

PRESS STATEMENT

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ASTMH APPLAUDS CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE FOR SWIFT PASSAGE OF AN \$8.3 BILLION EMERGENCY CORONAVIRUS FUNDING PACKAGE

Arlington, Va. (March 6, 2020)—[The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene \(ASTMH\)](#), the largest international scientific organization of tropical infectious disease experts, applauds Congress and the White House for the remarkably swift and bipartisan passage of a sweeping \$8.3 billion coronavirus response package today.

“We are heartened by the fact that during this public health emergency, our lawmakers spent weeks listening and learning from our scientists and public health officials and made this evidence-based health funding decision in a swift and bipartisan manner,” said Joel G. Breman, MD, DTPH, FIDSA, FASTMH.

“As someone who has worked on many disease outbreaks, including smallpox and Ebola, what we’re seeing today is a unified assault on a global epidemic. With instant newsfeeds and reports of new cases unfolding each day, it’s the invaluable partnership of state, local, federal and global experts that will move us forward to better understand the COVID-19 virus.”

The spending package provides the following:

- The Department of Health and Human Services will receive \$6.5 billion, with \$3.4 billion allocated to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, \$2.2 billion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and \$836 million that will go to the National Institutes of Health.
- The Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development will receive \$1.25 billion under the bill and the Small Business Administration will receive \$20 million.
- \$300 million for the government to purchase vaccines, calling on the administration to ensure that the vaccines are affordable.

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[The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene](#), founded in 1903, is the largest international scientific organization of experts dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of tropical infectious diseases and improving global health. We accomplish this through generating and sharing scientific evidence, informing health policies and practices, fostering career development, recognizing excellence, and advocating for investment in tropical medicine/global health research. For more information, visit astmh.org.