

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you because COVID-19 is ravaging our beloved New York City; we thereby implore you to prioritize the transfer of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and ventilators from the national stockpile to New York, and specifically to Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, NY.


Just today, our nation has now surpassed all others as having the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the world, with New York City being the epicenter of this pandemic. More specifically, Elmhurst Hospital is on the precipice of being the nerve center of this unprecedented public health crisis. We have been warned that more than half of New Yorkers will be infected with COVID-19.

As our nation is dealing with the economic and emotional shock of this pandemic, we are extremely concerned about the serious threat the virus poses on our local hospitals and health care systems. The skyrocketing cases of COVID-19 in New York City, which is currently at over 23,000 cases, is forcing our hospitals to operate beyond their normal capacity. Even by the time you read this letter, the number of infected cases will further increase exponentially.

As you know, our health care workers are on the frontlines of this COVID-19 war, as they perform their duties in the face of increased personal risk and strain. The shortages of PPE are jeopardizing the lives and welfare of these brave workers and of patients; if left unresolved, this would have a devastating ripple effect that will certainly revert any containment attempts. Furthermore, one less ventilator is one less life that had the hope of being saved. The staggering numbers of critical patients at Elmhurst Hospital is compounded with the shortages of ventilators.

We entreat you to promptly deploy immediate necessary resources to decrease the intensity and mitigate long-term harm of COVID-19. Any delays in the procurement of PPE would significantly hamper our health care system's ability to respond to this crisis. We urge you to address the needs required at Elmhurst Hospital. This is a matter of life and death.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

cc:

The Honorable Michael Pence, Vice President, Chair, White House Coronavirus Task Force
The Honorable Alex M. Azar, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services