

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Department of Defense and United States Navy have unique capabilities and surge capabilities that can be brought to help with the fight against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) virus. Our priorities are clear ... 1) protect our force and their families, 2) protect our readiness to defend the homelands and 3) support our interagency partners in addressing the crisis.

We are committed to providing defense support to civil authorities by increasing medical capacity and collaboration for medical assistance and disaster relief in the areas of our country that have seen tremendous impact from the COVID-19 pandemic.

USNS Comfort is an example of Americans helping Americans – we are your Navy, and in time of crisis, we stand ready to answer the call to support civil authorities (FEMA, Government of NY) and the American people.

As military men and women, we prepare daily to deal with adversity, uncertainty and conflict. Our Sailors and their families are resilient and will set an example for their friends, neighbors and local communities on how to make personal sacrifices in service of the collective good.

USNS COMFORT:

- Effective April 6, USNS Comfort began accepting critical and non-critical patients without regard to their COVID status.
- The Javits New York Medical Station and USNS Comfort together act as an integrated system working inside the larger New York City medical system, with support provided to New Jersey Hospitals. The ability to take COVID-19 patients aboard USNS Comfort provides increased capability to care for high severity COVID-positive cases, allowing the Javits New York Medical Station to focus on lower severity COVID-positive patients.
- "Taking on more patients as quickly as possible is critical to helping the city of New York during this pandemic crisis," said Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, commander U.S. Second Fleet. "We listened to the feedback from area health professionals and the community and believe this is the best way we can help our fellow Americans."
- The USNS Comfort hospital ship was ready on arrival to support state and local agencies' efforts to protect the health of the American people, in the whole-of-government approach directed by the President of the United States.
- USNS Comfort brought with it a team of medical professionals, medical equipment and supplies to provide a spectrum of critical and non-critical medical care to adults.
- The ship worked closely with local health officials to decide which cases were sent to USNS Comfort. These decisions were based on the capabilities of USNS Comfort medical teams and the local officials' determination of patient priority.

- The ship can maintain up to 5,000 units of blood and with the current configuration, has a 500-bed capacity. Of the 500 beds, 80 are for ICU patients, and can surge to 100 ICU beds if necessary. The ship is equipped with four X-ray machines, one CAT scan unit, a dental suite, an optometry and lens laboratory, physical therapy center, pharmacy, angiography suite and two oxygen-producing plants.
- The ship operates as an afloat hospital and has infection control procedures that are followed, just as any hospital ashore.
- USNS Comfort medical professionals continue to work to reduce possible infection to ensure the safety of our patients and providers alike.
- The Navy maintains stringent cleanliness standards aboard U.S. Navy ships to support crew health and well-being. The Navy follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for healthcare providers to mitigate the potential of any outbreak aboard USNS Comfort while providing increased medical capacities.
- Beginning April 17, USNS Comfort began treating patients from New Jersey. Admission criteria for patients from New Jersey is the same as patients from New York.
- This is a battle, one that we fight along with New Yorkers, and surrounding areas. It is important to remember that the environment aboard a ship is not the same as a field hospital on shore, and has special considerations that must be accounted for.
- USNS Comfort arrived in New York City Monday morning, March 30, to the Manhattan Cruise Terminal (Pier 90 North) after conducting some necessary operations at sea. The length of the deployment to New York City was determined in coordination with local authorities and their assessment of the continued need for support.
- USNS Comfort deployed with nearly 1,200 medical personnel and civilian mariners.
- The ship was stocked with adequate supplies to begin the mission. USNS Comfort was ready on arrival and coordinates transfers with local hospitals, with careful consideration to the safety and security of patients and care providers.
- At the request of the Governor of New York, as announced by the President, the USNS Comfort and its embarked medical task force will be completing its mission and likely departing by the end of April.
- In total, 182 patients were treated aboard USNS Comfort; 70% of them were COVID-19 positive cases.
- No patients had been referred to USNS Comfort after April 21, and the last patient aboard was discharged on Sunday, April 26.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: Did the USNS Comfort embark patients?

A: Yes. USNS Comfort was ready on arrival and coordinated transfers with local hospitals with careful consideration to the safety and security of patients and care providers. The first patient was transferred to USNS Comfort on April 1, 2020. The Javits New York Medical Station and USNS Comfort together acted as an integrated-system working together inside a larger New York City medical system with support provided to New Jersey Hospitals.

