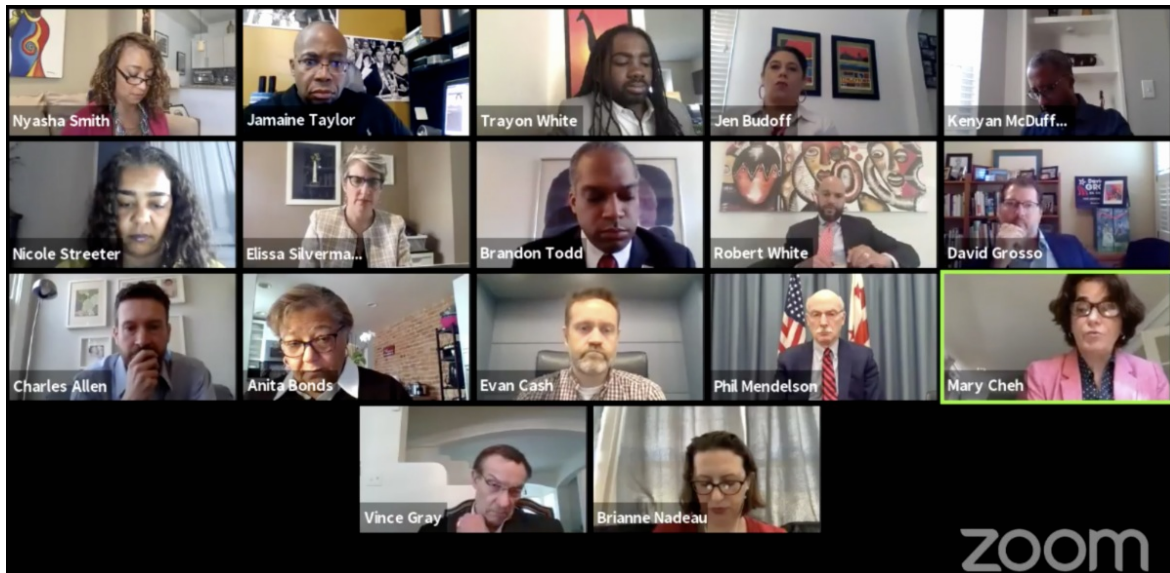




Council Addresses the Public Health Emergency in Supplemental Legislation



For the first time in its 45-year history, the Council held a legislative meeting that did not take place in the Council Chambers. It was held remotely, respecting the public health recommendations for social distancing. The agenda was limited; the usual business of presenting ceremonial resolutions, introducing bills, and even the debate over amendments was curtailed because of the constraints of “virtual” meetings. But we met nonetheless, primarily because of the continuing need to address the current public health emergency – to help the public, our residents, and our businesses.

Following this article is a graphic listing the details of the COVID-19 emergency bill that we adopted April 7th. This is the second emergency act adopted by the Council to deal with the public health emergency. (An “emergency act” becomes effective immediately, without waiting for Congressional review, once signed by the Mayor; however, it is effective for only 90 days.) Taken together, the emergency bills we have adopted:

- Help workers who have lost their jobs by providing expanded access to unemployment insurance: there is no mandatory waiting period, no job search requirement, individuals are eligible even if they are only temporarily laid off or are 1099 contractors like Lyft drivers; and in the coming weeks everyone on UI will get the additional \$600 per week provided in the federal relief law.

