Remarks by President Trump and Vice President Pence in a Roundtable with Law Enforcement



Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2020

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT TRUMP
AND VICE PRESIDENT PENCE
IN A ROUNDTABLE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

State Dining Room

2:17 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. It's a great honor to have some of the true leaders in our country of law enforcement. And that's what they've done: They've enforced the laws. They've done a fantastic job of it. We have among the best numbers we've ever had in terms of recorded history, certainly.

But this has been a very strong year for less crime. Let's put it that way: less crime. And there's a reason for less crime, and it's because we have great law enforcement. I'm very proud of them.

There won't be defunding. There won't be dismantling of our police. And there's not going to be any disbanding of our police. Our police have been letting us live in peace.

We want to make sure we don't have any bad actors in

there. And sometimes you'll see some horrible things, like we witnessed recently. But 99 -- I say 99.9, but let's go with 99 percent of them are great, great people. And they've done jobs that are record setting. Record setting. So our crime statistics are at a level that they haven't been at.

And I just want to go around the room and just ask each one of the folks to say hello and tell a little bit about themselves and the success they've had. And then we're going to go and have a meeting as to where we go from here. Okay? Thank you.

Please.

CAPTAIN YOES: Mr. President, thank you. Thank you for allowing us to come today and talk about something that --

THE PRESIDENT: Press that button. Yeah.

CAPTAIN YOES: Thank you for hosting this meeting and the ability to be able to talk about some very important things to law enforcement. This last year has been very trying to law enforcement.

My name is Patrick Yoes. I'm the national president for the Fraternal Order of Police. In the last year, we've -- or, actually, the last few months, we've been -- we've dealt with COVID. We've lost 117 officers across this country who have been exposed to COVID.

And I thank you for your leadership in recognizing there's not a single thing in the law enforcement profession -- when we were trying to bring hope to our communities during this pandemic, that we were -- we did not receive some great assistance from your administration. So thank you for that support.

But we're dealing with another crisis now, a crisis that's really pushing us to our limits. I don't know a law enforcement officer across this country who -- who's not just appalled by the incident that occurred in Minneapolis. But that one incident certainly doesn't reflect on the 800,000 men and women across this country that go to work every single day and try and make their communities better. So thank you for the chance to have dialogue.

Looking at us as a profession, we recognize that there's -- it's time for us to have some good, deep discussion, and look within and find ways to improve the criminal justice system.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

CAPTAIN YOES: And I stand here to tell you that we -- we want a seat at the table and have that discussion. So thank you for hosting us.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Patrick, very much. I appreciate it.

Ashley, please.

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY: Mr. President, thank you so much for hosting this meeting. First and foremost, we have to ensure -- before we can collaborate and make progress on areas in the criminal justice arena, we have to make sure we have space to do that, and law and order controls. And we appreciate you focusing on what is important: that people have the ability to express their opinions and protest in a peaceful way. But we cannot have attacks on law enforcement, looting. This is -- this will dismantle what we have built for so long.

In Florida, we are at a 48-year crime rate low. We have not been this low in crime in some time. And I believe it is people

like you that have supported law enforcement. And I believe in any administration, in any criminal justice system, in any state, we can always make improvements. And I admire that you are willing to dig in and have these conversations and do that.

I think that, moving forward, the idea that we would ever dismantle our police administrations -- coming from not only as the attorney general of the great state of Florida, as a federal prosecutor, or as a judge for over a decade, but as the wife of a law enforcement officer, I see what these men and women do for our communities. They rush in to save us when other people rush out. They deliver babies. They charge in when someone is hyped up on fentanyl and just beat his wife and his kids, and rescue them. I mean, we expect great things. We have to support them. We have to ensure that they're safe. And at the same time, we must remain committed to improving our system. And I admire that about you, President Trump, that you're willing to do that. And we stand ready to assist you.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much, Ashley. You're doing a great job in Florida. I get the word you're doing a great job. Thank you.

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Please.

SERGEANT PRIDE: Thank you, Mr. President, and staff here at the White House for hosting this meeting. My name is Rob Pride, and I'm the national chairman of trustees for the Fraternal Order of Police. And I'm also here today as a -- as a sergeant, working the streets during this time of crisis in our nation.

And the reason I'm so happy to be here today to represent

the rank and file is because, number one, it is important for everybody to know that there is not one law enforcement officer in the country that I've spoken to with friends and colleagues from all over the country that looked at this horrific incident and remotely thought that there was anything right about it. The great vast majority of men and women in law enforcement are appalled by what happened. But that vast majority is also, as the President has always said -- already said -- those are the good men and women of law enforcement who work hard every day to make their community safe.

And on behalf of that rank and file, we applaud this meeting and we're glad to be here, because there's no doubt in anybody's mind, as General Moody already said, that there's room for improvement. And we know that.

And we're happy to be at the table, and we're happy to welcome that input and do what we can to be better -- better police in this country, better police for our citizens and our communities. And we're happy to be a part of this conversation, and that's why we're here.

So, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Great job, Rob.

SERGEANT PRIDE: I very much appreciate it.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Rob. Great job.

SERGEANT PRIDE: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: We've known each other a long time now. Really good.

Jared? Please.

MR. KUSHNER: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you all for joining. We've really, over the last three and a half years, have had the opportunity to grow very close with law enforcement. We worked very closely together to bring forward to this country criminal justice reform. The law enforcement community heard the cries from the community, saw the injustices in the system that needed to be fixed, and they responded by coming together to fix it. And it's been a great partnership to do that.

Those reforms make our communities safer and have made our system fair. And that's the type of action that we've been able to accomplish by working together. So what we've seen in the past is that the meetings together and the work together doesn't just result in reports and in nice talking points; it actually results in progress and actual policies that make people's lives better and make communities safer.

So it's an honor to work together. And hopefully, at this time where there's a lot of people in the country who are feeling different pain and feeling different concerns, law enforcement can be a leader in coming together and helping us work towards bringing solutions that can bring this country forward.

So thank you very much for the partnership.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Jared. Thank you.

My star.

MR. SMITH: Thanks so much, Mr. President. And thank you to all the law enforcement individuals in the room and for the work that you do on a daily basis.

You know, when I saw what happened with George Floyd, it

really made my heart sunk. It hit me to my core, as well as a lot of the other lives that have been lost.

You know, as an African American, you know, I live in Southeast D.C. and live in a paradox where, you know, my wife is sometimes scared to walk the streets by herself. And -- but then, on -- in the same vein, as an individual, I've also had the fear of being in certain neighborhoods or driving certain types of cars as an African American, just because of my relationship with the police. And there's a lot of African American males across the country that have stories like that that they can share.

But I think law enforcement is there to, kind of, thread the needle and help us and protect us, and not to be demonized. And it's been very, very tough to see what happened and what's been impacting a lot of families across the country.

But I think if we want real reform, like real reform that can change communities, it starts with law enforcement and partnering with them, not demonizing them -- because I have a lot of law enforcement individuals in my life, and they're some of the greatest people I've ever met. And we can't let some bad apples represent something that's a core of any community.

And so we look forward to continuing to partner with you all to find solutions, because that's one thing I've learned with working under President Trump's leadership: that we're not just about talk; we're about action and communities leading, under your leadership, sir, for you to take action.

And it's been -- it's been an honor to serve, and I look forward to the discussion.

THE PRESIDENT: Great to have you with us. Great job you're doing, too. Thank you.

Please. Chief?

CHIEF CASSTEVENSON: Good afternoon, Mr. President, Mr. Vice President. Again, thank you for putting this important meeting together -- probably one of the most important meetings in our profession in my 43 years as a law enforcement officer.

And, you know, I won't echo some of the things that have been said about the horrific incident that brought us here today, but what I will say is this: What it's going to take to make the appropriate changes in law enforcement is courageous leadership. And there are countless courageous leaders in law enforcement across this nation that -- that are willing to step up to the plate and look at new ideas to -- to make our profession better and how we connect with our community.

And I think one of the most important things, Mr. President, that you have done is you've listened to IACP and something we've wanted and asked for, for two decades, and that's a National Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice. And I want to thank you for establishing that, because now, more than ever, that commission is incredibly important. So, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: That's great. Thank you very much.

Mr. VP? Please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. And we're here to listen. I want to thank the attorney generals who are here, but most especially, Sergeant, Chief, others: Thank you. Thanks for what you represent, which is really the best of America.

I told Chief Casstevens that my uncle was a police officer in Chicago for 25 years. And I grew up with my three brothers

and two sisters with great memories of visiting my grandparents in Chicago, seeing my uncle in his uniform, seeing him walk out the door, put his life on the line to protect and serve.

And I want to promise you that you have a President and you have an administration that is always going to stand with the men and women who serve, and at great risk and great sacrifice, protect our communities.

I'm also, though, very grateful, Mr. President, to hear this afternoon a desire to have a conversation about how we can improve. As Jared just shared a moment ago, this President has already demonstrated his willingness to improve our justice system in this country -- passing historic criminal justice reform. And I want to express my appreciation to the law enforcement officials who are here at this table today who were with us when we brought that bipartisan legislation forward, Mr. President, at your direction.

And we're always about the business of making a more perfect union. And we're going to be about that now. In the wake of the tragic event of now -- now almost two weeks ago, we want to hear from you about how we can improve, but improve in a way that builds on that foundation of, really, the finest men and women in our country, the bravest men and women in our country: the men and women of law enforcement; and how we make sure that the men and women who dedicate their lives to law enforcement, who take risks every single day to keep our community safe, are properly supported and that the -- and that the resources from the federal government, the support from state and local authorities are going to continue to hold up those honorable men and women who serve and protect every day.

So thank you, Mr. President. And thank you to all of those who are here.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mike, very much.

MS. ROLLINS: Mr. President, it's an honor to be here with you. Obviously, I've been part of your team for now more than two years, taking over the Domestic Policy Council just about a month ago, but running the Office of American Innovation before that.

What I want to say very briefly is this: Three months ago, on this side of the White House, we gathered almost a thousand black leaders from around this country as we were celebrating Black History Month. And in that celebration, you talked about having the lowest unemployment, the lowest poverty rate this country had ever seen. It was a remarkable feat that deserved such great celebration.

But here we are three months later, and it is a different time for our country. But on Friday, we had another major announcement: two and a half-plus million jobs created in a time of such darkness and destruction. And it reminded me that while we are in the midst of the great American comeback, while we are going to be renewing and rebuilding and restoring this country, that none of it is possible without our law enforcement; that none of it is possible without real safety and real security in this country.

So, really, for the great American comeback, with your leadership, Mr. President, as we cut poverty rates again and we slash unemployment again, and we build a country where every man, woman, and child has a real shot at the American Dream -- it begins today.

I believe it begins with the people in this room. It begins with a law enforcement that is supported, that is stood up, and that I know you and the Vice President and all of us stand beside as we move forward.

So, thank you so much. It's an honor to be here.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Great job.

MR. HOELSCHER: Mr. President, thank you very much. I'm really pleased to work very closely with folks like Sheriff Childress and Attorney General Cameron and Attorney General Moody who took their time to come up here to be a part of this very important conversation. As somebody who has law enforcement in my family as well, it's a very important conversation.

And again, everybody that I've talked to at the elected leader level, but also at the rank-and-file level, was just appalled by what happened in Minneapolis. But out of that comes a commitment, a redoubling to make improvement across the country at the state and local and federal level.

