Dear Neighbor,

Last night, President Donald Trump addressed the nation to outline bold actions to fight the spread of the coronavirus in America. The president and Congress are working together to fight this disease with all the tools available to the federal government.

What You Should Know

- Starting Friday, foreign nationals who have recently been in the Schengen Area, the 26 European countries with open borders agreements, are barred from traveling to the United States.
- U.S. citizens are exempt from these restrictions, and will be directed to a limited number of airports to be screened prior to traveling home.
- To help workers and employers affected by the virus, the president directed the U.S. Small Business Administration will make available low-interest loans to soften the economic disruptions this virus has and will cause. Links: Announcement and how to apply.
- The president also directed his administration to make general-use respirators available to healthcare workers to keep them safe and mitigate transmission of the virus in medical centers.

These actions add to the robust response his administration and Congress have already implemented, including restrictions on travel from China, South Korea, Iran, and Italy as the pandemics spread in those nations, which gave the United States more time to prepare. Last week, the president signed an $8 billion supplemental funding package passed by Congress to make testing more available and provide aid to state and local governments as they manage the influx of new cases.

Availability of Coronavirus Testing

- More than one million tests for coronavirus have been distributed nationwide, with another four million being sent out this week.
Testing is now available in every state. All state and commercial labs are now distributing tests. Health Savings Accounts will be able to cover coronavirus testing and treatment without co-payments. Health insurance companies across the nation, including all of Pennsylvania's major insurers, have agreed to a variety of cost savings measures for patients. These include free testing and the waiving of co-pays for coronavirus treatments.

Our country is the most capable in the world to confront infectious disease outbreaks, and this coronavirus is no exception. As this situation continues to develop, we should continue taking steps to prevent the spread of this illness. While most people who contract this disease have mild symptoms and fully recover, the evidence suggests that the elderly and persons with underlying health conditions are at particular risk of death. All Americans should work together to protect these populations from this virus.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

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