Q: What was the total number of patients treated aboard USNS Comfort?

A: In total, 182 patients were treated aboard USNS Comfort; 70% of them were COVID-19 positive cases.

Q: Was USNS Comfort treating patients from New Jersey?

A: Yes. Beginning April 17, USNS Comfort began treating patients from New Jersey. Admission criteria and discharge protocols for patients from New Jersey was the same as patients from New York.

Q: Were patients being tested for COVID-19 before being transported to USNS Comfort?

A: Initially, all patients being brought to USNS Comfort had received negative COVID-19 test results from their discharging hospital.

In order to bring additional patients aboard and as an effort to provide greater relief to NYC hospitals, as of April 6, USNS Comfort began accepting critical and non-critical patients without regard to their COVID status. The Javits New York Medical Station continues to be DoD's primary facility for COVID-19 patients.

Once admitted aboard USNS Comfort, patients were separated based on their COVID status, in order to prevent the spread of the disease.

Q: Was this change in procedure a result of some of the negative press surrounding the small number of patients that the USNS Comfort has taken since arriving in NYC?

A: This is a complex situation that required us to continually assess the situation on the ground and the needs of the New York City hospitals. In order to admit more patients and relieve the pressure on the hospitals, it was necessary that we reassess our patient admission criteria to see how we could take on more patients. In order to protect our providers and our patients, we looked at ways to increase our patient population while mitigating the chance of transmitting COVID-19 on board.

The Javits New York Medical Station and USNS Comfort together acted as an integrated system working together inside a larger New York City medical system, with support provided to New Jersey Hospitals.

Q: Were New York City ambulances bringing injured/sick people to USNS Comfort?

A: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in New York City determined how patients are first identified and then transferred from area hospitals to the ship. This involved coordination with several area hospitals. Prior to patient transfer, both civilian

physicians and USNS Comfort physicians developed a patient care plan. All patients were screened for COVID-19 before transferring to the ship.

Q: Did USNS Comfort keep patients overnight if needed?

A: Yes, some patients required an overnight stay or longer, which was determined by ship physicians in coordination with the patients' physician. Following the reconfiguration to take patients regardless of their COVID status, the ship's maximum number of beds was adjusted to 500.

Q: I heard that someone assigned to USNS Comfort tested positive for COVID-19. Is this accurate?

A: Yes, in total, five crewmembers assigned to USNS Comfort tested positive for COVID-19. All crewmembers have since recovered and returned to work.

Q: Were the COVID-positive crewmembers in contact with patients?

A: Some of the crewmembers who tested positive for COVID had contact with patients. All crewmembers have since recovered and returned to work.

Q. What will happen to these COVID-positive crewmembers? What will happen to those who came in close contact with them?

A: The crewmembers were isolated per CDC guidelines. Other crewmembers who were in contact with the COVID-19 positive individuals were isolated, had their temperature taken daily, were screened for COVID-19 symptoms, and continued to wear proper PPE.

Q: Were crewmembers or other patients aboard USNS Comfort at risk?

A: The ship is following protocols and taking every precaution to ensure the health and safety of all crewmembers and patients aboard the USNS Comfort. The hospital ship has infection control procedures that are followed, just as any civilian hospital ashore. Additionally, all personnel aboard the USNS Comfort practice preventative hygiene measures and sanitization procedures recommended by the CDC and DoD to help prevent further spread of COVID-19.

Q: Why did you move medical personnel ashore, if they were working aboard USNS Comfort?

A: The USNS Comfort was separated between the military treatment facility (MTF) section, where patients are being seen, and the rest of the ship.

Additionally, beginning April 6, clinical staff aboard USNS Comfort moved some personnel ashore to a local hotel. The move included medical, nursing and staff corps who have significant contact with patients as part of the performance of their daily duties. The move reduced the number of crewmembers present in the common areas on the ship such as the berthing and mess decks, and made it easier for us to demonstrate social distancing as directed by the CDC and DoD.

Personnel going ashore were not authorized liberty, and were bussed between the local hotel and the ship each day. This move of personnel ashore was another measure taken to reduce the risk of potential exposure to COVID-19.

Q: Did this change the type of patients that USNS Comfort treated?

