

Responding to COVID-19: Protecting Frontline Responders so they can protect us

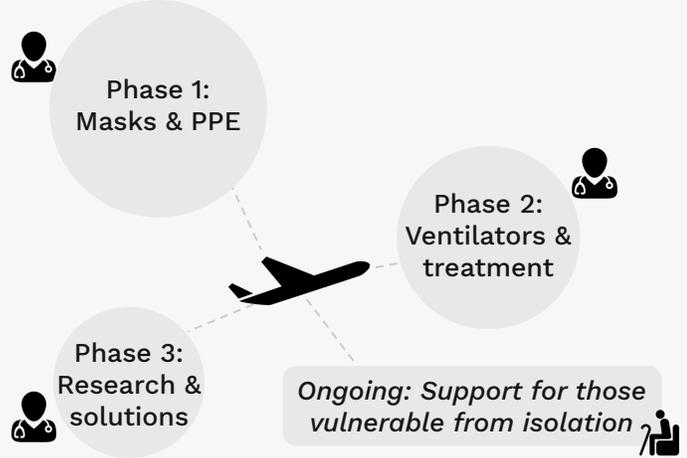
On March 11th 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. From medical systems and governments to freight carriers and suppliers, Flexport.org partners across the response ecosystem from beginning to end to help those who need it most.

Our first focus (Phase 1) is to help provide PPE (personal protective equipment), including N95 and surgical-grade masks, gloves, face covers, goggles and coveralls to keep frontline responders safe and stop the spread of the virus.

As the response evolves (Phases 2-3), so will ours. We'll help medical providers access what they deem as the priority, including needs such as testing kits, thermometers, ventilators, and medicines. We'll continue to support at-risk communities through food access or other basic necessities.

Donations to our cause support the [Flexport.org Fund](#), managed by CAF America, and cover the cost of shipping and transportation for responding organizations.

Our phased response to ship goods



Why focus funding efforts on transportation?

The surge in demand outpaces the medical community's ability to respond. Even as production ramps back up in China, passenger planes are grounded as travel plunges from shelter in place recommendations. Medical supplies are strictly regulated, requiring complex and up to date customs expertise. And finally, hospital procurement systems are turned upside down: instead of receiving, they are procuring for the first time and need shipping expertise. Flexport.org solves this by: subsidizing or completely covering the cost of shipments, enlisting industry experts for imports and exports, and connecting needs with suppliers.



Providing refugees critical hygiene supplies with Distribute Aid

We're partnering with Distribute Aid, a nonprofit connecting refugee aid groups who don't have access to running water or soap to protect themselves. We're helping Distribute Aid secure funding for multiple trucking shipments of essential products like hygiene and cleaning supplies as well as clothes that will be sent to Greece, Serbia and Italy.

Equipping San Francisco's Emergency Operations Center
Working with MedShare, Flexport delivered 60,000 donated surgical masks, 34,000 gloves, 2,000 surgical gowns and 50 thermometers to SF's Department of Public Health.

"Our frontline health care workers and first responders are doing heroic work to protect people and save lives during this crisis,"
San Francisco Mayor, London Breed



AP Photo/Jeff Chiu, File