And I'm really pleased to have such strong partners in the Intergovernmental Affairs Office to work with, to help make that progress under your leadership, sir.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Mark?

MR. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership and thank each one of you for being here today. When the cameras are not rolling and when there's no reporters around, there's unbelievable work that has been going on and will continue to go on to make sure that it's not just words, that it's actions.

Mr. President, you've been a president of action. And for such a time as this, action, again, will speak louder than words. And all of you that are gathered around this table today, we thank you for your action to be here and for the action that

will come from this.

So, it's pleasure to serve you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mark, very much.

SHERIFF CHILDRESS: Thank you, Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, and the administration for allowing us to sit down with you once again today. We just want you to know that you are a friend. You have been very supportive of law enforcement. As a matter of fact, I've been 29 years with Livingston County Sheriff's Department. Tony Childress is my name, and I am the sheriff of Livingston County, which is the fourth largest county in the state of Illinois. We're 90 miles south of Chicago. I call it "rural Central" Illinois.

And we have an ideology that I feel, and many others feel, works very well. And that ideology is being a friend of the community, supporting the community with programs like Shopping with the Sheriff, like Halloween with the children, always being there as a listening ear for the community and working with the community.

And, Mr. President, we are happy to sit down with you and to try and do everything we can to make this nation better, by keeping the community safe and by working with you and the nation and making a better place.

Some of the things that we feel, in Livingston County, will be very important is mandatory de-escalation training for all officers; prohibition of all physical restraint maneuvers on or above the neck and any physical acts that restrict the flow of blood or oxygen to the brain; requiring all officers to render medical aid to all people; and requiring officers to intervene when physical forces are being applied to either stop or attempt forces that are being inappropriately applied and is no longer

required.

So we look forward to working with you to hopefully get legislation involved in making these things true and making them law. And we just thank you again for allowing us to be here, and know that you have a friend in Illinois, and anything you need, just let us know.

Thank you again.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Tony. You do a great job, too. Appreciate it.

SHERIFF CHILDRESS: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Bill, please.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR: Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this session. It's good to join with all my friends and colleagues from the law enforcement community, many of whom I've worked with over the years.

The -- I think law enforcement fully understands and has understood for some time the distrust that exists in the African American community toward the criminal justice system. And as I've been reflecting on this over the past few days and weeks, it struck me that for most of our history -- in fact, maybe just up to 60 years ago -- the law was explicitly discriminatory and did not provide equal protection. It's only been since the early '60s that our law has actually provided equal protection to African Americans.

And what we've had over the past 50 years or so is reform of our institutions so that they reflect those values -- the values upon which our country was founded. And some institutions, such as the military, have done an excellent job of reforming. And

law enforcement has too. That's one thing I understand from being Attorney General 30 years ago.

And what makes me very optimistic today is that the law enforcement leaders that we deal with -- and you all know this -- no one is more committed to reforming the criminal justice system and the profession of policing today. And there hasn't been a President recently who has been more committed. He didn't require the crisis we have today to get started with the FIRST STEP Act and with establishing a commission, which has been looking at the very issues we're dealing with today.

And I know there's a lot of interest among police leaders for clarity and guidance on the use of force on some of the issues you were just talking about, Sheriff: making sure the standards are out there, making sure they are trained, and making sure they are adhered to. And we're looking forward to working with you to get that done.

The time for waiting is over. It's now incumbent on us to bring good out of bad. And we can do it, and the commitment is there in law enforcement to do it. So let's get it done.

Finally, just let me say that the other aspect of this is the rule of law and the need for law and order. Above the Department of Justice's main entrance is the Latin phrase that, from law and order, everything else comes. It's the foundation of civilization. And we have to make sure -- it's our responsibility to make sure that our country is ruled by law and not by violence.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Bill. Well said. Thank you very much.

And Daniel -- I got to know Daniel in Kentucky. He is a superstar in the making, if he's not already a superstar. But he

had an incredible race, and we watched it together. And congratulations on that. That was some -- that was some evening, right?

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. President. It was.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, please.

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL CAMERON: And obviously, I was grateful for your support and grateful for your leadership on this current issue. We obviously have had the challenges with COVID-19, and now we are starting to see civil unrest in our society as it relates to some of the challenges that, frankly, black and brown communities have had, as General Barr so eloquently stated it.

We have a responsibility in this room, with all of our law enforcement partners, to look for ways, as we move forward, to do it better, to become better citizens, to become better neighbors.

And I'm so thankful for the men and women of our law enforcement community that recognize the importance in sincere -- sincerity of that need and have the interest not only to protect and serve, but also to demonstrate understanding of the challenges and look for ways to heal the fabric of this nation.

We, as General Barr said, cannot allow for chaos in our streets. We can allow for peaceful protests, but we cannot allow for chaos; we cannot allow for violence. Those in this room know that. Those that have been peacefully protesting know that.

But our challenge today is how can we move together to better our communities, to better our society in a meaningful way. I'm honored to be a part of that discussion, as somebody

from the Commonwealth of Kentucky who represents Kentucky and understand some of the civil unrest that we were seeing there.

So I appreciate you assembling this roundtable. I appreciate all of you all that are here to be a part of this conversation. And I look forward to working with you all and collaborating to better our communities and our society.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL CAMERON: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dan. Proud of you.

So it's very interesting because I just see, in some of the papers, they want to end the police department -- quote, "end the police department" in Minneapolis. End it. What does that mean, "end it"?

They had a couple of very rough nights, and they had a third night which was not good. They abandoned their police precinct -- something I've never seen before. You had a mayor that asked them to abandon, and now they've abandoned the mayor, it looks like. Very -- the opposite of far thinking. You know, you say "far thinking." Is that far thinking?

So they had three really bad nights, and then we -- we -- I insisted on bringing in the National Guard, and all of a sudden, it was like magic. It was in good shape. They helped with the police, but the police were told to leave their posts. Nobody has ever seen anything like that.

But we insisted on having protection for that great city or that great state. A great state -- Minnesota. What a horrible thing. That's where it started, and we ended very strong there once we got involved. We got involved right from the White

House, and we weren't going to let that happen to that city or that state. And I think a lot of people took notice.

The police are doing an incredible job. As I said, their records are being broken, in terms of lack of crime. Lack of crime -- where they had a tremendous year, tremendous 12 months; a tremendous 36 months, I think you can say, during the term. And then you add six months to that. Three and a half years -- it's gone by very quickly.

But we've had a tremendous record on crime. And we're going to work, and we're going to talk about ideas -- how we can do it better and how we can do it, if possible, in a much more gentle fashion.

A thing like happened should never have happened, and plenty of things shouldn't have happened. But we can't give up the finest law enforcement anywhere in the world. There's nothing like it. Few people, few countries have our record, and I'm talking about the positive record.

So we're going to be discussing some ideas and some concepts and some things. But we won't be defunding our police. We won't be dismantling our police. We won't be disbanding our police. We won't be ending our police force in a city. I guess you might have some cities that want to try, but it's going to be very -- a very sad situation if they did because people aren't going to be protected.

These people do a tremendous job of protecting citizens of our country, and that's what -- that's what they're paid for. But whether they were paid or not, that's what they do.

And, you know, somebody put it very beautifully before, where they said: They protect people, risk their own lives for people they've never seen before -- people, in many cases, they

don't know. You're protecting the lives of people you don't know. And it's a -- it's an incredible thing.

It's a great honor to be with you all. And we'll have a little discussion now. Thank you all very much for being here.

Thank you. Thank you very much.

END

2:44 P.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2020

PRESS BRIEFING

BY PRESS SECRETARY KAYLEIGH MCENANY

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:13 P.M. EDT

MS. MCENANY: Hello everyone. The transition to greatness has officially begun. Friday's jobs report was encouraging, to say the absolute least. The jobs in this country -- we had more than 2.5 million added. The prediction was that 7.5 million jobs would be lost. This was a 10 million swing toward the positive side and, in fact, the greatest number of jobs created in a single month on record. That is extraordinary. 225,000 manufacturing jobs, 464,000 thousand construction jobs, and 1.2 million leisure and hospitality jobs were all added in May.

Beyond that, the number of workers who reported being on temporary layoffs decreased by 2.7 million in May. And more than that -- and this was a great number that was pointed out to me today by the CEA -- 300- -- 300,000 jobs were created for black Americans in particular. That's in May, and that was a 1.7 percent increase. So very encouraging numbers there from the CEA that they highlighted for me -- BLS numbers that they

highlighted.

May's jump in average weekly hours also was an encouraging sign because increasing hours is a sign that employees need to hire -- employers need to hire more workers to meet demand. For all private-sector employees, average weekly hours increased by 0.5 percent to 34.7 hours -- the highest level since the series began in 2006. Seventy-three percent of small businesses are open. That is up from the 52 percent right before the April jobs report reference period. Also, workplace visits are up roughly 40 percent from its pandemic low.

The stock market is absolutely soaring. We saw with the S&P that it had its greatest 50-day rally in history. The Dow, likewise, is also booming. The markets clearly have confidence in President Trump -- the jobs President who created the hottest economy in modern history once and will do it again.

Also commentators and economists have noted how great this jobs report was. Yesterday, we saw Mohamed El-Erian, the chief economic advisor at Allianz, say this will go down in history as the biggest positive data shock for the markets and the economy. And you saw how surprised the markets were. They surged on Friday, capping a strong week, with the NASDAQ closing at a record high. He said it was also very surprising to the economists -- not a single one thought that we would create jobs; everybody expected the unemployment rate would go up. It did not.

Also, senior economic correspondent at the New York Times Neil Irwin noted that we have to think that the May unemploy- -- the May employment numbers count as a strong win for PPP supporters. Obviously, the President signed that into law and has been a -- been a big cheerleader of the PPP.

Typical economists missed it by 10 million, as I noted at

the top of the briefing. Ten million. That's bigger than the entire state of Michigan, nearly, and that's how much economists were off.

Why is this happening? Well, it's happening because America has taken note of the fact that we have a President who ushered in the hottest economy in modern history. Record-low unemployment for black Americans, for Hispanic Americans, for the disabled, for our veterans. Paychecks were beginning to rise under the President Donald Trump economy. We have the great jobs creator in office, and America clearly has confidence in this President.

You have a President who fundamentally understands how to put this country back to work, and we saw that in action with the Friday jobs report.

And with that, I'll take questions. So, I'll start with John.

Q Kayleigh, what's the President's thinking on this growing movement to either defund or dismantle police forces across the country? And what reforms does the President think would be appropriate in the wake of the George Floyd killing?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, it's a really good question. The President is appalled by the Defund the Police movement. The fact that you have sitting congresswomen wanting to defund the police -- notably Rashida Tlaib; notably Biden advisor AOC, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez; former Clinton and Eric Holder spokesperson Brian Fallon wanting to defund our police across this country -- it is extraordinary.

And when you think the left has gone far and they couldn't possibly go farther, because we all remember the Defund ICE movement -- they want to defund Immigration and Custom

Enforcement and now they want to defund the police. This is extraordinary. This is rolling back the protective layers that protect Americans in their homes and in their places of business. He's appalled by it, and it's remarkable to hear this coming from today's Democrat Party.

As for solutions, he's talking through a number of proposals. No announcements on that. But he definitely, as he's noted, recognizes the horrid injustice done to George Floyd and is taking a look at various proposals.