A: The Javits New York Medical Station and USNS Comfort together acted as an integrated system working together inside a larger New York City medical system, with support provided to New Jersey hospitals. The ability to take COVID-19 patients on board USNS Comfort allowed for increased capability to care for high severity COVID-positive cases, allowing the Javits New York Medical Station to focus on lower severity COVID-positive patients.

Additionally, New Jersey state hospitals coordinated with USNS Comfort medical staff and the Javits New York Medical Station to ensure patients could be transferred to the USNS Comfort.

Taking on COVID-positive patients as quickly as possible was critical to helping the city of New York and New Jersey during this pandemic crisis. We listened to the feedback from area health professionals and the community and believe this was the best way we could help our fellow Americans and provide the relief valve USNS Comfort came to provide.

Q: How many personnel were moved ashore?

A: Approximately 800 medical providers were moved ashore. These were medical, nursing and staff corps who have significant contact with patients as part of the performance of their daily duties.

Q: What hotel were the transferred personnel going to?

A: In order to protect our personnel, we will not be naming the hotel. We can say that the hotel was previously closed, and was only opened for medical personnel from USNS Comfort.

Q: Why weren't more patients being treated aboard USNS Comfort?

A: The Javits New York Medical Station and USNS Comfort together acted as an integrated-system working together inside a larger New York City medical system, with support provided to New Jersey Hospitals.

Q: What types of procedures can be performed aboard USNS Comfort?

A: USNS Comfort provides added medical capacity to New York and New Jersey hospitals. The hospital ship has a full spectrum of surgical and medical services, including: 12 operating rooms, four X-rays, one CAT scan unit, a dental suite, an optometry and lens laboratory, a physical therapy center, a pharmacy, an invasive angiography suite and two oxygen-producing plants. USNS Comfort also maintains up to 5,000 units of blood and now that it is taking patients regardless of their COVID status, has a capacity of 500 beds. Of the 500, 80 are ICU beds, with the option to surge to 100 ICU beds if necessary.

Patients were assessed for various medical treatments and whether surgery was deemed necessary.

During Operation Noble Eagle, in response to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, USNS Comfort was pier side in Manhattan where the ship's crew provided meals, housing, medical and psychological services to volunteer and relief workers at ground zero from Sept. 14 - Oct. 1, 2001.

Q: When will you depart?

A: USNS Comfort will depart only after safely discharging patients back to their homes or to a hospital for the appropriate level of follow-on care. The ship is preparing to depart as early as the end of the month.

Q: Where will you go?

A: USNS Comfort is scheduled to return to Norfolk, where she will be prepared to deploy to another city, should it be tasked.

Q: What was the process to discharge patients?

A: The patient discharge process did not change. USNS Comfort medical professionals worked with local partners to safely discharge patients back to their homes or to a hospital for the appropriate level of follow-on care.

Q: What if patients do not have a home to return to?

A: Great care is taken to ensure all patients, once discharged, are returning to a safe environment for the appropriate level of follow-on care. For any further questions, refer to New York's Department of Health public information officers.

Q: Were patients be discharged if they are still sick?

A: Potentially, and if this was the case, they were transferred with the utmost care. The U.S. Navy is committed to supporting state and local health officials in response to COVID-19, and USNS Comfort medical professionals worked to safely discharge patients back to their homes or to a hospital for the appropriate level of follow-on care.

Q: Have new patients stopped being admitted?

A: USNS Comfort has not received any patients since the April 21. and the last patient aboard was discharged on Sunday, April 26.

Q: President Trump said, "They didn't need it, that's a good thing. That's such a good thing. I think that shows that New York's making progress." Do you think you made a difference?

A: USNS Comfort arrived in New York City to provide relief to local hospitals. Each patient who was brought aboard created one more bed available in a local hospital. We are proud and humbled to have assisted New York and New Jersey in any capacity.

Q: Why is USNS Comfort leaving New York now?

A: Local and federal civil authorities agreed USNS Comfort's presence is no longer necessary in the region, and she should be made available if needed elsewhere. USNS Comfort's departure from the New York City area represents the healing taking place in the region, and hope for better days ahead.

Q: Given only a handful of patients were ever brought aboard, was USNS Comfort's presence in New York effective?

A: Absolutely. The quality of care is more reflective of USNS Comfort's efforts in NYC than the quantity of the patients. COVID-19 brings rapid, multi-system organ failure, and we are seeing that in some of our most critical patients. We were treating many ICU patients - providing dialysis, and providing wound care for some of our patients who were not able to receive treatment for their ailments in civilian hospitals (if, for example, the civilian hospitals were focusing on COVID-positive patients).

