



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Peter T. Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472-3184

Dear Administrator Gaynor:

I want to thank you for the support you and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have provided New York City in the midst of a crisis unlike any we've seen before. From helping procure the USNS Comfort, to sending crucial PPE and ventilators, to supplying us with ambulances and extraordinary EMTs as reinforcements – you have helped us fight back. You have saved lives and protected our heroes on the front lines. We are grateful.

But as you are well aware, this will get worse in our city before it gets better. As of tonight, we have hit a painful milestone and lost **1,000** New Yorkers to this virus – a number growing by the hundreds every day. One of every four Coronavirus cases in the nation is a New York City resident. We are racing against the clock to prepare our health care system for the worst.

To put it bluntly: We need more help. **Enclosed**, you'll find the letter I sent to President Trump, Secretary Esper, and General Milley earlier today. In it, I reiterated what I've told each of them clearly in conversations: by this Sunday, April 5, we'll face a critical shortage of staff that our city needs to fight this war. We need **1,000** nurses, **300** respiratory therapists, and **150** doctors for our public hospitals in the next five days. Sadly, it isn't all we'll need in the coming weeks – but without them, New Yorkers we could have saved will die.

I'd love the opportunity to speak with you directly at your earliest convenience and tell you more about our situation. 8.6 million New Yorkers are grateful for you and FEMA – and in this pivotal moment, we're counting on you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill de Blasio'.

Bill de Blasio
Mayor