



FACT SHEET: DOD Support To COVID-19 Pandemic Response As of March 19, 2020

The Department of Defense (DOD) is taking action along a number of fronts to support President Trump's whole-of-government pandemic response efforts. These include:

DOD Medical Capabilities:

- Vaccines: DOD has five vaccine initiatives at different stages of development.
- Antiviral Medication: DOD has three antiviral therapeutic studies underway and the FDA is enabling their production through the Emergency Use Authority Process for applicable DOD candidates established in the FY18 NDAA.
- Hospital Ships: DOD is preparing the USNS Comfort to support efforts in New York. USNS Mercy is preparing to support efforts on the West Coast. Each ship has roughly 1000 bed capacity with operating rooms, labs, and diagnostic equipment. Because these ships are primarily designed for trauma care, they will likely be used to support other medical needs in order to allow civilian medical providers to focus on COVID-19 patients.
- Combat Support Hospitals: DOD is exploring the use of Army Combat Support Hospitals (248 beds) and Navy Expeditionary Medical Facilities (150 beds) to provide trauma support for civilian medical systems to allow them to focus on COVID-19.
- Stockpiles: DOD is making essential supplies available from DOD stockpiles, including: 2,000 ventilators, five million N95 breathing masks, and COVID-19 testing in 14 military health labs.
- Quarantine Facilities: DOD is providing 13 bases to temporarily house U.S. Citizens and legal permanent residents who require mandatory quarantine as they re-enter the United States, including passengers from the Grand Princess cruise ship.
- Medical Facility Planning: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received a Mission Assignment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support medical facility planning.

National Guard:

- To date, 2,050 National Guard Members are supporting governors in at least 27 states. Support to governors includes, but is not limited to, supporting state emergency centers, supporting drive through testing centers, transport support for quarantined individuals, and 24-hour emergency pre-hospitalization stabilization response activities.
- The National Guard is training personnel in COVID-19 response and compiling state medical supply inventories.

Protecting Service Members:

- Stop Movement Order: DOD has stopped almost all Permanent Change of Station (PCS) and Temporary Duty government-funded movement of servicemembers, DoD civilian personnel and DoD families.
- Social Distancing: All large social gatherings and ceremonies have been postponed. Telework opportunities are being maximized for eligible personnel.
- Treatment: TRICARE is utilizing tele-medicine where possible and strongly encouraging those beneficiaries with COVID-19 symptoms to use the Nurse Advice Line instead of walking into an MTF or clinic to avoid community spread.