Q Does the President agree with any of the mayors across the country who are saying, "I think we can take some of the money from policing and put it toward other programs that could be effective in community development," which could lead to the potential for a less- -- a lesser need for policing?

MS. MCENANY: Well, let's be clear: The mayor of L.A. wants to defund police, take money away from police. Mayor de Blasio, the mayor of New York, wants to take money away from police. That means cutting of police. That means reducing police departments. That means defunding police departments, if not getting rid of them entirely. No, he does not agree with that, and the rest of America does not agree with that.

Kaitlan.

Q I have two questions for you. As you are going over your reforms and what you think is needed, does the President feel that there is systemic racism in law enforcement?

MS. MCENANY: The President has been very clear: There are injustices in society. I've noted several for you that he's pointed out as a Republican primary candidate: noting the Sandra Bland video was absolutely horrible; noting George Floyd -- there's a civil rights investigation into that. He definitely

believes there are instances of racism.

But, look, he believes our law enforcement are the best in the world. He believes that, by and large, they are good people. The 750 who were injured defending this country from rioters and Antifa in the streets -- as to be distinguished from the peaceful protesters -- those 750 officers who were hurt defending our country were heroes -- as was David Dorn, a police officer who lost his life, and Patrick Underwood, who also lost his life in the last week or so.

Q But he doesn't think that there is systemic racism in law enforcement?

MS. MCENANY: He believes most of our police officers are good, hardworking people -- there's a lot of evidence of that -- and he has great faith in our police department.

Q Okay, my second question: Does he still believe that NFL players who kneel as a form of protest against police brutality should be fired?

MS. MCENANY: The President is very much against kneeling in general. The President has made clear for years that kneeling is tied to our National Anthem, that it does not respect our military men and women across this country. He's not a fan of the kneeling movement. He's made that very clear, particularly because he thinks it's disrespectful to our military, as the kneeling originated at the kneeling during the National Anthem.

Q But does he think they should be fired?

MS. MCENANY: I have no comments on that. He is against the kneeling movement, though, as he's noted on Twitter as recently as a few days ago.

Q But you can't say, yes, he does still --

MS. MCENANY: Yes.

Q -- think they should be fired?

MS. MCENANY: I have no information on that, and I have not talked to him about that.

Yes.

Q Is there anything in the Democrats' Policing Act that the administration supports?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, that legislation -- first of all, the text of it hasn't even been giving -- given to us. I have not talked with the President about that yet. He hasn't reviewed it yet.

He's looking at a number of proposals, but there are some nonstarters in there, I would say -- particularly on the immunity issue. You had AG Barr saying -- this weekend, he was asked about reduced immunity, and he said, "I don't think we need to reduce immunity to go after the bad cops because that would result, certainly, in police pulling back, which is not advisable."

So he hasn't reviewed the legislation, but AG Barr, as a member of the administration, noted this prior to the proposal coming out.

Q Does the administration support the banning of the use of chokeholds?

MS. MCENANY: Look, the President, again, hasn't reviewed this piece of legislation. The President is looking at what's a

state issue, what's a federal issue right now. He's currently reviewing proposals, actually, on this very topic about police reform. So I'll leave it to him and not get ahead of him on that.

But, certainly, we believe that the appropriate amount of force should be used in any police interaction with an individual.

Q But two weeks after all of this civil unrest, why does the White -- the White House not have a plan? The President said on Friday that his plan for combating racism is a strong economy. How does that work?

MS. MCENANY: Look, that's an important part of combating racism is making sure that there's equal opportunity for black Americans in this country. This President -- you know, we hear a lot of words from Democrats about criminal justice reform -- that they wanted this. Well, they got it with President Trump reducing racial sentencing disparities via the FIRST STEP Act.

You know, Democrats talk about economic opportunity for black Americans and people in vulnerable communities, and this President has done that with Opportunity Zones. It was a good start: more than 900 places creating private investment to help people get on their feet, to start businesses in this country, HBCUs' record funding. This President has repeatedly, through his actions, stood up for the black community, and a big piece of that is absolutely economic reform.

And I'd finally note, on the point of economic reform: The USMCA -- these trade deals; the TPP, making sure that didn't take place -- that directly advantaged hardworking men and women in Detroit who wanted their auto jobs. So the -- his reformation with trade -- reformation with trade and also Opportunity Zones is helping to ensure that Americans of all races have the same

opportunity in the economic playing field.

Q But you're saying he will eventually have a police reform plan?

MS. MCENANY: He is looking at various proposals. So I won't get ahead of him. No announcements on that front. But he has been looking at them over the last few days.

Yes. Yes.

Q Kayleigh, there are reports that the administration is going to be pulling troops from Germany. Can you say how many? And when and where are they going?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, what I would say on that is: First, we have no announcements at this time. I know there's reporting out there, but, as of this moment, there are no announcements. The President is continually reassessing the best posture for the United States Military forces and our presence overseas. I mean, we remain committed to working with our strong allies.

Q Will he consult Angela Merkel before making a final decision?

MS. MCENANY: I'll leave that to the President. Again, no announcements at this time.

Q Okay. And just one final: the new Lafayette Square fencing. Do you have any indication on when that might be removed or taken down, since the protests have become more peaceful? And who makes that decision?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, you know, I don't have any announcements with regard to the fencing. That's not something that's in White House control, in terms of securing the perimeter.

But what I would say is the President has recognized that the protests have largely been peaceful. Why have they been peaceful? It's because of the actions taken by this administration.

If you'll notice, Minneapolis was in chaos until the National Guard came in, and then it was secure. You had outside, here in Lafayette Park -- I had noted the 750 law enforcement officers that were injured across the country. Well, one fifth of those were in D.C. and the vast majority in Lafayette Park. And once the National Guard came -- came in, D.C. was secure. That Monday decision by the President of encouraging governors to surge National Guard made the difference.

And the President has recognized -- now that the protests are peaceful, he's recommended a winding down of the National Guard. Very peaceful protests over the weekend. So with regard to the security of the building: not a decision for the White House. Would refer you to Secret Service and Park Services on that. But the President has recognized the peaceful protesting and is encouraged by that.

Yes, Jen.

Q Kayleigh, on Hong Kong: Can you say when will the administration revoke Hong Kong's trade status? And also, do you think that that move will be the only thing the administration does? Is there something else planned? And do you think that China will listen? Are you seeing any signs of China relenting on Hong Kong?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, we haven't seen any updates from China thus far. No announcements with regard to the timing of that. But the President has been very clear that China has replaced its promise of "one country, two systems" with "one

country, one system," which is what led the administration to make the announcement that it would begin eliminating policy exemptions that were given to Hong Kong -- the special treatment that they once had.

Q Kayleigh?

MS. MCENANY: Yes, Steven.

Q Is there any -- a week after what we saw at Lafayette Park last Monday night, are there any people here in this building who believe that -- or does the President believe that perhaps things went the way they shouldn't have gone? Is there any regret on the part of the President or anyone here about how people were treated -- people who were peacefully protesting -- and how they were rushed out so violently?

MS. MCENANY: No. There is no regrets on the part of this White House because -- look, I'd note that many of those decisions were not made here within the White House. It was AG Barr who made the decision to move the perimeter Monday night. Park Police also had made that decision independently when they saw the violence in Lafayette Square.

And when -- before these protesters were moved by Park Police and they issued that tactical order, there were three loud warnings, and -- as I believe, it was AG Barr on "Face the Nation" noted -- that some of those protesters moved back and adhered to the warning, but others of those protesters started hurling objects, and that was unacceptable. And Park Police acted as they felt they needed to at that time, in response, and we stand by those actions.

Q The country and the world saw this violent clash between the people who were otherwise peacefully protesting. But really, the President is not sorry for the way things went?

MS. MCENANY: No. The President is sorry about the fact that Antifa wreaked havoc in our streets and the failure of some members of the media to note that. Like CNN's Chris Cuomo said, "Show me where it says protesters are supposed to be peaceful." Well, I'd point him to the First Amendment, where it says that you have the right to, quote, "peaceably assemble." He should go back and read the Constitution.

There are many others out there, like Don Lemon saying that rioting is a mechanism to restructure our country. Burning down St. John's, using a pick to -- to literally, like, carve out, as we saw in that video, concrete from the sidewalk to hurl at officers, that's not peacefully protesting. The act-- the actions of the rioters were not in keeping with the First Amendment.

And I think the media needs to recognize there's a discernment between the peaceful protesters, many of whom I've seen, and the rioters. And, yes, America will act against rioters. And, yes, under President Trump, he will not allow burning buildings, 150 federal buildings to be defaced, and 750 law enforcement officers to be injured in our country.

Q Can I ask you one more --

MS. MCENANY: Yes, Brian.

Q -- about the President?

MS. MCENANY: Oh, I like the blue suit.

Q Oh, thank you.

MS. MCENANY: That's a really snazzy look.

Q Thank you.

MS. MCENANY: Yeah.

Q Just to follow up on that: You do know that the burning of St. John's happened on Sunday night, and a lot of the violence that you're talking about, that happened on Sunday night.

What he was asking about was Monday, when, as anyone who was down there knows, it was almost exclusively peaceful, especially the moments before the chemical munitions were used on those protesters. So do you just want to clarify that about the burning of St. John's? Because that happened on a different day.

MS. MCENANY: Yeah. The burning of St John's is what prompted the decision to move the perimeter. It's what prompted Park Police to say, that evening, the perimeter must be moved.

Q Sunday.

MS. MCENANY: It's what prompted -- yes. It's what prompted AG Barr to agree with that decision on Monday morning that the perimeter needed to be moved.

But when you hurl objects at Park Police, when you don't move after three orders are given -- Park Police acted appropriately. When the shield of Park Police was batted down, when one person tried to grab a Park Police officer's weapon -- that's not peaceful, by any definition of the word.

Q And one question on --

MS. MCENANY: Yeah.

Q -- the area in front of the White House is now

officially known as "Black Lives Matter Plaza." Does the President agree with that decision?

MS. MCENANY: I haven't talked to him about it. I haven't mentioned that to him.

Yes.

Q Finally, Kayleigh, does he agree, in general, the way that Mitt Romney stated over the weekend he does, with the core message of Black Lives Matter?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah -- Mitt Romney can say three words outside on Pennsylvania Avenue, but I would note this: that President Trump won 8 percent of the black vote; Mitt Romney won 2 percent of the black vote.

I believe President Trump -- people across the country recognize that, while Mitt Romney has a lot of words -- notably, he said that 47 percent of the nation is "dependent upon government, [who] believes they are victims, [who] believes that the government has a responsibility to care for them." Those were Mitt Romney's words not too long ago.

The President takes great offense to those words. That's not America. Guess what America is? It's when, given opportunity via a Trump Opportunity Zone, belief that Americans of all races can rise to the occasion and achieve; belief in HBCUs and giving funding -- record funding to HBCUs because we need to enable education in our country and school choice. Those kind of actions on the part of the President stand in stark contrast with the very empty words of Senator Romney.

Yes.

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. As you had noted, the President

has talked about the protests, he's talked about the death of George Floyd, but he still hasn't given a formal address to the nation. Why is that? And are there plans for him to do that anytime soon?

MS. MCENANY: So, the President has addressed the nation on this. I know several media outlets chose not to cover it. But when he was down at -- in Florida last Saturday, he said -- and I have the whole thing here -- as he said many times, "The death of George Floyd on the streets of Minneapolis was a grave tragedy. It should never [ever] have happened." He spent several minutes going through this -- in fact, half of his speech -- saying, "I understand the pain that people are feeling. We support the right of peaceful protesters... we hear their pleas." And he went on and on and on.