- Help businesses by allowing them to temporarily defer certain tax payments (essentially a short-term no-interest loan), providing a \$25 million small business micro-grant program, requiring lenders to defer mortgage payments for 90 days – a deferment that must be passed on to commercial tenants, and allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine, and cocktails on a carryout or delivery basis.
- Help consumers by outlawing price gouging and stockpiling during a public health emergency, increasing penalties for unfair trade practices, prohibiting utility cut-offs, prohibiting typical debt collection practices (such as repossessing cars) during the emergency, requiring funeral homes to provide competitive pricing information, and giving the Attorney General enhanced enforcement authority in this area.
- Protect residents by imposing a citywide rent freeze (i.e., no rent increases), requiring mortgage companies to offer 90-days deferment to homeowners unable to pay due to the pandemic.
- Help voters by adjusting the law to permit broad use of voting-by-mail in the upcoming June Primary election and Ward 2 Special election.
- Help incarcerated individuals (at greater risk of contracting COVID-19) by reducing the incarcerated population through expanded citation-release, good time credits, and compassionate release.
- Help hospitals by providing a \$25 million grant program to offset their cost of expanding surge capacity to treat COVID-19 infected individuals.
- Authorize the Chief Financial Officer to borrow up to \$500 million on a short-term basis to facilitate cash flow problems; while the District government is financially ok, much of the relief we are providing to residents and businesses is reducing the reserves and other cash on hand, so for the first time in 5 years the government will have to borrow for this purpose.
- Authorize the Mayor to extend the public health emergency, if needed, until mid-June.

Helping Undocumented Workers:

One issue that has gotten a lot of attention but was not addressed in either emergency is how to provide financial relief to undocumented workers in the District. Immigration is a federal issue; survival is not. There are thousands of individuals who work in the district – including day laborers, construction workers, even Trump Hotel workers – and if they are out of work because of the shutdown, they need help, too. An early draft of our second emergency included two provisions to help, but they were removed because of cost (\$75 million). Subsequently, advocates focused their request at \$5 million, likening it to a \$5 million program in Montgomery County. This was too late for inclusion in the second emergency bill, but late last week the District government, through Events DC which operates the District's convention center and several District-owned sports venues, designated \$5 million to support undocumented workers. This is actually better than Montgomery County, because the County's program is not limited to undocumented residents.

Congressional Oversight:

Last week every Councilmember signed a letter to Congressional leaders demanding that Congress rectify the unprecedented underfunding that was provided to the District in the relief act it adopted late last month. The CARES Act guarantees every state at least \$1.25 billion assistance, but treats the District as a territory which means only about \$500 million assistance. The difference means the District will have \$725 million less than the smallest state to support businesses, hospitals, residents, and workers, despite the fact that the District has more coronavirus patients than 21 states and, as a densely populated jurisdiction, faces higher risks than states with extensive rural populations. It means the District has less than half the federal financial support of any state, even though 45% of hospital patients in the District last year were residents of Maryland and Virginia, and even though 63.6% of District-based workers eligible for unemployment benefits are residents of Maryland and Virginia. It is bad public health policy to pay our smallest states at least \$2,000 per capita to fight the pandemic while funding the District at around \$700 per capita. Numerous voices in Congress, including the Democratic leadership of the House, now support rectifying the underfunding.

The City's Financial Health:

One of the bullets earlier in this article mentions that the District government is financially ok. More must be said. The Chief Financial Officer is revising his revenue estimates and has preliminarily stated that the District will have to cut \$607 million from what remains of this year's fiscal year budget (we're over halfway through the fiscal year), and cut about the same amount each year throughout the 4-year financial plan. Cutting over 7% from our annual budget is significant, but then again, the revised budget will be equivalent to what the District government spent in Fiscal Year 2018. It's doable. For the moment, we're stretched in what additional relief can be provided for residents and businesses, and as summarized above, the District for the first time in years will have to borrow for cash flow purposes. But unlike many cities and some states, the District government does not have to worry about bankruptcy. Or a return of the Control board. We'll know more when the Mayor submits the budget May 6th.

Finally, for the latest information from the District government about the public health emergency, how individuals and businesses can get relief, and what everyone should do to limit spread of the coronavirus, visit www.coronavirus.dc.gov.



