

COVID-19 and The U.S. Supply of Ventilators

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The number of ventilators in hospitals around the country: Hospitals in the U.S. have roughly 160,000 ventilators. [[NY Times](#)]

The number of ventilators in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS): The number of ventilators in the SNS at any given point is fluid as the federal government works to simultaneously ship ventilators to areas in need, and at the same time backfill its supply. According to recent media reports, there are between 12,700 and 16,600 ventilators in the SNS. [[NY Times](#); [Public Integrity](#)] In addition, the Department of Defense has indicated that it can supply 2,000 ventilators. [[VOX](#)]

FDA guidance to increase availability of ventilators: On March 22, 2020, FDA issued guidance outlining a policy intended to increase availability of ventilators and their accessories as well as other respiratory devices during the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy fosters the continued availability of certain safe and effective medical devices while being flexible regarding manufacturer modifications made to ventilators, anesthesia gas machines, and other respiratory devices, and their accessories. [[FDA](#)]

Efforts by U.S. ventilator companies to ramp up production of ventilators: Companies that specialize in making ventilators are ramping up production but need suppliers across the globe to similarly ramp up production of circuit boards, tubes, and other parts. [[Bloomberg](#)] On March 23, 2020, Royal Philips NV stated its intention to double its ventilator output in the next eight weeks. [[Bloomberg](#)] Vyair Medical Inc. added a second shift at its ventilator factory in Palm Springs, California to increase production, dependent on suppliers' ability to deliver supplies. [[Bloomberg](#)] Medtronic announced that it will double its capacity to manufacture and supply ventilators. Ventec has shipped 250 units of its deployable ventilators in February and is heightening production to potentially 1,000 per month in the next 90 days and 2,000 per month within 120 days. [[Mass Device](#)] Other domestic and international ventilator companies include: Draeger, GE, Hill-Rom, ResMed, Hamilton, and Getinge. Industry sources have told Committee staff that 10-20 percent of 1,500 parts of ventilators are sourced outside of the U.S.

Efforts being made by FEMA to procure and ship ventilators: FEMA has shipped 6,000 ventilators over the last week. FEMA is also seeking to procure ventilators, among other supplies, from foreign sources.

Efforts being made to update/repurpose existing ventilators: Vice President Pence said that the federal government has reached out to devices used by anesthesiologists for outpatient surgery to convert them to ventilators to combat COVID-19. "We literally believe tens of thousands of ventilators can be converted now that the FDA has given guidance," Pence said during a March 25, 2020 briefing. [[Fierce Healthcare](#)]. Dr. Mary Dale Peterson, the president of

the American Society of Anesthesiologists, has said that there may be as many as 70,000 of these devices in American hospitals. [\[NPR\]](#)

Efforts by U.S. companies to repurpose manufacturing capabilities to make ventilators:

GM and medical equipment maker Ventec are speeding up efforts under a partnership code-named “Project V” to build ventilators at a GM plant in Kokomo, Indiana. [\[Reuters\]](#). Ford is going to work with GE Healthcare to expand production of a simplified version of GE Healthcare’s existing ventilator design. [\[Post-Gazette\]](#) Tesla is re-opening a factory in Buffalo, New York to repurpose it for producing ventilators. [\[Mashable\]](#) Neither Ford nor GM have started production of ventilators, and the timelines for these efforts are currently unclear. Tesla CEO Elon Musk tweeted Friday that his company was “working on ventilators” but he did not specify a timeline for the company’s efforts. [\[AP\]](#)

Donations of ventilators: The country's largest veterinary schools, animal hospitals and even zoos are donating ventilators to hospitals. Ventilators used on animals are identical to machines at hospitals. [\[ABC News\]](#)