We have conducted appendectomies, bronchoscopies, chest tube insertions, placed central lines, laparoscopic procedures, conducted wound care and performed tracheotomies on board. Most importantly, lives have been saved. Intubated ICU patients have been extubated and removed from the ICU and are now in the step-down units.

The U.S. Navy is committed to supporting state and local health officials in New York and New Jersey in response to COVID-19, and USNS Comfort's departure from the New York City area represents the healing taking place in the region, and hope for better days ahead.

Q: Will the medical personnel living in a hotel return to the ship or be provided alternative transportation to Norfolk?

A: In order to continue risk mitigations, put in place while USNS Comfort remains pier side in New York City, much of the medical personnel who were moved ashore will be provided alternate transportation back to their commands. We take our crew's safety very seriously and are taking every precaution to safeguard all crewmembers.

Q: Who will sail back aboard the ship back to Norfolk?

A: A portion of the crew will remain aboard USNS Comfort for the ship's return to Norfolk. These personnel will conduct cleaning and maintenance in order to return the ship to a ready status for future missions.

In order to continue risk mitigations, put in place while USNS Comfort remains pier side in New York City, much of the medical personnel who were moved ashore will be provided alternate transportation back to their commands. We take our crew's safety very seriously and are taking every precaution to safeguard all crewmembers.

Q: What medical capability will remain aboard the ship in Norfolk in order to remain ready should there be follow-on tasking?

A: The ship will return to Norfolk and reset to its "Ready 5" status to remain ready for future tasking.

Q: I understand you took on additional medical personnel from USNS Mercy, EMF, and BUMED. When will those personnel depart the command?

A: The return of additional medical personnel who joined USNS Comfort during the mission in New York City will be conducted in the most efficient and safe manner in coordination with their respective commands.

Q: Will the U.S. Navy Reservists remain assigned to the ship or demobilized?

A: The Reservists who supported USNS Comfort's mission in New York are assigned to units across the U.S. Their redeployment/demobilization will be conducted in the most efficient and safe manner in coordination with their respective commands.

Q: Will you be in a ROM status when you return to Norfolk?

A: All personnel involved in the mission aboard USNS Comfort will execute a restriction of movement (ROM) following completion of the mission. The purpose of ROM is to separate personnel reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but are not yet symptomatic, from personnel who have not been exposed, in order to prevent the possible spread of communicable disease.

Q: When was the final patient transferred from the USNS Comfort?

A: The final patient was transferred from USNS Comfort to a local hospital on April 26, 2020.

Q: What steps does the USNS Comfort need to do in order to depart NYC, and return to Norfolk?

A: In order to ensure a smooth and thorough departure from New York City, the team aboard USNS Comfort with support from the shore detachment will prepare transportation and conduct the standard coordination required for departing Pier 90 and arriving at Naval Station Norfolk.

Q: How was the ship able to discharge its patients so quickly?

A: Thanks to the continued support from New York and New Jersey, USNS Comfort was able to work with our partners in the community to safely discharge our patients using a similar procedure as what was used to receive patients during our time here in New York City.

Q: How were the locations for the hospital ships selected to deploy/support?

A: As the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) director Peter T. Gaynor stated, FEMA selected the locations based on analysis for the potential need for hospital beds on each coast, and where the ships would have the greatest impact.

Q: How long could the ship operate without resupply?

A: The ship operates pier side and can resupply using in-port procedures with mitigations in place to ensure the safe on load of supplies.

Q: Did Army pharmacists join the medical team to support USNS Comfort?

A: Yes. The week of April 6, two U.S. Army pharmacists checked aboard as part of the Navy team to assist the pharmacy department. That brings the total to five pharmacists on USNS Comfort to care for the patients.

This was truly a joint military effort on the Navy hospital ship, and a whole of government approach to help New York battle the deadly virus.

Q: How many Navy and Marine Corps Reservists are in New York and surrounding areas, supporting area hospitals?

A: For specific information regarding Reservists, please contact Army North Public Affairs.

Q: What is the projected cost of this deployment?

A: The projected budget has not been determined yet.

Q: Will there be an opportunity for media to embark USNS Comfort?