COVID-19 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL LEGISLATION

- District Work-Share program expansion
- Sick & Safe Leave clarifications to align with CARES Act
- Emergency leave enforcement mechanism
- Adjustments to UDC Fundraising match program
- Adjusts graduation requirements
- Enhanced penalties for unfair trade practices
- Requires mortgage companies to offer a 90-day deferment program
- Revised TOPA extensions,
- Notices of intent to vacate residence tolled
- Rent freeze (not holiday)
- Expands utility shutoff to cable and telecom, allows OAG to enforce, and expansion of CRIAC relief to include non-impervious surface fees
- Expands CBE utilization for purchases in a PHE
- Consumer protection for funeral services
- Debt collection relief during PHE
- Clarifies ABRA pick up & carry out provisions
- Expanded uses of Opportunity Accounts
- Authorizes advance payments for CBE contractors
- Vacant property designation waiver for commercial businesses closed for PHE
- Clarifies federal SBA tax relief from being a tax event
- Extends investigation timeline for Police Complaints Board
- Declares FEMS personnel failure to use PPE as advised not an OHR violation
- Gives OAG authority to initiate civil actions to enforce civil rights violations
- Extends 15-day clock for non-custodial arrestees to report to 90 days
- Good time credits and compassionate release provisions for BOP inmates
- Amendments to the Public Emergency Act: Exempt DC personnel and contractors from liability and extends Mayor's authority additional 45 days
- Voluntary extension for youth under CFSA who otherwise age out
- Agency heads deemed approved after 90 days (current law), unless a resolution of disapproval in which case the clock tolls for duration of the PHE.
- Revisions to Council Code of Conduct to allow Members to promote local businesses and send out newsletters related to COVID without OGC review.
- ANC submissions & reporting deadlines toll
- BEGA disclosure and lobbying report flexibility, DCRB disclosure extension
- Board of elections flexibility for June elections
- Absentee ballot signature waiver
- Adjustment of stipends for Board of Elections
- Tolling of Administrative Hearings deadlines
- Approval of pending Mayoral nominations
- GO and TRANS Bond Authorization
- Revenue Bond Approvals (5 total)

**YOU CAN READ THE FULL LEGISLATION ONLINE AT
CHAIRMANMENDELSON.COM/CIRCULATION**

COUNCIL COMMITTEE RESOURCES

**We at the Council are doing all we can to inform residents how to get assistance during this public health emergency.
Councilmember Anita Bonds (Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization)
and Councilmember Elissa Silverman (Labor & Workforce Development) put these resources together to help guide you**

DC Unemployment Insurance (UI) Basics for COVID-19 Emergency

Updated April 10, 2020

Am I eligible for Unemployment Insurance?

I am a W-2 employee, and I received a layoff notice or significant reduction of work hours from my DC-based employer.

YES, you should apply for UI. UI is the best way to give you cash assistance, and your employer has been paying into the UI Trust Fund for this reason.

I receive a 1099, I am self-employed, I have little work history, and/or I earn money through gig work such as Pared and Uber.

YES, independent contractors, self-employed, gig workers, and new workers now are eligible for UI under the federal CARES Act, but changes to DC's UI claims system need to be made before you can apply. April 28 currently is the target date for the system to be ready, and you can email PUA@dc.gov to get an alert when you can file. If you have already applied and received a denial, you will need to reapply.

I have been diagnosed with COVID-19, I have had contact with a COVID-19 positive case, I have been ordered to quarantine/isolate or I have decided to self-quarantine/isolate on recommendation from a doctor, which has led to temporary separation from work.

Before applying for UI, determine if you are eligible for **paid sick leave** under new federal and District laws (more information at elissasilverman.com/coronavirus). If you meet eligibility, talk to your employer about staying on staff while you isolate. If you aren't eligible for paid time off or if you use up all your paid sick leave and need more, then you should apply for UI.

How does UI work?

How much money will I receive and for how long?

