

HIGHLIGHTS | President Trump and the Coronavirus Task Force Provide an Update on Response Efforts

THE FEDERAL RESERVE

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "I want to congratulate the Federal Reserve. For starters, they've lowered the federal rate from what it was, which was 1 to 1.25, and it's been lowered down to 0 to 0.25, or .25. So it's 0 to .25."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "In addition, very importantly, the Federal Reserve, is - they're going to be purchasing \$500 billion of treasuries and \$200 billion of mortgage-backed securities."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "We're the strongest country in the world, by far - financially and every other way, and that brings us in line with what other countries are."

EXPANDING TESTING SPEED AND ACCESSIBILITY

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "As the American people know, testing is now available in all 50 states. Either state labs are either conducting the tests themselves, or the CDC is processing tests."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "Based on the unprecedented speed of the FDA, which last week approved high-throughput coronavirus testing through Roche and Thermo Fisher, we will have now access in the days ahead to more than 2,000 labs across the country that have the equipment today to process coronavirus tests much more rapidly, and a much higher volume for the American people."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "The Admiral and our public health service have forged a partnership now with FEMA, made possible by that declaration, and they've reached out to all 50 states to create a process that will enable all Americans who need to be tested to go to a community-based testing site outside of usual health care facilities."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ADM. GIROIR: "Over the past 72 hours, we have developed and are beginning to implement now, a process in a program of testing that will enable Americans who are in need of coronavirus testing to be tested, effectively and efficiently."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ADM. GIROIR: "We will have 1.9 million of these high-throughput tests available this week with numerous labs, up to 2,000 starting to turn the lights on, beginning this week and rolling out over the week. That is really a game changer for us."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ADM. GIROIR: "We've created a model, based on the public health and the FEMA system, that is optimized that can be used for drive-through or potentially walk-through. Each of these pod-based units we believe can screen 2,000 to 4,000 individuals a day for testing, with all the appropriate personal protective gear, all the appropriate back end and linkage to the public health system, including testing."

CALL WITH GROCERY STORE EXECUTIVES

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "I just had a phone call with very impressive people, the biggest in the world, in the world of stores, and groceries and all."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "All of them are working hand-in-hand with the Federal Government as well as the state and local leaders to ensure food and essentials are constantly available and they'll do it. There's no shortages, we have no shortages other than people are buying anywhere from three to five times what they would normally buy."

PRESIDENT TRUMP: "There's no need for anybody in the country to hoard essential food supplies."

COORDINATING WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "With more than 2,900 cases of coronavirus in 49 states across the country, I want to assure the American people that this administration, all of our partners at the state level and local health officials have no higher priority than the health and safety of the American public."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "Tomorrow, the President and I will be briefing all of the nation's governors, states and territories and the District of Columbia, speaking about the progress that we're making and we'll be speaking to them specifically about our widening partnership on expanding testing to the American people."

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "I know, I speak on behalf of the President and our entire team when I say how grateful we are for governors all across the country and the seamless partnership that we have forged with them and with state health officials with our federal team."

AIRPORT SCREENING

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: "Out of an abundance of caution, we are engaging in health care screenings at 13 different airports around the country, working diligently in that regard to put the safety of the American public first and we're asking returning Americans to self-quarantine for 14 days if they have been in those countries."

ACTING SECRETARY WOLF: "To be clear, the lines again that we saw overnight at a limited number of airports, including Chicago, are unacceptable. The acting commissioner, CBP Commissioner Morgan, also believes they are unacceptable and has personally engaged leadership at all 13 funneling airports. We did make the necessary adjustments -- at 12 of the funneling airports."

INCREASING MEDICAL SUPPLIES

SECRETARY AZAR: "In terms of supplies, obviously, this is an unprecedented challenge, unprecedented. And so we will work to increase the supplies of personal protective equipment, of ventilators, of field medical unit hospitals that we can deploy. We have tremendous supplies, but we want to acquire more."