



February 28, 2020



## THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

### Pandemic Panic

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to spread around the world, the director of the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases told reporters that, "It's not a question of if but rather a question of when and how many people in this country will have severe illness." ([Politico](#)) This and other statements from federal officials this week have elevated public fears of the outbreak burgeoning into a pandemic.

On Capitol Hill this week budget meetings continued in full swing with hearings for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These hearings were of course also used as an opportunity for Congress to ask questions about the spread of COVID-19, federal responses to it, and timelines for a potential vaccine.

Given the significant mobilization of emergency management resources at the state level, NEMA today partnered with the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), the National Association of Counties (NACo), and Big City Emergency Managers to [submit a letter](#) to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees requesting additional funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) through the forthcoming supplemental to respond to the coronavirus outbreak.

#### Hearings the Week of March 2, 2020

##### [An Emerging Disease Threat: How the U.S. Is Responding to COVID-19, the Novel Coronavirus](#)

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
Tuesday, March 3, 10:00am EST

##### [A Review of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security](#)

House Committee on Homeland Security  
Tuesday, March 3, 10:00am EST

##### [5G Supply Chain Security: Threats and Solutions](#)

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation  
Wednesday, March 4, 10:00am EST

[Resources and Authorities Needed to Protect and Secure the Homeland](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security &amp; Governmental Affairs

Wednesday, March 4, 2:30pm EST

[From SARS to Coronavirus: Examining the Role of Global Aviation in Containing the Spread of Infectious Disease](#)

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, &amp; Transportation

Wednesday, March 4, 2:30pm EST

[Beyond Coronaviruses: Understanding the Spread of Infectious Diseases and Mobilizing Innovative Solutions](#)

House Committee on Science, Space, &amp; Technology

Thursday, March 5, 9:00am EST

[The Federal Interagency Response to the Coronavirus and Preparing for Future Global Pandemics](#)

Senate Committee on Homeland Security &amp; Governmental Affairs

Thursday, March 5, 9:30am EST

*More News from the Nation's Capital...***Court Sides with President in 'Sanctuary Cities' Grant Fight**

The ruling in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals states that federal funding for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants can be conditioned upon allowing immigration authorities access to jails.

[Read More](#)**World Climate and Security Report 2020 Released**

The report focuses on forward-looking scenarios of low to high warming and severe risks that may be faced by the U.S. and other countries to their national security due to changes in climate.

[Read More](#)**Upcoming FEMA EMI Cybersecurity Symposium**

The meeting will focus on cybersecurity incidents and the partnership between information security professionals and emergency management.

[Read More](#)*Other News from DC and Around the Country:*Scientific American: [Preparing for Coronavirus to Strike the U.S.](#)CNN Business: [Coronavirus Mobile Apps are Surging in Popularity in South Korea](#)GovTech: [Drones May Assist with North Dakota Flooding Response](#)StateScoop: [Ransomware Awareness is Up, Yet Cyber Budgets Stay Flat, Poll Finds](#)

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