DC's maximum weekly benefit is **\$444 a week**. If you earn less than \$45,000 a year, your DC weekly benefit is about half of your average weekly earnings over the last year. Per the federal CARES Act, every claimant will receive an additional **\$600 per week** for four months; the additional \$600 payments likely will start late April. UI benefits can last up to 39 weeks, but you will need to complete recertification each week to maintain UI eligibility.

When will I start getting my benefits?

UI cash assistance is given through direct deposit or a benefit card (like a debit card). Benefits will begin about 21 days after you apply.

Do I need to prove I am looking for work? Is there still a one-week waiting period?

DC has **waived the one-week waiting period and work search requirements** for all claimants. If you receive a denial based on these questions, email covid19.ui@dc.gov to remedy. Keep all records from the agency.

Email covid19.ui@dc.gov with specific questions about your claim

How do I apply?

Best to use desktop or laptop computer to fill out application online at **dcnetworks.org**.

The application is most compatible with Internet Explorer browser and cannot be filed with a cell phone. If you don't have computer or internet access, call **202-724-7000**.

What documents/information do I need when applying?

- Name, address, phone number of employer
- Dates of employment
- Social Security Number
- If not U.S. citizen, alien registration number
- If ex-military, DD-214
- If former federal employee, Standard Form 8 or 50
- Any severance pay from your employer
- Any pension benefit

Who can I talk to about my rights?

Washington Lawyers' Committee Workers' Rights Clinic
202-319-1000

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
202-628-1161



This bulletin describes housing protections provided to District residents under the recent emergency legislation passed by the Council on March 17, 2020 in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. The bulletin also provides information on the current operational status of the District's housing agencies.

FOR RENTERS & HOUSING PROVIDERS:

- The deadlines for tenants and tenant organizations to exercise their rights under the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA) have been extended until 30 days after the public health emergency has been lifted.
- Late fees on rent payments during any month of the public health emergency are prohibited.
- Evictions throughout the term of the public health emergency are prohibited.
- Utility shutoffs (gas, electric, and water) are prohibited during the term of the public health emergency.
- To reach the Rental Housing Commission, call 202-442-8949 or email rhc.clerk@dc.gov.
- Those needing legal services should contact the Office of the Tenant Advocate at 202-719-6560. Residents may also access the "Ask the Chief Tenant Advocate" system online by visiting <https://ota.dc.gov/>, clicking on "OTA Housing Assistance and Community Service", "Ask the Director", completing the request, and then clicking "submit".
- Documents for the Rental Accommodations Division, Rent Administrator, and the Conversion and Sale Division can be dropped off at 1800 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE at the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and will be processed within 3 business days.
- The Housing Resource Center will not be open for walk-in consultations during the District's adjusted operating hours. Any resident who has previously scheduled an appointment with DHCD should call the point of contact for further information to reschedule these appointments.

FOR HOMEOWNERS/HOMEBUYERS:

- DC Housing Finance Agency staff are currently teleworking, and all public homebuyer events have been cancelled. However, residents may still apply for their various products, such as HPAP, and can reach agency staff by emailing info@dchfa.org or by calling 202-777-1600.

FOR PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS & VOUCHER HOLDERS:

- The District of Columbia Housing Authority will continue to address emergency work orders and maintain and secure its communities. Please route all emergency work orders to 202-535-1000 and send general inquiries to covid19@dchousing.org. General questions will be answered 24-36 hours after receipt.
- Initial eligibility, initial and emergency inspections, and rental assistance payments for participants of the housing choice voucher are proceeding as normal; annual inspections scheduled for 3/16 – 3/31 are being rescheduled; annual re-certifications due 3/16 – 3/31 are also being paused. Residents can still drop off documents/packets to the DCHA lobby in a designated lockbox.
- The SW Family Enhancement and Career Center (Ward 6) and Fred Douglass Community Center (Ward 8) are closed and activities have been cancelled.

