
April 1, 2020

FEMA Advisory

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic - Ventilator Request

Given the scarcity of the ventilators in the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and the current capacity of the private sector to meet the demand, the federal government has adopted the process below to manage federal ventilator resources to ensure the ventilators are shipped to the states in the amount needed to manage the immediate crisis. In the case of ventilators, immediate is defined as requirements necessary to sustain life within a 72-hour window.

To submit a request, states and tribes will work through their FEMA/ HHS regional leadership. In order for a request to be processed, the state/tribe must provide detailed responses to the following five questions:

1. How many usable ventilators, ICU beds, and convertible ventilators are currently available within the state or tribe?
2. What is the current hospital bed and ICU bed occupancy rate in the state/tribe?
3. How many new ICU beds does the state/tribe estimate it can stand-up **and** the number of ventilators, or FDA-approved [ventilator alternatives](#), it can or is standing up?
4. What is the decompression ability of hospitals in the state/tribe (i.e.: are there currently field hospitals or alternate care facilities established)?
5. How many anesthesia machines are in the state/tribe **and** have they been converted?

Once the requesting state or tribe provides the FEMA/ HHS Region with the answers to these five questions, then the requirement is validated at the Regional level and forwarded to FEMA's National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) for processing.

National Stockpile and 1,065 available from the Department of Defense.

In addition to submitting requests through this process, state, and tribal officials are encouraged to share the gas machines and positive pressure breathing devices to be modified for use as ventilators. The EUA also provides guidance to assist health care personnel on use of other ventilators like CPAP devices for sleep apnea, with COVID-19 patients in respiratory distress, as well as on shelf life of existing ventilators.