He said, on Monday, "I am your President of law and order, and an ally of...peaceful protesters."

So, he has said it. Some in the media have chosen not to cover it, but those words are out there, and they're documented.

Yes, Ebony.

Q Thank you. Obviously, we're hearing a very optimistic message from the President about the jobs numbers and the stock market recovery. But in an executive order on Thursday night, the President said that he had determined that, without intervention, the U.S. faced the likelihood of a long economic recovery with persistent high unemployment. I'm just wondering why are we hearing two messages from the President and how the American people are supposed to feel about the economy for the rest of the year.

MS. MCENANY: Yeah. Well, the President sees Friday as a great stride toward what he ultimately wants, which is this

rearing economy that we had, where paychecks were growing and at the fastest for low-income workers. We were at a very good place before he chose to stop the economy to save 2.1 million lives potentially. So he took the action that was necessary at the time. He wants to get us back to that place we were at. He's the one who can do it. He's noted there's going to be a time of recovery. He thinks that, you know, Q4 will be good; next year will be great.

Monday was a great -- an unexpected note that the market believes in this President, that employers believe in this President, that they -- they believe they can open their doors in the Trump economy. So it was a note of a great first step of progress. But rest assured there are many more steps that we have to take to get back to the hottest economy in modern history, but we will get there under President Trump.

Yes.

Q Sure, Kayleigh. Sticking with the economy, New York City began reopening its economy today after a very long lockdown. Does President Trump think we need another coronavirus stimulus package? And if so, what would he want to see in it before he signs it?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, he's remained open to a phase four. There was some discussion about this. There was a meeting last week at the White House about that actually. So, won't get ahead of him, but he has said there are several things he wants.

Payroll tax holiday was one of them because that directly advantages low-income workers. Several other things that he would like to see in the package. I won't get ahead of him, but he's certainly still open to a phase four. But it can't be, as he's noted, just state and local bailouts for blue states that have run their states into the ground because of decades of

Democrat policies.

Chanel.

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. Would President Trump support an actual increase in police funding to help offset some of the damage that's -- that could be waged on departments that are defunded across the country?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah. So again, that would be getting ahead of the President on that exact proposal, but he's been very clear: He does not support defunding the police in any way, shape, or form. He noted, in fact, just a little bit ago, to me, that we have seen violent crime come down in this country. And why -- at the time when violent crimes coming down, why would we defund the police who are, in large part, responsible for helping America to get to a place where our streets are safe?

So, I would point you to that before getting ahead of the President on a specific policy.

Q Kayleigh, can I ask a follow-up to that?

MS. MCENANY: Lalit.

Q I wanted to ask you about the Defunding the Police movement that's going on. How does it impact the crime scenario here?

MS. MCENANY: You said -- sorry, I didn't hear the last part?

Q The Defunding the Police movement -- how does it impact the crime scenario here? The crimes that -- crime (inaudible) are going up. Do you think that will impact the crime here?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, absolutely. Look, our police officers are the ones who are defending this country and making sure that we have law and order in our streets, and there's no more evidence of that than just taking a look at the raw numbers.

Our police our described as the Blue Line in American society between peace and chaos, between order and anarchy. And that Thin Blue Line has done quite a bit. Just looking at 2018 numbers: murder arrests, 11,970; robbery arrests, 88,130; aggravated assault, 395,800; violent crime arrests, 495,900. That's police officers who are doing the arresting.

You eliminate police officers, you will have chaos, crime, and anarchy in the streets, and that's something that's unacceptable to the President.

Frank?

Q Do you think this is political in nature?

MS. MCENANY: Sorry?

Q The entire movement is political in nature -- is politically motivated, this movement?

MS. MCENANY: This movement? What the President believes is: Look, when you look at -- I would just take, at their own words, Black Lives Matter D.C. And Black Lives Matter D.C. said "Black Lives Matter" means "defund the police."

So if that's what the movement means, of course the President stands against defunding the police. All black lives matter, including the life of David Dorn, who perished in the last week and a half; including Patrick Underwood, who also lost his life this week.

All black lives matter, but in terms of the movement Black Lives Matter, they define themselves as "defund the police," and that's something this President stands against.

Frank.

Q Yes. Blacks are disproportionately arrested and disproportionally incarcerated in this country. And when they return to society, they are often denied the right to vote, sometimes for the rest of their lives. Is the President concerned about this disparity -- disparity? And does the President favor restoring the rights of all those who complete their sentences so that they can participate in the 2020 election?

MS. MCENANY: So, I haven't spoken to him on that issue specifically. But what I would note is your question does edge on the notion of criminal justice reform. Obviously, someone who's wrongfully incarcerated -- that we need to address that situation.

And the President has with the FIRST STEP Act -- a great piece of legislation that says pregnant women can't be shackled when they're having their baby in jail. These are basic, commonsense, human decency reforms that the President put in place. The sentencing disparities that are at play because of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 --that crime bill which has been derided, and rightfully so, by civil rights leaders -- this President helped, in part, to rectify that. And I'd note that the FIRST STEP Act, the beneficiaries -- more than 90 percent have been black Americans.

So this is a President who's always stood on the side of justice, but I have not spoken to him about that specifically.

Is there anyone who --

Q Could you ask him about --

MS. MCENANY: -- I haven't gotten to?

Q Could you ask him about that?

MS. MCENANY: Emilie.

Q Thank you. I'd like to ask a question on behalf of myself and then one from a colleague who couldn't be here.

MS. MCENANY: Sure.

Q So, many complaints were made against Derek Chauvin prior to the death of George Floyd. And I was wondering if President Trump believes that disciplinary records and complaints against police, as well as police personnel files, should be accessible to the public. States have differing laws on this, but should there be a minimum national standard on police transparency with respect to these complaints and records?

MS. MCENANY: Yes, it's a good question. But again, it would get to what the President is going to propose going forward, so I won't address that or get ahead of that. But the particular incident you referenced of George Floyd, it was egregious, and that needs to be looked at and is being looked at -- not just at the state level, but at the level of the DOJ, as well.

Q Thank you. And from a colleague: Does President Trump urge Prince Andrew to comply with his Department of Justice's request for an interview in the case against Jeffrey Epstein?

MS. MCENANY: I haven't spoken to him about that, so I would not get ahead of him on that.

John.

Q Kayleigh, a couple questions on coronavirus, if I could. Is there any thought being given to returning to, if not a daily coronavirus briefing, frequent coronavirus briefings?

And on the reopenings, the President said some weeks back that he would continue to monitor the situation and that if any states were doing things that he didn't think were appropriate, he would step in to intervene. Has the President, in any of these reopenings, particularly as coronavirus cases are increasing -- which could be due, in part, due to increased testing -- is he seeing anything that gives him concern?

MS. MCENANY: So I would note this: First, Dr. Birx sent me some new information before coming out here that new cases have stabilized, and many of the new cases are being identified through proactive monitoring and finding asymptomatic cases.

Today we saw the lowest new mortality report since the end of March -- less than 500. And testing continues to expand, with over 20 million done and more than 6 percent of Americans being tested, and in seven states, nearly 10 percent of the population.

So we are heading in a positive direction, even as we begin to safely reopen.

Q But again, has the President seen anything that causes him concern?

MS. MCENANY: I would note, again, the encouraging signs put forward by Dr. Birx. He's seeing the country safely reopen.

And I would also just note some of the media contradictions here -- certainly not referring to you specifically, John, but

just a little more broadly -- that there isn't an outcry about social distancing among the protests. And, I mean, I saw one network with footage of the Ozarks and complaining about social distancing in the Ozarks, and then seamlessly transitioning into protest footage and not suggesting that there was a problem with the lack of social distancing. So I think we have to be very consistent here.

And one note that I really wanted to get in -- I should have weaved it in earlier, but I think it's important -- is just there's so much focus on our police officers right now. There are absolute cases of injustices. Our heart breaks for those cases. But I just want to note some of the great things our police have done last year alone:

In Alaska, retired cop Kim Castro jumped in freezing water to help victims to safety after a plane crash.

In Idaho, a woman said, "He saved my son's life," commenting on a cop who saved her disabled son.

In Maine, a detective, was killed while helping a motorist.

In Rhode Island, a baby who was choking was saved by an officer.

In Maryland, an officer was hailed for intervening in an active shooting incident.

In North Carolina, police thwarted a mass shooting.

In Ohio, police took down a mass shooter at a bar.

In Wisconsin, a terminally -- terminally ill girl was visited by 40 officers and canines.

In New York, Officers Baez and Officer Roman of the NYPD responded to an incident involving a homeless man. They bought him new glasses, a haircut, and a new suit, and they helped him to find a job.

In Detroit, Michigan, an officer helped a homeless man struggling to shave in the streets.

In Virginia, officers could be seen playing with little girls -- playing dolls with them on the street.

And in Arizona, Charlie called 911 asking for a Happy Meal, mistakingly -- mistakenly, and police delivered.

This is who our great law enforcement officers are, and we should remember that.

Thank you so much.

END

2:41 P.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2020

BY PRESS SECRETARY KAYLEIGH MCENANY
PRESS BRIEFING

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:17 P.M. EDT

MS. MCENANY: Hello, everyone. So I'm going to start with a few housekeeping announcements. First of all, the President's annual physical results are ready for release. The full memo will be released shortly. But in summary, the President remains healthy.

Also, I'd like to congratulate the winners of last night's primary elections. President Trump has now endorsed candidates and has a 64 to 0 record in congressional, special, and primary election races since the midterms, demonstrating the strength of and support for the President's agenda across the country as evidenced in the 64 consecutive congressional, special, and primary elections over the past 13 months.

So, next, I want to transition to talking about some of the things going on around the country. The First Amendment does not give anyone the right to riot. The First Amendment does not give anyone the right to loot. The First Amendment doesn't give anyone the right to burn down buildings. The First Amendment does not give anyone the right to deface property. And it does not give anyone the right to assault private citizens and to assault police officers.

The First Amendment, however, does give you the right to peaceably assemble. And the greatest example that we have seen of peaceful protest, an

absolute embodiment of the First Amendment, is the March on Washington. On August 28, 1963, a quarter of a million Americans gathered at the Lincoln Memorial and peacefully made a powerful march and a powerful point: that all Americans should be treated equally; that racial discrimination was unacceptable, abhorrent, and that it needed to be rectified.

And in the famous "I Have a Dream" speech by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, he said this: "We must not allow our creative protest to de-- -- excuse me, "to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force."

And soul force is exactly what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. met the nation with when he said this: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Important words, important actions from an American hero who contributed to making this nation the greatest on Earth.

With that in mind, we must remember to recognize the lives lost, the passing of George Floyd who was killed unjustly -- in a horrific video that we all have seen. And we must also remember the passing of police captain David Dorn yesterday, who was shot and killed by looters in St. Louis, in an absolute tragedy. A retired officer, 77 years old, whose wife was also a police officer herself. Dorn was a hero and an unfortunate casualty in the riots we have seen. Our hearts are with his family.

We are all Americans. We must come together. We must unify. And we must have law and order.

And with that, I'll take questions. Weijia.