A: In an effort to protect the crew and patients, no media will be allowed to visit the ship. The Public Affairs staff will facilitate requests for video and telephonic interviews with ship leadership and crew.

Q: Did USNS Comfort take walk-in patients?

A: No. The hospital ship worked with local health officials to accept patient transfers from local area hospitals.

Q: If I was seen on the ship, how do I pay for services?

A: There are no anticipated costs to patients treated on the ship. The care we provide in the United States is similar to the care we provide around the world when we conduct humanitarian and disaster relief missions. The President declared COVID-19 a National Emergency. The deployment of America's hospital ships is an investment in health and wellness for America's people.

Q: Will the Navy bill patients and insurance providers for the medical care they receive aboard the ship?

A: The President, our Commander-in-Chief, declared COVID-19 a National Emergency. The deployment of America's hospital ships is an investment in health and wellness of our people. This mission also contributes to the readiness and training of our force. For individuals treated aboard hospital ships, there is no anticipated cost. It is similar to the care the ship provides around the world when humanitarian and disaster relief missions are conducted. It is important to understand that the value of care we are providing cannot be measured in dollars alone. This is an investment made to ensure we are prepared when a future disaster strikes.

Q: If I was referred to be seen by a doctor on the ship, what did I need to bring with me?

A: For patients referred to USNS Comfort, your care provider let you know what you needed to bring. Physicians aboard USNS Comfort work directly with the patients' civilian physician to ensure a safe and thorough turn over before the patient was transferred to the ship.

Q: My child is home from school, could I bring him/her?

A: No, the ship was not equipped to support non-patient children. In order to maintain a sterile environment, patients were not to bring minors aboard the ship at any time.

Q: Could I bring my support/service animal on the ship while being treated?

A: No, in order to maintain a sterile environment aboard the ship, patients were not allowed to bring support/service animals aboard on the ship.

Q: How did I get to the ship? Was there parking?

A: If your doctor referred you to the ship, you received specific instructions on how to get to the ship. There was no parking available at the pier for patients.

Q: Were there visiting hours for patients being treated on the ship?

A: No, in order to maintain a sterile environment aboard the ship, patients were not allowed to have visitors aboard the ship.

Q: Were civilian clergy allowed to visit patients being treated on the ship?

A: No, in order to maintain a sterile environment aboard the ship, patients were not allowed to have visitors aboard the ship.

Q: Were kosher or halal meals available on the ship for patients?

A: Yes, the ship is equipped to provide meals to individuals who have religious meal requirements.

Q: My regular physician is licensed in New York. Are the medical personnel on USNS Comfort also licensed to practice in New York?

A: Our qualified care providers are licensed to practice on this DoD ship in New York. They come from various Navy medical facilities across the country, as well as reservists with medical backgrounds.

Q: Have any patients died onboard?

A: We provide information concerning the status of any non-DoD member being cared for at our medical facilities in NYC to the State of New York, Department of Health and the New York City Health and Hospitals. Please contact their public information office for more information.

Q: Is there a morgue onboard?

A: Yes, the hospital ship is equipped with a morgue. The ship works closely with the state coroner in the event someone dies while onboard.

Q: Can the ship deliver babies?

A: No, the ship did not deliver babies aboard. The ship was not equipped with an OBGYN Birth Center; however, each patient was assessed upon need on a case-by-case basis. Coordination with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in New York City determined how patients were first identified and then transferred from area hospitals to the ship. Prior to patient transfer, both civilian physicians and USNS Comfort physicians developed a patient care plan. The ship's operating rooms contain the same contemporary equipment used in shore-based hospitals.

Q: Did the ship treating cancer patients?

A: No. Each patient was assessed upon need on a case-by-case basis. Coordination with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in New York City determined how patients were first identified and then transferred from area hospitals to the ship. Prior to patient transfer, both civilian physicians and USNS Comfort physicians developed a patient care plan. The ship's operating rooms contain the same contemporary equipment used in shore-based hospitals.

Q: Did patients have private rooms? If not, could they pay extra to get a private room?

A: No, the hospital ship has an open-bay design configuration. Patients could not pay to get a special or private room.

Q: Are the doctors and crew aboard USNS Comfort permanently assigned to the ship?

A: No. The hospital ship does not maintain a full crew or medical staff. Care providers aboard came from various Navy medical facilities across the country, as well as reservists who are assigned.

