



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

I write to respectfully request you immediately deploy the USNS Mercy Hospital Ship to be stationed at the port of Los Angeles through September 1, 2020, to help decompress our current health care delivery system in Los Angeles region in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

As you know, California has been disproportionately impacted by repatriation efforts over the last few months. Our state and health care delivery system are significantly impacted by the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases. In the last 24 hours, we had 126 new COVID-19 cases, a 21 percent increase. In some parts of our state, our case rate is doubling every four days. Moreover, we have community acquired transmission in 23 counties with an increase of 44 community acquired infections in 24 hours. We project that roughly 56 percent of our population—25.5 million people—will be infected with the virus over an eight week period.

This resource will help decompress the health care delivery system to allow the Los Angeles region to ensure that it has the ability to address critical acute care needs, such as heart attacks and strokes or vehicle accidents, in addition to the rapid rise in COVID-19 cases. The population density in the Los Angeles Region is similar to New York City, will be disproportionately impacted by the number of COVID-19 cases.

I would ask that the US Navy coordinate with my Office of Emergency Services, through the Defense Coordinator Officer to rapidly deploy this asset.

I thank you for your partnership and look forward to our continued discussion.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Governor