Q Kayleigh, thanks. I have a couple questions. First on Secretary Esper. CBS News has learned that his remarks this morning were not received well here inside the White House. Had the Secretary ever expressed his views about active-duty forces to President Trump before this morning, in private? And does the President still have confidence in Secretary Esper?

MS. MCENANY: So, not that I'm aware of, in terms of expressing his opinion. And I wouldn't get into the private conversations that went on here in the White House.

And with regard to whether the President has confidence, I would say: If he loses confidence in Secretary Esper, I'm sure you all will be the first to know.

Q But as of right now, he still does?

MS. MCENANY: As of right now, Secretary Esper is still Secretary Esper. And

should the President lose faith, we will all learn about that in the future.

Q Thank you. And on policing: Vice President Joe Biden has vowed to set up a police oversight board if he is elected. Is President Trump considering anything comparable or any other specific legislative and policy reforms to address racial disparities in policing?

MS. MCENANY: So, there -- there have been various things discussed here in the White House. I don't want to get ahead of the President as to what he ultimately determines. The President believes that most police officers in this country are good, hardworking people, and he notes that. But he also notes some of the injustices we've seen and the need to make sure that the appropriate use of force is used and that our officers are trained in that capacity.

Q So he is considering some sort of federal oversight?

MS. MCENANY: There -- there's been discussion of various proposals that we can look at, but no announcements on that front just yet.

Jim.

Q Kayleigh, you mentioned Dr. King. He, likely, would not have approved of what took place Monday evening across from the White House, as you probably know. If the White House, the President, and his team had to do it all over again, would you have gassed and pummeled protesters to clear the park so the President could have a photo op?

MS. MCENANY: So let me first address: No tear gas was used and no rubber bullets were used.

Q Chemical agents were used.

MS. MCENANY: So, again, no tear gas was used, no rubber bullets were used.

Q Why are you making that distinction?

MS. MCENANY: Let me --

Q Chemical agents were used.

MS. MCENANY: Let me -- let me back up and --

Q We talked to an Episcopal priest who said she was gassed. Others say they were tear-gassed in that area.

MS. MCENANY: Well, no one was tear-gassed. Let me make that clear. That's

been confirmed by DOD and by Park Services, as well.

Q But chemical agents were used.

MS. MCENANY: So let me go back and address what happened because there's been a lot of misreporting.

First, I would note that these protests that were going on -- in the morning, AG Barr had determined that we needed to expand the perimeter by one block on each side. He was surprised -- AG Barr -- when he arrived at the White House to see that that perimeter had not been moved. So he said that we needed to get going with moving that perimeter. He told the officers that out there. That was late afternoon. So that decision was made in the morning, first of all.

The protesters were told three times over loudspeaker that they needed to move. And what happened was it grew increasingly unruly. There were projectiles being thrown at officers. Frozen water bottles were being thrown at officers. Various other projectiles. And the officers had no other choice than, in that moment, to act and make sure that they were safe and that the perimeter was pushed back, because as we all know, a church was burning in that very area the night before.

So the appropriate action was taken.

Q It wasn't -- it wasn't burning when you cleared the area. That was over.

MS. MCENANY: It was taken -- it was burning the night before, which -- which would -- which enforced the decision to move the perimeter on each side by a block so that church would no longer be in harm's way by the rioters.

But it's absolutely uncalled for to throw bricks; absolutely uncalled for to throw water bottles that are frozen at police officers.

Q But don't you agree, Kayleigh, that the vast majority of those protesters were doing so peacefully, and that many of them did not hear those warnings and were simply just pushed out of the way, just forced out -- pummeled out of the way by their fellow Americans, police officers?

You sent in members of the military to deal with this. I mean, what do you say to Americans who look at what happened on Monday and find that to be appalling?

MS. MCENANY: Well, let me note that the National Guard was utilized across Washington, D.C.; the military was not. There is a distinction.

And I would say that it is uncalled for to throw bricks at officers, uncalled

for to throw frozen water bottles at officers. And they also had received intelligence that there were calls for violence against police officers, and they found caches of glass bottles, baseball bats, and metal poles hidden along the streets. When an officer is at risk, they have the right to defend themselves. They did so peaceably. No one had -- there were no fatalities, no severe injuries.

Q So you'd do it again?

MS. MCENANY: To protect the lives of officers, they have a right to defend and to protect themselves.

Q And the White House --

MS. MCENANY: Next question. I think I -- Sarah used to always joke about two-question Tuesday. I think sometimes I get four- or five-question Wednesday.

Q That was -- I just want to make sure that, you know, people who have a problem with what they saw Monday have a chance to have that addressed. I mean, what do you say to Americans who are just outraged by what they saw? And the --

MS. MCENANY: What I would say is --

Q -- for the President to go and have a photo op in front of the church and hold up a Bible?

MS. MCENANY: What I would say is this: Officers -- officers have a right to defend themselves. And, you know, I have watched a lot of your coverage. I've watched a lot of --

Q Protesters have a right to protest.

MS. MCENANY: -- the nation's coverage. And let's go through some of the things that happen when officers don't defend and protect themselves:

In St. Louis, four police officers were shot. In Las Vegas, an officer was shot in the head and is on life support. In New York, a cop was beat up by people. In Providence, four to five police officers and state shoo- -- state troopers were injured. In Asbury Park, New Jersey, a police officer was injured.

Police officers are out on the frontlines. They're defending and protecting you as you come into this building each and every day, Jim. We owe them honor. We owe them respect. And when they are under attack, they have the ability to defend themselves.

Q So no regrets? No regrets?

MS. MCENANY: Zeke.

Q Kayleigh, first on Secretary Esper's comments: Is the President presently considering using the -- invoking the Insurrection Act? Or is that completely off the table at this point?

MS. MCENANY: So it's a very good question. The President has the sole authority to invoke the Insurrection Act. It is definitely a tool within his power. This President has one singular aim, and it is protecting America's streets.

We cannot have burning churches. We cannot have police officers who are shot. We cannot have businesses that are looted and destroyed. The Insurrection Act is a tool available. The President has the sole authority. And if needed, he will use it. But at this time, he's relying on surging the streets with National Guard. It's worked to great effect here in D.C. and in Minnesota as well.

Q And, Kayleigh, back to that incident on Monday: Are you saying that all the officers who were at that protest clearing that largely peaceful protest were acting appropriately? There were well-documented incidents of -- in one case, one member of law enforcement bashing the camera of an Australian journalism crew. This isn't about the journalists; this is about the other peaceful protesters there as well.

Did every officer in that protest -- was that pro- -- was that protest cleared in a way that the White House believes was entirely appropriate? So that should be the model for the rest of the country?

MS. MCENANY: I think the U.S. Park Services, when having bricks thrown at them and frozen water bottles, had the right to act. They acted with the appropriate level of force to protect themselves and to protect the average citizenry and to protect the peaceful protesters who were among them as well.

Kristen.

Q And sorry, Kayleigh, here, they were protecting the peaceful protesters by firing various chemical agents and walking through them with batons and --

MS. MCENANY: Well, it wasn't tear gas, I would note. And it's --

Q Chemical agents.

MS. MCENANY: And what they used --

Q I chose my words carefully.

MS. MCENANY: What they used was a way to target those who were being violent. They used the minimal force that they could to ensure that that situation was safe, to ensure St. John's Church would not burn a second night in a row, and to ensure that no officers were injured in the manner that I listed off -- that several officers have been injured and shot at in the course of these riots.

Kristen.

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. I have a question about the decision-making process before going to church on Monday night. The President said on Fox Radio this morning that he never told anyone to push the protesters out. The Defense Secretary, he said something similar. So who at the White House did know? Or was this a unilateral decision by the -- by the Attorney General?

MS. MCENANY: The Attorney General decided that morning to expand the perimeter, and that was a decision made long before the church discussion was ever under consideration. When the President gives an order, people act. It's not as if he's walked through each and every detail of how a plan goes about. He says, "I want to go to the church," he goes to the church, and everyone executes the plan in the order that the President puts into place. So the President is absolutely right in what he said.

Q So was the plan still for President Trump to walk out there, even if the protesters were still there?

MS. MCENANY: You know, I'm not aware of the determinations that Secret Service had as they arranged for the President to walk out there. But I would just note again that the decision to expand the perimeter was a decision made in the morning by Attorney General Barr.

Q Okay. And just one question about the coronavirus because we're still in the middle of the pandemic. Dr. Fauci --he said in an interview on Monday that his contact with President Trump had dramatically decreased and so had the frequency of the Coronavirus Task Force meetings. Is that accurate? And if so, why?

MS. MCENANY: There was a Coronavirus Task Force briefing just yesterday. We are constantly, as an administration, monitoring the coronavirus to protect the safety and wellbeing of the American people.

Right now, we all saw that church burn. We all saw some of the violence in the streets. And the President has had several meeting after meeting with AG Barr, Secretary Esper, General Milley to make sure that our streets are peaceful and under control while also monitoring the coronavirus and what we're seeing developed there.

Mario.

Q Thanks, Kayleigh. I'm confused. I mean, if the protests were peaceful on Monday, why did you all clear the area? And whose decision was to clear it later in the day? If Attorney General Barr wanted it cleared earlier in the day, why did it take so long for it to be cleared?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, you know, he ordered it to be cleared Monday morning. It didn't happen when he arrived, so he immediately instructed the officers to ensure that it was moved back a block.

As we all saw Sunday night, it was not a peaceful protest. It was, in fact, a riot, with a church burning in Washington, D.C. The President made sure that Washington, D.C. was secure Monday night. And part of that involved moving the perimeter back to ensure that St. John's Church was protected.

Q But that was a -- that's quite a gap between the morning and then in the evening when you all walked over there. Why was there such a gap?

MS. MCENANY: Look, again, that's a question for AG Barr who made the order; it's a question for the officers who were on the ground at the time -- why that wasn't deployed right away.

But when AG Barr came to the White House -- I think it was early afternoon -- he noticed that it hadn't been cleared, gave the order for it to be cleared, and that action took place.

Steve.

Q Kayleigh, why did the President feel it was important to go and walk over there, through the park, and to the church?

MS. MCENANY: It was extremely important. Look, the President wanted to send a very powerful message that we will not be overcome by looting, by rioting, by burning. This is not what defines America. And going and standing by St John's Church was a very important moment.

And I would note that, through all of time, we've seen Presidents and leaders across the world who have had leadership moments and very powerful symbols that were important for our nation to see at any given time, to show a message of resilience and determination. Like Churchill, we saw him inspecting the bombing damage; it sent a powerful message of leadership to the British people. And George W. Bush throwing out the ceremonial first pitch after 9/11. And Jimmy Carter, putting on a sweater to encourage energy savings. And George H.W. Bush signing the Americans with Disabilities Act, flanked by two disabled Americans.

And for this President, it was powerful and important to send a message that the rioters, the looters, the anarchists, they will not prevail; that burning churches are not what America is about. And that moment, holding the Bible up, is something that has been widely hailed by Franklin Graham and others. And it was a very important symbol for the American people to see that we will get through this, through unity and through faith.

Q And, separately, Kayleigh -- separately, the President, you said he had the results of his physical. We know that he did part of the physical late last year, I think it was. When did he have the rest of it done?

MS. MCENANY: I'm not aware of an exact date. I will ask Dr. Conley for you on that. But I know it was fairly recently.

Yes. I will go to Brett.