FOR SENIOR CITIZENS:

- The Department on Aging and Community Living (DACL) has arranged for meals to be delivered to the homes of participating seniors while meal sites are closed.
- DACL is also rolling out a "Call & Talk" hotline for seniors to call in and hold general conversations with DACL staff and volunteers.
- All Adult Day Health Programs and Social and Recreation Programs are suspended.
- Seniors may visit www.aroundtowndc.org for online activities.
- Available transportation opportunities for seniors include:
 - The Connector Card Program: Based on eligibility, call 202-844-3000.
 - MedExpress: Transportation to essential medical appointments, such as chemotherapy or dialysis, or DDS, Medicaid, or SNAP appointments.
 - WMATA: Travel on public transportation is limited, and residents should only use this service if absolutely necessary.
 - Yellow Cab: 24-hour service, reserve 30 mins to 1 hour in advance by calling 202-544-1212 **at any time** or reserve online at <https://dcyellowcab.com/>.
- Seniors wishing to register for the meal delivery service, chat on the "Call & Talk" hotline, or inquire about general information should call 202-724-5626.
- For additional updates, visit <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/senior-resources>

YOU'RE INVITED TO A FACEBOOK LIVE

Virtual

MEET UP WITH MENDO

FRIDAY APRIL 17th
5 P.M.

CHAIRMAN MENDELSON WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS,
COMMENTS & CONCERNS ABOUT ANYTHING HAPPENING IN
THE DISTRICT **LIVE ON VIDEO**

TO SUBMIT AN ADVANCED QUESTION:

 TWEET @CHMNMENDELSON #MEETUPWITHMENDO

 FACEBOOK MESSAGE: /CHAIRMANPHILMENDELSON

 EMAIL BHUGHES@DCCOUNCIL.US -- SUBJECT: MEET UP WITH MENDO

FOR MORE INFO CALL: 202.724.8032

CHAIRMAN MENDELSON'S STAFF

The majority of the Chairman's Staff has shifted to telework during this public health emergency. Should you need to contact them, use the following information:

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(202)724-8792

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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
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(202)724-7002

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COMMUNICATIONS
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DEPUTY COMMITTEE DIRECTOR
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DESTINY PRICE

COMMITTEE ASSISTANT
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(202)724-8196

MIKE BATTLE

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
MBATTLE@DCCOUNCIL.US
(202) 724-8108

The Ward 2 Staff remains available for Ward 2
constituent services.

Please direct all inquiries to ward2@dccouncil.us or
call 202.724.8058.

GET COUNTED: COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS

People across DC are working to keep families and communities safe by
staying home or providing essential services.

Taking the 2020 Census is one way you can do your part to help our
community. Let's Get Counted DC and make a stronger future together
at 2020census.gov

How will you get counted for your community?



or



or



English: 1-844-330-2020
Spanish: 1-844-468-2020

#GetCountedDC

2020census.gov



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

EVERY VOTER REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE BY MAIL

*You can vote by mail by requesting a mail-in ballot from the DC Board of Elections

*You can also download the Vote 4 DC app and request your ballot

For more info visit: Vote4DC.com

6 WAYS TO REQUEST YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOT



ONLINE

Visit <https://www.dcboe.org> or download the Vote4DC app. Request your mail-in ballot at www.vote4dc.com/ApplyInstructions/Absentee



EMAIL

DCabsentee@vote4DC.com



FAX

202-347-2648



MAIL

DC Board of Elections
1015 Half Street, SE, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20003



PHONE

202-727-2525
(Request your mail-in ballot application.)



