Recent Announcements

- **President Trump Announces Guidelines for Opening Up America Again!**: On Thursday, April 16, President Trump unveiled the ***Guidelines for Opening Up America Again!*** Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The criteria include showing a downward trajectory of COVID-like symptoms reported over 14 days in a given state or region, as well as a decline in documented cases or positive tests during the same 14-day window. They also set clear benchmarks on new cases, testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. State and local officials may need to tailor the application of these criteria to local circumstances (e.g., metropolitan areas that have suffered severe COVID outbreaks, rural and suburban areas where outbreaks have not occurred or have been mild). Additionally, where appropriate, the guidelines recommend Governors working on a regional basis to satisfy outlined criteria and to progress through the tiered phases. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country. Find a Fact Sheet here: **President Donald J. Trump Is Beginning the Next Phase In Our Fight Against Coronavirus – Guidelines for Opening Up America Again**.

- **USDA Announces Coronavirus Food Assistance Program**: On Friday, April 17, Secretary Perdue joined President Trump in announcing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (**CFAP**) to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in response to COVID-19. This $19 billion relief program will provide $16 billion in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers and $3 billion in purchases of fresh produce, dairy and meat.

- **DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency Releases Revised Critical Infrastructure Workers Guidance**: On April 17, DHS CISA released version 3.0 of the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers **guidance** to help state and local jurisdictions and the private sector identify and manage their essential workforce while responding to COVID-19. Version 3.0 provides clarity around a range of positions needed to support the critical infrastructure functions laid out in the original guidance and Version 2.0. This iteration includes a reorganization of the section around Healthcare and Public Health and more detail to clarify essential workers; emphasis for Emergency Medical Services workers; and adds lawyers and legal aid workers. Also included is language focused on sustained access and freedom of movement; a reference to the CDC guidance on safety for critical infrastructure workers; and a statement saying sick employees should avoid the workplace and the workforce. In worker categories, all references to "employees" or "contractors" have been changed to "workers."

- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Announce New Nursing Home COVID-19 Transparency Effort**: On Sunday, April 19, CDC **announced** new regulatory requirements that will require nursing homes to inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. CMS will now require nursing homes to report cases of COVID-19 directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Finally, CMS will also require nursing homes to fully cooperate with CDC surveillance efforts around COVID-19 spread.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (WH IGA) will continue to share pertinent information as it becomes available. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if we can be

of assistance. As a reminder, WH IGA is the primary liaison between the White House and the country's State and local elected officials and Tribal Governments.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Download the COVID-19 App

COVID-19: Important Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Officials

- **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again**: On Thursday, April 16, President Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force unveiled **new guidelines** (*download* **here**) for the reopening of America. Developed by the top medical experts from across the Government and based on verifiable metrics regarding the situation on the ground, the guidelines outline a phased return to reopening and include specific steps for State, Local, and Tribal officials to follow in tailoring their response. The guidelines also set clear benchmarks on new cases, testing, and hospital resources for States to meet to proceed toward a phased reopening. In the days and weeks ahead, the Administration plans to continue robust coordination and outreach with State, Local, and Tribal leaders as we collectively work to reopen the country.
- **Coronavirus Guidelines for America**: On Tuesday, March 31, the White House announced updated ***Coronavirus Guidelines for America*** (**Español**), extending social distancing efforts through April 30. On April 3, the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) issued **guidance** recommending individuals wear cloth face coverings *in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain* (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies, particularly in areas of significant community-based transmission. On April 8, CDC also provided **guidelines** regarding when people in critical infrastructure roles can return to work after being exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. Additional information on critical infrastructure below.

- **Up-To-Date Information**: The most up-to-date, verified information and guidance can be found via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website – **www.coronavirus.gov**. The Coronavirus Task Force holds frequent briefings, which can be viewed live **here**.

- **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Primer**: Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, state managed, and federally supported. It is important that requests for assistance, including for critical supplies, get routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. Learn more about the response and recovery process via this important resource – **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Response and Recovery Through Federal-State-Local-Tribal Partnership**. FEMA's public assistance guidance for COVID-19 response efforts can be found **here**. Guidance for Tribal Governments can be found **here**.

- **Critical Infrastructure Workforce Guidelines**: On March 16th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued updated **critical infrastructure guidance** in response to the COVID-19 emergency. DHS continues to work with stakeholders in the critical infrastructure community to update the advisory list if necessary as the Nation's response to COVID-19 evolves. The guidance, and accompanying list, is intended to help State, local, tribal and territorial officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security. The list is advisory in nature and is not a federal directive or standard.

- **Rural Resource Guide**: USDA and Federal partners have programs that can be used to provide immediate and long term assistance to rural communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs can support recovery efforts for rural residents, businesses, and communities. USDA developed a **resource guide** for State, Local, and Tribal leaders, and other stakeholders.

- **Coronavirus Fact vs. Myth**: Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis. FEMA setup a **website** to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

- **Fraud & Scam Protection**: The Department of Justice is remaining vigilant in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting wrongdoing related to the crisis. Find out how you can protect yourself and helpful resources on DOJ's Coronavirus Fraud Prevention **website**. The Federal Trade Commission has also established a **website** with helpful information to help consumers avoid coronavirus-related scams.

- **Social Media Resources**: Download the **Apple COVID-19 Screening Tool**. Follow the White House on **Twitter** and **Facebook**. Also follow HHS (**Twitter**/**Facebook**) and CDC (**Twitter**/**Facebook**) You can also find informational videos from Coronavirus Task Force members on mitigation, social distancing, etc. on the White House's **YouTube** page.

- **Mental Health Resources**: Natural disasters – including such pandemics as the coronavirus outbreak – can be overwhelming and also can seriously affect emotional health. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline – 1-800-985-5990 (or text TalkWithUs to 66746) – provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to anyone who is seeking help in coping with the mental or emotional effects caused by developments related to the coronavirus pandemic. Learn more about the Disaster Distress Helpline **here**.

- **Addiction & Substance Abuse Resources**: The COVID-19 pandemic has created countless challenges for those delivering care to our most vulnerable populations. People

with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) are especially at high risk suffering complications from COVID-19. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which leads and coordinates the development, implementation, and assessment of U.S. drug policy, released a **fact sheet** that contains information on Federal actions to expand telemedicine and e-prescribing, to increase flexibility for treatment with methadone and buprenorphine, to improve access to prescribed controlled substances, and to expand assistance to rural areas.

- **Administration Actions and Federal Agency Resources**: USA.gov is cataloging all U.S. government activities related to coronavirus. From actions on health and safety to travel, immigration, and transportation to education, find pertinent actions **here**. Each Federal Agency has also established a dedicated coronavirus website, where you can find important information and guidance. They include: Health and Human Services (**HHS**), Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (**CMS**), Food and Drug Administration (**FDA**), Department of Education (**DoED**), Department of Agriculture (**USDA**), Small Business Administration (**SBA**), Department of Labor (**DOL**), Department of Homeland Security (**DHS**), Department of State (**DOS**), Department of Veterans Affairs (**VA**), Environmental Protection Agency (**EPA**), Department of Energy (**DOE**), Department of Commerce (**DOC**), Department of Justice (**DOJ**), Department of Housing and Urban Development (**HUD**), Department of the Treasury (**USDT**), Internal Revenue Service (**IRS**), Office of the Director of National Intelligence (**ODNI**), and U.S. Election Assistance Commission (**EAC**).