Q Thanks, Kayleigh. The White House has spent a lot of time talking about how the protests have taken place and how people are protesting or shouldn't be protesting. But what is the White House doing to address the underlying causes that have led to the protests?

MS. MCENANY: Look, the President has done a lot. The President expedited the review -- the FBI review of the George Floyd case. He swiftly ensured there is a civil rights investigation into George Floyd's death. Ahmaud Arbery -- there's another investigation there on the part of DOJ.

He's recognized what an injustice this was innumerable times, including in his national remarks that he gave on Saturday. So this President has -- the President has done everything in his power to send a powerful message that these injustices will not be tolerated.

Q But does -- does the White House or the President -- have they reached out to any of these protesters to try and start a dialogue about specific reforms they'd like to see? Or does the President plan to do that moving forward?

MS. MCENANY: Look, the President has looked at some various -- not legislative, necessarily, but tools that we could use to ensure that law enforcement uses the appropriate level of force. No discussions or announcements there on that front. But I will say that we're taking a hard look at this, but that the President recognizes that our police officers are valiant heroes. The vast majority are good, hardworking people who love this country and who love the American citizenry that they protect.

Q So there hasn't been any outreach to the protesters?

MS. MCENANY: Emerald.

Q Thanks, Kayleigh. Former Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein testified today on the Hill that he didn't read the FISA applications, and he didn't even prepare the scope memo that started the Mueller probe. Given that Rosenstein appears to be deeply involved in Crossfire Hurricane and that he actually picked FBI Director Christopher Wray, isn't it time that the Trump administration appoints someone else other than Wray for FBI director?

MS. MCENANY: Look, I have no announcements on that front, but what I will say with regard to the Rosenstein testimony is he said there was no "there there," and he now agrees with that text by Peter Strzok, who, you know, obviously had no information that -- of Russian collusion, but nevertheless, strung us through this investigation.

And you have Rosenstein who -- again, it's quite befuddling -- said he wouldn't have signed off on the Carter Page FISA warrant that has his name on it. His name is on -- signed on a FISA warrant to spy on the Trump campaign -- that he wouldn't have signed off on that. And not only that, he wasn't sure that he read every page of it.

It's a pretty grave thing to spy on an American citizen, to violate their Fourth Amendment rights, to not have a basis to do so, and to rely on a Russian dossier full of lies as the justification. So it's really astonishing to hear from him that he's not sure he read every page of that warrant, but I suppose it's encouraging to hear with his 20/20 hindsight that he wouldn't have signed off on it, though I'm sure that's of no comfort to Carter Page.

Q Well, the President has expressed his disappointment in Wray in the past. So where does he stand now? Does he have confidence in Wray today?

MS. MCENANY: At this moment, the President, as -- the FBI Director, much like the Secretary of Defense, is the FBI Director, is the Secretary of Defense. If the President decides he no longer has confidence, you guys will be the first to know.

Q And then a couple -- one more on New York, if it's okay.

MS. MCENANY: Sure.

Q So, yesterday, New York Governor Cuomo made a pretty big statement saying that he -- he might relieve de Blasio -- Mayor de Blasio of his duties. Has there been any talk with Governor Cuomo about sending in the National Guard troops to New York? Or is there any plan right now to send National Guard to New York?

MS. MCENANY: The President will do whatever is necessary to protect America's streets. He has made that clear. And he has several tools. That is one of them -- sending in the National Guard. He does have the ability to federalize the National Guard, should he choose to do that.

But I would note -- and I'm very glad you brought up New York -- the very clear-cut cases of D.C. and New York. D.C. was in chaos on Sunday night when you saw the burning of the church, when Mayor Bowser did not set the curfew as -- she had it at 11:00 p.m.

The President said, "This is unacceptable." He's always preferred devolving to the states. They have the police power. It's their responsibility to protect the streets. But when the President saw that on Sunday night, he took action immediately. He surged the National Guard, encouraged states to accept their National Guard. He went on and on with several various actions. He gave a very powerful speech saying, "If you don't act, I will." He noted that the military would be on hand, should it be necessary.

His bold action, his swift action made D.C. a much different story Monday night. And contrasting the images of New York -- or, excuse me, D.C. on Monday night and New York on Monday night, where there was rampant looting, where we saw Macy's department store looted, Coach store looted, violence in the streets -- New York acted in a way that was inappropriate. They didn't deploy the National Guard. They set an 11:00 p.m. curfew, even after they saw the disastrous results in Mayor Bowser's 11:00 p.m. curfew.

And the President said, "I will call Antifa a domestic terrorist group." What was New York doing? New York was arresting people in burglary charges and then releasing 500 individuals after they had arrested them. So the weak-kneed policies of New York stand in stark contrast to the law-and-order policies of this President that has succeeded in securing this city as we've seen the last two nights.

Next, we'll go to Lachlan.

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. Putting aside the conduct of individual officers, does the President believe that there's a systemic bias in American law enforcement against African Americans?

MS. MCENANY: The President believes that there are injustices, and he has pointed them out. And he has not hesitated in pointing out injustices, going back to his time as a primary candidate, when he called Sandra Bland and the use of force against her, in the video that we all saw, "terrible." He did not hesitate when he saw the video of George Floyd. He was really upset by that video, as I noted. He also -- we've got the civil rights investigation into Ahmaud Arbery.

He points out injustices, but he also notes this: that our police officers are good people. I've seen them out there on the streets protecting people. I played the videos for you of the police embracing protesters, standing with the protesters. They're good, hardworking people. They protect our streets. That is what law enforcement is about.

And -- but at the same time, the President will note and he will call out injustices. And this is a President who's not hesitated in doing that when the time was right.

Q I know he's called out individual actions, but does he believe that the problem is systemic and endemic to American law enforcement?

MS. MCENANY: The President believes there are some examples of injustices. He calls them out. This is a President who, when Democrats, for so many years, talked about criminal justice reform and the disparities, the racial disparities in sentencing, it didn't -- President Obama didn't do that. Guess who fixed that? It was President Trump with the FIRST STEP Act, who engaged in sentencing reform, and who really rectified some of the disparities we saw there.

So, you know, I think Democrats, others, Republicans should hail this President for calling out injustices when he sees them, either on a case-by-case basis or in the form of the FIRST STEP Act where he noted the disparity in sentencing reforms.

Josh.

Q There's been a number of explanations on the clearing of the park: one, that there was an attempt to enforce curfew; another that it was violent protesters, from the Park Police; DOJ saying that it was previously going to be done anyway. Can you explain to us what the reason from the White House's perspective was for clearing the park, why the White House wanted it done?

MS. MCENANY: So it wasn't the White House. As I said, it was AG Barr who expanded --

Q Or the acting administration.

MS. MCENANY: It was AG Barr who said the perimeter needed to be expanded one block each way because we were not going to see the church burn another night. I've already gone through, in meticulous detail, with my friend Jim here how it came about that that perimeter was eventually moved. And I'm not going to -
-

Q So you're saying that would have been done anyway?

MS. MCENANY: -- repeat myself again. You can --

Q That would've been done anyway? Even if there would not have been violent protestors, that would've happened?

MS. MCENANY: No, there were three announcements. So if the protesters had remained peaceful and had moved the perimeter as they were instructed to do, not one, not two, but three times via loudspeaker, it would've looked different. But when bricks are thrown, rest assured officers will protect themselves.

Chanel.

Q Can I ask you another question? You said -- the President said today that he went --

MS. MCENANY: Chanel.

Q -- down to the basement to inspect it over the weekend. Can you -- what was the point of the inspection? What was he looking for?

MS. MCENANY: Look, I won't go further than what the President has said because those are security matters, and I won't engage on that kind of discussion.

Yes, Chanel.

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. So going back to Rosenstein, what is the President's response to the fact that Rosenstein -- neither Rosenstein nor Christopher Wray seemed willing to take responsibility for the illegal wiretapping that took place on the Trump campaign? I also have a question on the Insurrection Act.

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, I would say -- look, the President is dismayed. This happened to the President's campaign. A campaign -- a Republican campaign was spied on by a Democratic presidency, a Democratic administration, based on a dossier paid for by his opponent, Hillary Clinton, and the DNC.

This is absolutely extraordinary. It is the biggest political scandal that we've seen. And the lack of journalistic curiosity on this front is appalling. When you have multiple instances of people who were saying one thing under oath from the Obama administration, and saying another thing in public, that they had direct evidence of Russian collusion -- I mean, that's extraordinary. Adam Schiff: "I've got direct evidence," when, in fact, we know there was none. And the Mueller report, after spending millions of taxpayer dollars, totally and completely exonerated President Trump.

It was a travesty, and we hope to get to the bottom of this because it should never be done again in American politics to any president of either political party.

Q On the Insurrection Act, Secretary Esper, this morning, said that he opposes it. The last time it was used was 1992. If -- how close is the White

House to actually using the Insurrection Act? Is that a last-resort measure or is this a real possibility at this moment?

MS. MCENANY: Well, if you've noticed, the President has been going down a line of progression. And the first point was: Allow governors to do their job; allow mayors, like Bill de Blasio, to do their job. The police power, which is embedded in the Tenth Amendment of this Constitution, that's how this country is supposed to work.

Governor Cuomo is supposed to ensure that his state is protected. Mayor de Blasio is supposed to ensure that New York City is protected. They failed at their job. There was looting all across New York City. There were fires burning here in D.C. when Mayor Bowser was in control.

So this President, on Monday, took definitive action with that speech, saying: If necessary, the military is here. You must surge the National Guard. He took action, and he shored up and made sure that D.C. remained peaceful.

So this President will -- has gone and said the National Guard is the next step. That seemed to be working here in New York -- in D.C. We'll see if it continues to work. But rest assured, he has the sole authority to invoke the Insurrection Act. And, if necessary, he will do so to protect American citizens.

One thing I really want to note, just -- and I think it's so important to go back to this because I haven't seen a ton of coverage of it other than in a few places. And I started the briefing with this and it's important. I just want to circle back and note Captain David Dorn, who lost his life in St. Louis, and he was killed by a looter. He served 38 years in the St. Louis Police Department. His wife, Ann, is a sergeant with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. He is a hero.

I also want to note, because there have been 45 officers lost in the line of duty this year, and my heart breaks for them. And as a new mom myself, my heart particularly breaks for two women in particular who I was reading about their stories today: Officer Breann Leath of the Indianapolis Police Department. On April 9th, 2020, she was shot and killed. She is survived by her three-year-old son, her sister, and her parents. She was a National Guard veteran. And my heart breaks for the family of Officer Leath.

And Officer Tiffany-Victoria Enriquez of the Honolulu Police Department -- on January 19th, 2020, Officer Enriquez was shot and killed, as well, leaving three daughters, one grandson. And she was a U.S. Air Force Reserve veteran.

These are our heroes. Thank you so much to our officers who are protecting our streets. Many have been shot; some have been killed. It's a travesty. And let us stand with law enforcement and recognize the huge contribution that they

have made to our society and continue to do so each and every day.

Thank you so much, guys.

END

2:45 P.M. EDT

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Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2020

PRESS BRIEFING

BY PRESS SECRETARY KAYLEIGH MCENANY

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

10:54 A.M. EDT

MS. MCENANY: Good morning, everyone. We're going to begin with some brief remarks from Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, and he'll be giving you all an update on phase four negotiations.

MR. MEADOWS: Good morning. As you know, over the last several days, we've been having conversations on Capitol Hill, Secretary Mnuchin and myself, with Democrat and Republican leaders, both in the House and the Senate.

