

The Honorable Mike Pence Vice
President of the United States The
White House 1600 Pennsylvania
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Vice President Mike Pence,

To effectively control the rate of infection, it is imperative that we accelerate our efforts to identify the spread of COVID-19 across all 57 jurisdictions of the United States.

By WHO definition, we are now in the sixth phase of the COVID-19 outbreak which signifies a total international pandemic. Over 400,000 people are confirmed to be infected in the US alone; this number not only grows every day, it does not reflect the vast number of cases which have not been reported to the CDC. Scaled to a domestic analysis, the US epidemic has entered the exponential growth phase which entails that the number of new cases is proportional to the existing number of cases. This phase continues until herd immunity develops or stringent public health measures are implemented, or both. The concept of herd immunity involves significant loss of life and stringent public health measures requires significant efforts on part of the administration that need to be enacted now. Despite invoking the Defense Production Act for ventilators and PPE, there remains a significant deficit in actual implementation of this Act and the scope of this Act needs to be expanded to include increasing testing supplies across the nation as an integral public health strategy.

There is currently still a colossal shortage of Coronavirus test kits in the United States. American pharmaceutical companies such as Abbott Labs and ThermoFisher have made tremendous progress on this front with their efforts to create test kits that are capable of providing accurate test results in just hours. These tests have already been approved by the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization, and must be made available to the public immediately. The shortage of tests, and overall lack of federal funding towards healthcare has hampered our efforts in containing the spread of infection and has consequently prevented us from being effective in follow up procedures including, tracking, decontamination and timely quarantine implementation. .

As a nation, we cannot afford to continue neglecting the significance of COVID-19 and must increase healthcare funding such that we do not withhold the right to testing from anybody. However, testing has to be enacted with ancillary measures that have proven to be effective globally in controlling the pandemic. This includes measures to track infected individuals and to decontaminate areas visited by infected persons. These are not extraordinary measures but in fact are simply required tactics utilized by countries with better outcomes. We should not lag behind in these efforts since the US is the epicenter of technology and our resources surpass those of any other nation. Therefore we need to implement these measures effectively and immediately.

The US has fallen behind in fighting the epidemic nationally as we have failed to utilize these strategies of testing, isolating, and tracking with due urgency. Drawing from South Korea could prove beneficial in our effort to contain the virus. In fact, South Korea had its first case around the same time as the US but was able to swiftly tackle the rate of infection through mass levels of testing and transparency between the government and its people.

Overall in this state of emergency, we need to rise to the occasion and institute the policies that are required in this situation.

Sincerely

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Policy Committee Of National Muslim Covid-19 Taskforce