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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Biosecurity Industry Leaders Comment on President's Latest COVID-19 Declaration**

*The Alliance for Biosecurity supports declaring the coronavirus a national emergency*

WASHINGTON, DC – The Alliance for Biosecurity applauds President Donald Trump's official declaration of a national emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We support the ensuing expedited protocols, which catalyze a more rapid delivery of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and other medical countermeasures to combat the coronavirus. In his announcement, President Trump recognized the work of multiple Alliance member companies working on coronavirus-related projects, including Roche and Emergent BioSolutions. We are proud of all of our members' work and proud to be part of the public-private partnerships that help protect public health, especially during emergencies such as this.

Elected officials, staff, and members of the media are encouraged to contact Alliance leadership any time if we can be of service providing information, background, or updates on biosecurity issues:

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An independent summary of the President's announcement is included as an addendum below.

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The Alliance for Biosecurity is a coalition of biopharmaceutical companies and laboratory/academic partners that promotes a strong public-private partnership to ensure medical countermeasures are available to protect public health and enhance national health security. The Alliance advocates for public policies and funding to support the rapid development, production, stockpiling, and distribution of critically needed medical countermeasures.

To join the Alliance for biosecurity, please contact [info@allianceforbiosecurity.com](mailto:info@allianceforbiosecurity.com)

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## ADDENDUM

President Trump declared a national emergency over the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. By declaring a national emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), the President is allowing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to access \$42 billion currently available in the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). FEMA can then provide DRF funding to state and local governments to assist in their efforts to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

President Trump also announced his administration will:

- Waive rules and provisions applicable to hospitals and other health providers to give those providers maximum flexibility to respond to COVID-19;
- Waive interest that accrues on all federal student loans until further notice; and
- Instruct the Secretary of Energy to purchase large quantities of crude oil for the strategic reserve.

President Trump said the Administration intends to release a paper late Friday detailing its priorities for the coronavirus response bill.