Last night, we concluded a meeting with Senator Schumer and Speaker Pelosi a little bit before 10 o'clock, and at the President's direction, we have made no less than four different offers to Democrats on Capitol Hill on how we can make sure that the enhanced unemployment that is set to expire today, along with eviction protection that is set to expire as well, is protected. And those four different offers have been actually rejected, but more importantly than that, they've not even been

countered with a proposal.

So the Democrats are certainly willing, today, to allow some of the American citizens who are struggling the most under this pandemic to go unprotected. And the President has been very clear for us to be aggressive and forward leaning to make sure that they get protected. And yet, what we're seeing is politics as usual from Democrats up on Capitol Hill.

It surprises me that when we talk about compassion and caring about those that -- that truly are in need, that a temporary solution to make sure that unemployment -- enhanced unemployment continues has been rejected not once but multiple times.

The Democrats believe that they have all the cards on their side, and they're willing to play those cards at the expense of those that are hurting. And we'll continue on with additional discussions today with Senator Schumer and Senator -- and Speaker Pelosi, perhaps an in-person meeting tomorrow on Capitol Hill, as we -- we stay engaged.

But I'm -- I'm disappointed. And what we've -- what we've experienced over the last three days -- and I want to stress that the Democrats have made zero offers over the last three days. Zero. And so, in a spirit of compromise, the President has sent us back not once, not twice, but three different times to try to find some common ground. And what we found from our Democrat negotiators is that they are bumping the price higher than the very bill that they passed out of the House several weeks ago.

And to give you a particular example of that is: In their HEROES bill, they have \$100 billion for schools. We matched that offer and actually put forth a proposal for \$105 billion for schools for K-through-12 and higher institutions. And yet, what

did they say to that? "Oh, no, that was two months ago. We want to increase the amount of money that we send to schools to \$400 billion." We're going in the wrong direction. They're going in the wrong direction because of partisan politics. It is very disappointing.

And so we call on Capitol Hill to get serious about their negotiations. The President is serious about the negotiations. We're willing to engage.

As you know, Leader McConnell, yesterday, put forth a one-week extension at the current level for enhanced unemployment. And what did we see? Senator Schumer objected to that. So there's no clear message that the American people should receive, other than the fact that the Democrats are willing to pay -- play politics at a critical time in our nation's very dire circumstances as we deal with this pandemic.

So I wanted to give you that brief update so that you can have it straight from the negotiations, as they've happened over the last three days, and as we work.

I'm going to -- I'm going to turn it over to -- to the Press Secretary. And I think she's prepared to answer all the questions.

Q Liability insurance -- is that a red line for you guys? McConnell said it was.

MS. MCENANY: Thank you, guys.

MR. MEADOWS: I think she'll address that.

MS. MCENANY: The -- I'll take your questions in just a moment. The Chief has to run to a meeting.

But earlier this week -- I just wanted to start off with an overview of what we've been doing on COVID, the President rather -- President Trump visited the great state of North Carolina to highlight the important work being done as part of Operation Warp Speed.

And thanks to President Trump's leadership, the Trump administration has made substantial investments, including investing in multiple vaccine candidates with several entering phase three clinical trials, including AstraZeneca, Moderna, and Pfizer; providing financial infrastructure for mass manufacturing of potential vaccines; guaranteeing doses of a vaccine will be available for distribution shortly after approval. The race for a coronavirus vaccine is truly moving at warp speed under President Trump.

In addition, President Trump is leading on therapeutics. Over 140 clinical trials are now underway: remdesivir, dexamethasone, convalescent plasma, and monoclonal antibody treatments.

Yesterday, President Trump visited the American Red Cross Headquarters to hold a roundtable on donating plasma. This initiative will empower Americans to help their fellow Americans in battling the virus. These critical investments in a coronavirus vaccine are due to the fact that we have a businessman in the White House.

And according to The Wall Street Journal, quote, "Democrats blame the U.S. case surge on inadequate testing and contact tracing. But the U.S. has averaged two to three times more tests per capita than most European and Asian countries."

Indeed, we've done more than five- -- 59 million tests; with India at number two, with just about 14 million tests. So quite a difference there.

Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas all were doing more tests per capita when they lifted their lockdowns, more per capita than Germany, Spain, France, and South Korea have averaged. The U.S. is the undisputed world leader in testing.

And on top of the more than 59 million tests that we've done, the FDA has authorized more than 193 tests under emergency use authorizations, including molecular and antibody tests. Under the leadership of President Trump, the U.S. is leading the world in safe and effective therapeutics and the rapid development of a potential vaccine. Together, as one American people, we will defeat the invisible enemy.

And with that, I will take questions. Paula.

Q Kayleigh, thank you. On Mark's -- on Mark's comments about how it's Democrats who won't compromise: Democrats came up with a plan two months ago. The Republican plan was just presented on Monday, and in that time, the President has contradicted the Republican plan on the amount of stimulus checks, on student loans. Mitch McConnell threw you guys under the bus on funding for the FBI building.

What do you say to the tens of millions of people who are going to lose their benefits when it appears that the real issue is that the Republicans cannot agree among themselves even though they've had months?

MS. MCENANY: That's not it at all. In fact, Democrats offered a \$3 trillion plan. We have a very specific focus right now, and it's not this comprehensive plan, whether it be the HEROES Act the Democrats proposed that wasn't serious, or the HEALS Act.

That narrow focus is this: that Americans are about to lose

their unemployment insurance, and this White House, this Chief of Staff, this President, this Secretary of the Treasury have offered several iterations to make sure that Americans, who through no fault of their own lost their jobs during this pandemic, do not also lose these checks.

We've made several proposals, as Mark Meadows just said to you. And how many proposals have the Democrats made? Zero. And if you want to know where the Democrats' true intentions lie, look no further than the Martha McSally bill that was presented, that would have extended the \$600 unemployment insurance. It was rejected by Chuck Schumer. And that was a plan that the President was willing to endorse.

Q Kayleigh, what do you say to those that are going to lose \$600 a week in unemployment payments that need that money? And also, why didn't you start negotiating earlier? And why only the offer of an extension of one week?

MS. MCENANY: Well, what I would say to them is that this is unacceptable; that the Democrats have been fundamentally unserious. And the -- you just heard the Chief of Staff say a great example of that is they had this massive \$3 trillion bill that called for \$100 billion in school funding. We then gave \$105 billion, which then was deemed insufficient.

So if Democrats were interested in extending unemployment insurance and helping the American people, they would have endorsed the Martha McSally bill and extended this by a week to give us time as we try to extend this in perpetuity while we also focus on evictions as well.

Q So what do you say to those Americans that are about to lose \$600 a week?

MS. MCENANY: That they need to be calling the offices of

Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi and say, "Get to work and stop engaging in politics on the backs of hardworking Americans who deserve these checks, who lost their jobs through no fault of their own."

Q Are you willing to pass on the liability protection?

MS. MCENANY: That's a -- that's a question for Mitch McConnell. He said that that's going to be a part of any bill. But that's Mitch McConnell's. That's his priority. This President is very keenly focused on unemployment insurance, and the Martha McSally bill is a great example of what Democrats are focused on.

Yes.

Q Kayleigh, if the President is so worried about how long it'll take to count ballots in the election, then why isn't the President and this White House doing everything it can to secure more funding for staffing and other resources to make sure that we can have a safe and proper election?

MS. MCENANY: Look, what this White House is focused on is making sure that our election is not riddled with voting fraud and that the timetable is not hung up here. We are -- there are several lawsuits that the campaign is engaged on, and I would point you to the campaign for specifics on those.

Q That doesn't ask -- answer my question, though. My question is: What is the White House doing to get more resources for funding and staff to make sure, as the President says, that it will be a secure and safe election?

MS. MCENANY: Well, as you know, Peter, states run their elections, and it is up to states to make sure that they have the capacity.

Q And they're asking for more money.

MS. MCENANY: But what this White House is focused on is ensuring that what Jeffrey Toobin has said over at the New Yorker, a CNN contributor, notably: "New York's Primary-Vote-Count Chaos Signals Trouble for November." And as he noted, you want to talk about the President, but Jeffrey Toobin himself: "Democrats control the state government of New York, [and] they are responsible for creating the fiasco that is unfolding now -- and that is certain to get worse in November."

States need to get their acts together when it comes to elections. And as we see in New York, where we're five weeks out from that election -- and, in fact, we still don't know the outcome of a congressional race, and that is certainly not what we want to see in November.

Q And I'm asking you about the President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Darlene.

Q You asked why I was asking about the President. I'm asking about the President because you work for the President.

MS. MCENANY: Yes.

Q I guess, the question is --

MS. MCENANY: OAN.

Q -- what specific --

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. So the President is meeting this morning, in a few minutes, with the National Association of Police Organizations. In 2008 and 2012, they supported Barack

Obama and Joe Biden. In 2016, they didn't support either candidate. And now, in 2020, they're endorsing President Trump. To what does the White House attribute this change in support?

MS. MCENANY: Well, it's clearly a change in the Democrat Party, Jen. When you look at the polling on defunding the police: ABC News/Ipsos poll, 64 percent oppose defunding the police; Huffington Post, 57 percent oppose; Rasmussen, 59 percent oppose.

But make no mistake, Democrats want to defund our law enforcement, and it comes at a time where 64 percent of Americans say they are concerned that growing criticism of America's police will lead to a shortage of police officers and reduce public safety in the community where they live.

The American people have seen very clearly where the Democrat Party of today stands. It's at an unacceptable place. And I think that this administration has shown great respect for our law enforcement who every day are out there defending and protecting our streets in Democrat-run cities that have turned abundantly chaotic because of their lack of support and respect for law enforcement.

Darlene.

Q Can you explain why the White House did not counter with a comprehensive plan of its own? You said the White House was focused on two things: the unemployment insurance and evictions. Why not -- why not have a more comprehensive proposal to counter what the Democrats have put on the table?

MS. MCENANY: So I've walked through at this podium the more comprehensive plan that this White House was hoping to see in our priorities, like tax rebates, unemployment benefits, enhanced

hiring and retention payroll credits, workplace tax credits, restaurant donations, and others. Those are all part of the HEALS Act. So there is a comprehensive plan that was put forward by Republicans on the Hill with several White House priorities in it.

But right now, at this day, at this moment, our focus is making sure that Americans who have lost their jobs get their paychecks. It's why, as you heard the Chief of Staff say, we've made four proposals; Democrats have made precisely zero.

Q Can I ask about the nomination of General Tata? Is the White House still behind that?

MS. MCENANY: The President still supports General Tata.

Yes.

Q Kayleigh, so is there anything that you agree with on the Democrats? After all these negotiations, are there any points of unity so far?

MS. MCENANY: Well, look, they've presented zero plans. So we've presented four and they've presented zero. So do we agree with them? It seems that they don't agree with us. The White House supports unemployment insurance benefits. The White House supports ensuring Americans don't get evicted. But what do the Democrats support? What do they stand for? So far, they've offered zero, nothing, except rejecting Martha McSally's bill to ensure that those who are receiving those checks continue receiving them.

Q Is there an upper limit, Kayleigh, for the amount that you're willing to go to? Has the White House decided on some sort of a cap for how much you're willing to spend this round?

MS. MCENANY: Not that I'm aware of. The President has said, you know, he wants to make sure money gets to the American people.

