

# U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION NEW YORK FIELD OFFICE

## INFORMATIONAL PIPELINE 20-001-NYFO

**TO:** All Brokers, Importers and other concerned members of the Trade Community

**SUBJECT:** Imports of Pandemic Response Materials

**DATE:** March 24, 2020

**REFERENCES:** *New York/Newark Informational Pipeline No. 18-018-NWK (Problem Resolution Update-dated 3/14/2018)*

### **PURPOSE:**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection remains open for business during the ongoing pandemic. The New York Field Office, its Ports of JFK Airport and New York/Newark, and the Pharmaceuticals, Health, and Chemicals Center of Excellence and Expertise (Center) are facing an increase in the number of shipments claiming to be for pandemic relief efforts as COVID-19 cases continue to grow in the greater New York City area and across the nation. Some of those shipments have proven to be legitimate; others are being imported by those who seek to profit off vulnerable segments of our population.

CBP seeks to expedite legitimate shipments of relief materials, while taking appropriate enforcement action against nefarious actors.

### **BACKGROUND:**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is America's frontline. We remain committed to protecting our nation and its people while facilitating the entry of legitimate cargo and passengers. Our ability to expedite legitimate pandemic relief materials helps protect America's citizens and lawful permanent residents, and will help slow the spread of COVID-19.

### **ACTION:**

Effective immediately, importers or their agents are encouraged to provide advance notification to CBP when they are expecting shipments of pandemic relief materials, whether that includes pharmaceutical products, personal protective equipment, building supplies, or other items. This includes shipments in the air, on the water, or already arrived and pending release, and is particularly true for shipments CBP has placed on hold.

For shipments arriving at JFK Airport, please contact the Assistant Port Director, Trade's staff at (718) 487-5172. For shipments arriving at the Port of New York/Newark, their Problem Resolution Unit will assist, and can be reached at [NY-NWKPROBRES@CBP.DHS.GOV](mailto:NY-NWKPROBRES@CBP.DHS.GOV) or (973) 368-6167.

Issues with shipments arriving at any other port of entry should be directed to the arrival port. Importers and their agents can also contact their servicing Center of Excellence and Expertise. Contact information for each of the Centers is below. CBP has a national toll-free number (866-295-7624) to contact the Centers; however, since most Center personnel are currently teleworking due to the pandemic, email is the recommended method of contact.

Center	Email Address	866-295-7624 Extension
Agriculture & Prepared Products	CEE-Agriculture@cbp.dhs.gov	02
Apparel, Footwear & Textiles	CEE-Apparel@cbp.dhs.gov	04
Automotive & Aerospace	CEE-Automotive@cbp.dhs.gov	03
Base Metals	CEE-Basemetals@cbp.dhs.gov	05
Consumer Products & Mass Merchandising	CEE-Consumer@cbp.dhs.gov	08
Electronics	CEE-Electronics@cbp.dhs.gov	07
Industrial & Manufacturing Materials	CEE-Industrialmaterials@cbp.dhs.gov	09
Machinery	CEE-Machinery@cbp.dhs.gov	10
Petroleum, Natural Gas & Minerals	CEE-Petroleum@cbp.dhs.gov	06
Pharmaceuticals, Health & Chemicals	CEE-Pharmaceuticals@cbp.dhs.gov	01

Should you have any questions regarding this matter please contact the following:

JFK: Chief Kathy Currid, 718-487-2588 or [kathleen.a.currid@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:kathleen.a.currid@cbp.dhs.gov)  
 New York/Newark: Supervisory CBP Officer Michael Vernon, 973-368-6167 or [michael.d.vernon@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:michael.d.vernon@cbp.dhs.gov)



Troy A. Miller  
 Director, Field Operations  
 New York Field Office