



## **Ranking Member Gary Peters' Plan for COVID-19 Public Health System Preparedness**

As we continue to combat the spread of COVID-19, we must ensure our nation's public health system is prepared to handle additional patients. We need sufficient personal protective equipment and medical supplies, protections for health care providers, and enough hospital beds for sick patients. My three-step plan will meet this important goal.

### **1. Ensure an Adequate Supply of Respirators, Ventilators, and Other Critical Equipment**

Access to proper medical supplies is critical for the safety of our health care workforce and can make the difference between life and death for an at-risk COVID-19 patient.

- **Track and Coordinate the Allocation of Critical Medical Supplies (HHS):** Develop a centralized system to track manufacturing, availability, and distribution of supplies to better understand manufacturing capacity, detect and predict shortages, and ensure supplies make it to high-need areas.
- **Partner with Industry to Increase Production of Supplies (HHS):** Encourage existing manufacturers to increase production to meet current and future demand, such as through direct procurement and a guarantee to purchase excess supplies. Engage with manufacturers, such as the great producers in Michigan, who can repurpose facilities to make needed supplies.
- **Utilize the Strategic National Stockpile and Defense Production Act (FEMA & HHS):** Use newly activated Defense Production Act authorities to help guide manufacturers to produce and strategically allocate medical supplies, preventing and addressing local shortages. As manufacturing ramps up, continue to distribute supplies from the stockpile as needed and report to Congress on inventory, requests, and distribution.

### **2. Bolster the Health Care Workforce and Ensure Their Health and Safety**

To protect the health and safety of our communities, we must ensure that there are enough providers to care for all patients, and that first responders and health care workers have the personal protective equipment they need.

- **Activate Additional Federal Medical Personnel (White House):** Direct federal medical personnel – including the National Guard, Reserve, Public Health Service, and others – to provide health care in areas of greatest need. Develop a plan for utilizing combat medics and other military personnel.
- **Prioritize Testing and Personal Protective Equipment Distribution (HHS):** Work with states, localities, and industry to ensure an adequate supply of tests and protective equipment for frontline health care providers.
- **Ensure Health Care Workers Can Support U.S. Response Across Borders (DHS):** Allow health care workers who reside across the border to continue entering the U.S. to work at U.S. health care facilities.

### **3. Increase the Capacity of Health Care Facilities for All Patients Needing Care**

Our health care system must have enough beds and resources to treat every patient, including those with COVID-19 or other urgent health needs, while maintaining a high standard of care.

- **Financially Support Hospitals & Health Care Workers (White House):** Use federal dollars to ensure medical facilities are able to afford supplies & care for patients. Provide hazard pay to frontline health care workers.
- **Direct DOD and FEMA to Establish Treatment Facilities (White House):** Enlist DOD and FEMA to provide states with needed resources, including through the utilization of Stafford Act funds and the establishment of temporary medical facilities and rapid diagnostic and treatment centers.
- **Acquire and Convert Spaces into Medical Facilities (HHS & GSA):** Explore methods for acquiring properties that can be converted into medical facilities through direct acquisition or provision of federal funds.