

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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May 8, 2020

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

We are writing to follow up on a request the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Oversight and Reform made regarding FEMA's efforts to acquire and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to states and local hospitals.

On April 7, 2020, our Committees launched a joint investigation into FEMA's management of the federal response to the coronavirus pandemic.¹ We were alarmed by a report from the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services that hospitals were facing "widespread shortages of PPE" and "sharp increases in prices for PPE from some vendors."²

We have waited several weeks for a response from FEMA, but the agency has not produced any of the requested documents and has not provided any update on the status of its efforts to gather these records. We appreciate the enormous challenge FEMA is facing with the coronavirus pandemic, but FEMA must take reasonable steps to respond to our oversight requests, which help inform the legislation Congress passes to combat this crisis.

Our investigation is critical for Congress and the American people to understand FEMA's processes for acquiring and distributing PPE and other essential medical supplies and equipment as the nation goes forward.

¹ Letter from Chairman Bennie G. Thompson, Committee on Homeland Security, and Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, to Administrator Peter T. Gaynor, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Apr. 7, 2020) (online at homeland.house.gov/imo/media/doc/040720%20Joint%20FEMA%20letter%20re%20PPE.pdf).

² Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, *Hospital Experiences Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Results of a National Pulse Survey March 23-27, 2020* (Apr. 2020) (online at oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-20-00300.pdf).

The Committees requested that FEMA provide by April 15, 2020, all documents referring or relating to:

1. Protocols, policies, or processes for (a) receiving and tracking requests from states, territories, and the District of Columbia for PPE or medical supplies and equipment; and (b) distributing or directing the sale of any form of PPE or medical supplies and equipment obtained from any source to the states, territories, and the District of Columbia to be used for the diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19;
2. The policies, protocols, and processes in place to guide the distribution of any remaining ventilators in the Strategic National Stockpile as well as new ventilators acquired by FEMA or distributors;
3. All flights FEMA has scheduled through Project Airbridge, including the destinations of all such flights, and the manifests detailing the quantities and types of PPE and essential medical supplies and equipment carried to the U.S. on these flights, and all documents referring or relating to the allocation or sale of materials carried on these flights to distributors and to states, territories and the District of Columbia;
4. The seizure and/or redistribution by FEMA of PPE and medical supplies and equipment that was intended to fulfill orders for these items placed by hospitals, health centers, states/territories/the District of Columbia, or any local jurisdiction or public health entity, including the quantities and types of supplies seized and/or redistributed and the subsequent distribution of these items as directed by FEMA, including the prices paid for these items by the recipients designated by FEMA;
5. All communications between any FEMA employee and Jared Kushner regarding the acquisition, distribution of, or federally directed sale of any form of PPE or of medical supplies and equipment to be used for the diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19; and
6. All communications between any FEMA employee and each of Nat Turner, Dave Caluori, and any other individual(s) who are currently employees of private sector firms and have signed any form of voluntary agreements to aid in the federal effort to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Committees request that you immediately produce all of the requested documents by May 12, 2020.

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If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Oversight Committee staff at (202) 225-5051 and Homeland Security Committee staff at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Mike Rogers, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security