Q: Where did medical staffs come from to support USNS Comfort?

A: The physicians, nurses and other medical support personnel were drawn from Navy Medicine professionals at military treatment facilities across the country. Available reservists also fill some of the medical positions aboard. The Defense Health Agency, as the administrator of these military treatment facilities, worked to reduce the impact of the movement of these active duty medical professionals to the ship. Local medical commanders from their home units also worked to minimize the impact to patient care. We appreciate the shared sacrifice and inconvenience of everyone affected as we work with national authorities to position medical resources where they are most needed.

Q: Did bringing in Navy reservists who are medical professionals negatively impact their own communities?

A: We have worked to ensure our volunteer reservists were available to support the medical relief efforts, while also minimizing the impact to their local communities. When the Navy Reserve Force was asked to help find medical professionals to help support this mission, Commander, Navy Reserve Force received more than 200 volunteer requests from our reserve medical community to help support both the active duty medical community. The specialized skillsets that our Navy reservists possess make us an indispensable force multiplier in support of this critical mission. Each volunteer reservist was screened and asked directly whether or not they could help without hurting their local community. If there was no impact and they were still willing to help, we gave them orders.

Q: Were personnel transferred from the USNS Mercy to the USNS Comfort?

A: Yes. At the direction of U.S. Northern Command, approximately 50 personnel assigned to the USNS Mercy's mission in Los Angeles were reassigned to the USNS Comfort's mission in New York City. Those personnel departed Los Angeles April 18 and arrived in New York City later that day to join ongoing COVID-19 response efforts there.

Q: What did these additional personnel assigned to USNS Comfort provide?

A: The personnel transferred from USNS Mercy to USNS Comfort are medical surgical nurses, ER/trauma nurses, and critical care nurses. The addition of these individuals allowed the USNS Comfort to support more high-acuity patients and helped the USNS Comfort increase its ICU bed capacity.

Q: We heard USNS Comfort was in maintenance. What did it take to get her ready to leave Norfolk so quickly?

A: Amazing teamwork. USNS Comfort had been in a pier side Mid-Term Availability (MTA) since Dec. 5, 2019, and expedited maintenance to ensure she was ready to answer the call to support civil authorities (FEMA, Government of NY) and the American people. The ship's civil

service mariner crew, along with our industry partners, were provided outstanding support by the U.S. Coast Guard. All in all, it was a great team success.

Q: Were crew members and medical staff tested for COVID-19 prior to embarking the ship?

A: All crew members supporting this mission have undergone two screening processes, the same used by medical professionals across the country – one before departing their home of record and one before boarding USNS Comfort. The screening consisted of a questionnaire and a temperature check as required, in accordance with CDC and DoD guidelines. Based on that screening, crew members and medical staff were screened for COVID-19 in order to minimize the risk of an outbreak aboard USNS Comfort.

Q: How are crew members and medical staff protecting themselves from contracting COVID-19 once onboard?

A: The hospital ship operates as a hospital and has infection control procedures that will be followed, just as any hospital ashore. The ship is equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as required. Additionally, all personnel aboard USNS Comfort practice preventative hygiene measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, rigorous cleaning is done throughout the hospital ship to ensure the safety of the patients and crew.

Q: What was the screening process for crew members embarking aboard USNS Comfort?

A: Crew members and medical staff are screened using the same process that medical professionals across the country are using, which is a series of questions addressing the member's recent health and contact history.

Q: Does Comfort have access to adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), and how much is required?

A: The ship has personal protective equipment (PPE) in the form of facemasks and shields, protective suites, gloves, boot covers, etc. We have supplied the ship to meet this mission with the expectation that there will be a high turnover rate.

Q: Did the pier at the Manhattan Cruise Terminal need to be dredged to support the ship?

A: Yes, Pier 90N had to be dredged to support USNS Comfort.

Q: Who paid for the dredging?

A: The city paid for the expenses for dredging in conjunction with this initiative.

Q: Who requested for the ship to come to New York City?

A: New York Governor Andrew Cuomo requested President Donald Trump to provide relief for the ongoing medical demands in the state of New York. Defense Secretary Mark Esper ordered the Navy to “lean forward” to deploy the ship to the state.

Q: Why didn't the ship go to Brooklyn or Staten Island instead?

A: The ship is moored at Pier 90N in Manhattan, which can better support the needs and requirements of the ship.