Yes.

Q Kayleigh, the Trump administration wants \$377 million in the coronavirus relief bill for the long-delayed modernization of the West Wing. How is that a priority in terms of the coronavirus pandemic? You guys talk about priorities. You had the FBI bill, which doesn't seem to have much support from Capitol Hill as well.

MS. MCENANY: So, two things. And I'm glad you asked that because I do want to give you some details about those two items in particular.

When it comes to the FBI building, this has been a long-discussed issue. I would note that the three previous COVID bills that have been passed had plenty of other things in them that were not related to COVID. One of those examples is the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. This is not a red line for us. It was a part of the initial bill, but it is certainly not a red line. The priority, as I've said several times so far, is unemployment insurance, making sure Americans do not get evicted.

And then, as it pertains to White House renovations, many of those pertain to safety protocols, filtration systems, enhanced communication ability, and needs that we saw that were highlighted during the pandemic.

But make no mistake, you know, a \$377 million proposal will not stand in the way of ensuring that the American people get their checks. That is the priority -- ensuring that Americans do not get evicted. That is our number one, number two goals.

Yes.

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. I just wanted to confirm reports that Mark Meadows actually made an offer to extend unemployment insurance by four months.

MS. MCENANY: I have not -- I haven't spoken to him on that precise proposal. But as he's mentioned, there were four that were made.

Q Maybe a follow-up question then. I want to change gears and talk to you about Twitter. We reported yesterday that the Israeli government wrote to Twitter's CEO, asking him to remove tweets from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini calling for the genocide of the Israeli people. The company refused to do that because they said that the tweets were, quote, "comments on current affairs."

I'm wondering if the White House has a response, given that Twitter has recently begun restricting the President's own tweets for glorifying violence -- quote, "glorifying violence" and spreading misinformation -- and if you have spoken to the President about any further action perhaps he's taking on social media companies.

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, it's a great question, Ebony. I did see that New York Post story, and I thought it was very eye-opening. And it tells you where these social media company stands, where they're not willing to assess the Ayatollah Khomeini's tweets, but they are willing to assess President Trump's tweets.

It's really appalling, and it just speaks to their overwhelming, blinding bias against conservatives and against this President. And we are taking action. The administration is

submitting a petition to the FCC for proposed regulatory changes to hold social media companies accountable for their censorship.

And this petition that was previously reported on earlier in the week asked the FCC to end the loophole that allows social media companies to escape civil lawsuits for their own speech, fact checks, and de-platforming. And the petition seeks to expose social media companies to liability as a speaker or a publisher if they act as editors of content on their platforms or remove lawful speech based on politics.

And very good work by the New York Post in highlighting that issue.

Yes.

Q Thanks. Can I follow up on Darlene's question on Tata for a minute? You said that the administration is still behind him, but is -- are you guys considering putting him in an acting role?

MS. MCENANY: I have no personnel announcements, other to say that the President still supports him.

Yes.

Q Thank you. It's been a month since the reports of Russian bounties upon American military forces, and yet the White House has done nothing to push back on Putin. What is the -- what is the delay?

MS. MCENANY: So, as I've answered probably a dozen times from this podium, that intelligence is unverified. There are dissenting opinions.

Q But why hasn't it been verified?

MS. MCENANY: The media -- I would point to the Department of Defense, saying there's no corroborating evidence to validate recent allegations. NSC allegations and recent press articles have not been verified or substantiated by the intelligence community, and ODNI has a similar statement.

But, look, this President acts. He is not afraid to stand up to Russia. He's done so repeatedly. When our adversaries have directly targeted U.S. or coalition -- coalition partners, the President did not hesitate to act.

Q But why didn't he speak to Putin?

MS. MCENANY: Look at Syria in 2018, when dozens of Russian mercenaries were killed in a retaliatory defensive strike. He has continually stood up to Russia and will continue to do so. And this President will always protect our troops and our men and women overseas, and he will act on verified intelligence.

Bill.

Q Thank you, ma'am. So, Colorado Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Washington all have automatic mail-in ballot systems. The White House has made its position clear on absentee ballots and also the concern over these universal systems. Does the White House think that those elections are fraudulent or are more at risk of fraud?

MS. MCENANY: Always, a mail-in ballot system, mass mail-out ballots are going to be more at risk of fraud. Look at L.A. County, where 112 percent of L.A. County is registered. That means you have 12 percent of excess ballots floating around that are -- we know at least 12 percent that are that are not accurate ballots that were mailed out.

This is a very basic concept, and it's one that the media

has done a very good job reporting on -- not just Jeffrey Toobin at the New Yorker; you also had the Washington Post article on this that the President held up yesterday that says the results that they -- that they've seen in a study have showed that there's "an unexpected stress test of mail balloting systems, many of which were designed to handle only a small portion of the vote and are not ready to scale up in response to a pandemic." That was the Washington Post.

There was another great ABC piece: "Mail-in voting delays in primary cause Pennsylvania to sound alarm about November. Expansion of mail-in voting will likely delay the state's presidential [race]."

A great CBS report: "Pennsylvania's mail-in votes still weren't all tallied up after one week. Officials fear election 'nightmare' in November."

So, mass mail-in voting is certainly subject to fraud, and good work on the part of ABC, CBS, Washington Post, and the New Yorker for highlighting the fraud that is at play, the delays that are at play -- because those are, after all, the facts.

Q And then just another quick one. The Chief sounded quite frustrated a second ago. Is there any situation in which the White House would walk away from negotiations on phase four?

MS. MCENANY: I won't get into the middle of the negotiations, and I'll leave that to the Chief and to the Secretary of Treasury.

But, yeah, there's -- there's a lot of passion because we're passionate about making sure Americans are taken care of. I've heard the President personally talk about this. It is -- it is his goal to make sure that those who have lost their job get these payments and those, who through no fault of their own, do

not get evicted from their homes.

So those -- again, two big priorities for the President.

Raquel.

Q Yes, thank you, Kayleigh, so much. I have two questions. One, you are here saying that -- how well the administration is doing in responding to different things, but the facts don't show that, and Americans are struggling and scared. How do you -- what do you tell them, the American people?

MS. MCENANY: So the one thing I would say is: The President has made clear that we're at a place where we want all Americans to make sure that they socially distance and that they make sure they engage in mitigation tactics. And the President has been clear on that.

But, you know, one of the things I think as -- when you look at the United States response, you look at the fact that we were supposed to have a ventilator shortage. In fact, we had a ventilator surplus. We were -- we were told that there is a testing shortage. Well, it turns out we've done, at this point, almost 60 million tests.

This President led on the development of remdesivir. We just saw, this week, promising signs from convalescent plasma. Our therapeutics are advanced; I would argue the best in the world.

And that's why, when you look at, in particular, at the case fatality rate -- which the President often talks about -- you see that that tells -- that tells a big story. When the U.S. case fatality rate is at 3.4 percent, the world's is at 4 percent average, and the EU at 9.7 percent, that is a testament to our

therapeutics.

But we encourage every American to engage in mitigation efforts. And it's patriotic, as the President said, to wear a mask, especially when you can't socially distance.

Hunter.

Q Can I ask another question on the travel ban?

MS. MCENANY: Hunter.

On the travel ban? Sure.

Q Travel ban. Yes, there is a movement (inaudible), called "Love is not tourism." They are families and couples separated for a month because of the travel ban -- couples who couldn't be together on their childbirth, or mothers and sons who are separated during illness. They are asking if the administration could consider a waiver in their cases.

MS. MCENANY: I haven't spoken to the President about those specific cases. But this President will always put America first. This President put in place the travel bans to protect American lives, and they've done that. Dr. Fauci acknowledging that the travel bans have saved American lives, and that -- that is our goal at this moment.

Hunter.

Q Thank you, Kayleigh. I have two quick questions for you. Herman Cain passed away yesterday, and obviously he had tested positive for COVID nine days after attending the President's rally in Tulsa. Officials there have connected the rally to a spike in cases. Is there any concern that Herman Cain may have contracted coronavirus at the President's rally? And is

the task force doing any follow-up to track other potential cases from that event?

MS. MCENANY: Look, Herman Cain is the absolute embodiment of the American Dream. We are grieved and we are very saddened by his passing. He was raised in Atlanta, Georgia, on a small farm. He left with just the clothes on his back. His mother was a housekeeper. And he rose to be an extremely successful businessman and someone who was -- who contended for the nomination of our Party.

And I would refer you to a post on Herman Cain's website, and he says "I realize..." -- or his website rather -- "I realize people will speculate about the Tulsa rally, but Herman did a lot of traveling the past week. I don't think there's any way to trace this to one specific contact that caused the infection. We'll never know."

So that -- and I will not politicize Herman Cain's passing, and I would just note the great contributions he's made to our society. We'll always remember him, and his legacy will stand.

Q And then to follow up on another point: Obviously, the President's tweets yesterday seemed to float the idea of delaying the election. He later said, you know, he supports no date change whatsoever.

Given a little bit of the ambiguity and confusion there, can you just state unequivocally whether or not the White House wants to see the date changed and state, 100 percent, that that is not something that you support?

MS. MCENANY: The President answered this three times yesterday. He said, "I want the date more than anyone. I don't want to delay. I want to have the election." And in a local interview he did, he said, "No one wants the date of the election

more than me," because he believes November 3rd will be a moment where the American people acknowledge the great successes of this administration.

Yes.

Q Kayleigh, thank you. Does the President support the Chinese-backed Hong Kong government in delaying their elections?

MS. MCENANY: Yeah, so I do have an answer for you on the Hong Kong elections: We condemn the Hong Kong government's decision to postpone for one year its legislative council elections and to disqualify opposition candidates. This action undermines the democratic processes and freedoms that have underpinned Hong Kong's prosperity. And this is only the most recent in a growing list of broken promises by Beijing, which promised autonomy and freedoms to the Hong Kong people until 2047 in the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

I think it's appropriate, as we see this play out on the Hill -- this testimony by our doctors -- to just acknowledge the real successes and work of this administration. I acknowledged the ventilators, and I talked about testing and just great American industry coming together, the American people coming together and working to get us through this tragic pandemic. And we grieve when even one life is lost.

But I do want to point out just the early actions of this administration. When there were zero reported cases in the United States on January 6th, the CDC issued Wuhan travel notice before any U.S. confirmed cases. But what were Pelosi and Chuck Schumer doing? They were calling on the GOP to support Bolton testifying.

Zero reported cases in the United States; on January 17th, the CDC implements public health entry screenings at three major

U.S. airports receiving the greatest volume of Wuhan passengers. What were Democrats doing? Oh, House Democrats were preparing to file their first brief in the impeachment -- sham impeachment inquiry.

When there was one reported case in the United States on January 21st, CDC activated Emergency Operations Center. What were Democrats doing? Oh, Chuck Schumer was calling for witnesses in the impeachment trial, and Pelosi released a statement criticizing Mitch McConnell for his trial rules.

And finally, when there were seven reported cases in the United States on January 31st, President Trump issued travel restrictions on China and the first mandatory quarantine in more than 50 years, and those travel restrictions saved American lives. But what were Democrats doing? Pelosi was introducing the NO BAN Act, which would have imposed undue limitations on the President's authority to restrict entry of aliens into the United States.

And what are Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi doing now? Stopping Americans from getting their unemployment insurance. And it's despicable, and it's time for them to come to the negotiating table.

Thank you very much.

END

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