IN PERSON

DC Board of Elections
1015 Half Street, SE, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20003

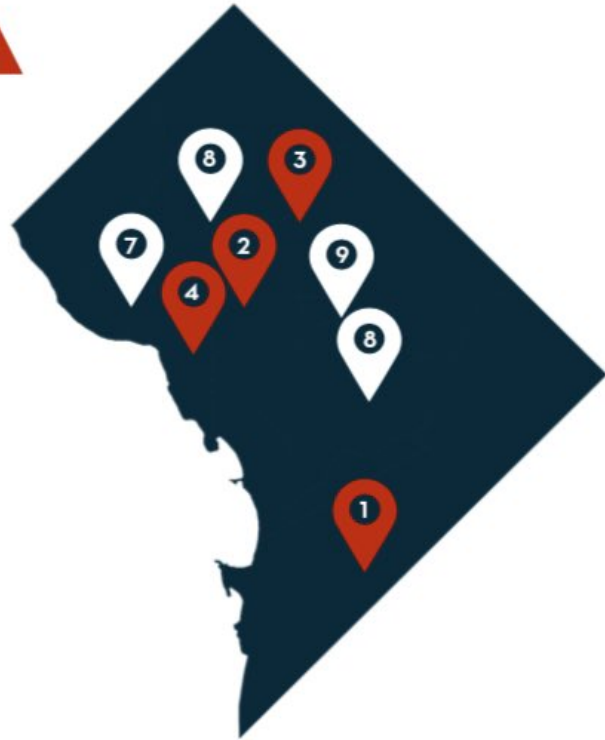
vote4dc.com



TESTING FOR COVID-19

Public Testing Sites

- 1 United Medical Center (UMC)**
For an appointment, call 1-855-363-0333.
- 2 GW University Medical System**
For an appointment call, 202-741-2765.
- 3 Children's National Health System**
For an appointment, visit bit.ly/childrensnationaltesting
- 4 All Care Family Medicine & Urgent Care**
For an appointment, call 202-787-1979.
- 5 Mary's Center**
For an appointment, call 1-844-796-2797.
- 6 Unity Health Care**
For an appointment, call 202-469-4699.



Additional Member Specific Testing Sites

- 7 One Medical**
Location: 1690 36th Street, NW
For an appointment, call 202-695-7576.
- 8 Medstar Health**
Location: Capitol Hill (228 7th Street, SE) and Adams Morgan (1805 Columbia Road, NW)
For an appointment, visit MedStarhealth.org/eVisit.
- 9 Kaiser Permanente**
Location: 700 2nd Street, NE
For an appointment, call 202-346-3000.

CORONAVIRUS.DC.GOV



DC | HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

TESTING FOR COVID-19

#StayHomeDC

Got symptoms? DC residents can get tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) using the following resources:



Your doctor or medical provider



Hotline in English: 855-363-0333



Hotline in English & Spanish: 844-796-2797

CORONAVIRUS.DC.GOV



DC | HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Enhanced Access to Food & Other Essential Items

5

Ten new grocery sites at DCPS schools, open to all families.

| Monday 13 | Tuesday 14 | Wednesday 15 | Thursday 16 | Friday 17 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Brookland Middle School (Ward 5) | Kelly Miller Middle School (Ward 7) | Coolidge/Wells (Ward 4) | Anacostia High School (Ward 8) | Ballou High School (Ward 8) |
| Eastern Senior High School (Ward 6) | Stanton Elementary School (Ward 8) | Woodson High School (Ward 7) | Kimball Elementary School (Ward 7) | Columbia Heights Education Campus (Ward 1) |



Find full list of all meal and grocery sites at coronavirus.dc.gov

CORONAVIRUS.DC.GOV



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GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

New hotline for residents homebound because of COVID-19 to request food and other essential items.



Call:

1-888-349-8323



Online:

coronavirus.dc.gov/gethelp

CORONAVIRUS.DC.GOV



DC HEALTH
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

TIPS FOR USING NON-MEDICAL MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS



Masks or face coverings do not eliminate the need for **social distancing** and staying home when sick!



Before putting on a cloth mask, **clean hands** with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.



Cover **mouth and nose**, make sure there are no gaps.



Avoid touching the mask when using it.



After using, **toss single-use masks in the garbage** or immediately **wash cloth masks** and clean your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.



Please **don't purchase N95 respirator masks**, they are needed for healthcare workers and first responders.

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