



### [U.S. Government Sends Masks to Israel, Despite Domestic Shortages](#)

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) reportedly shipped a million face masks to Israel, as shortages mount in the United States. The Department of Defense's Delegation of Procurement was involved in the shipment of masks to Israel, to be used by soldiers in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) on the frontline of the fight against the coronavirus. In the United States, healthcare workers in New York and elsewhere have been complaining of a shortage of masks and other protective gear. Meanwhile, Mossad, Israel's spy agency, has been scouring the globe trying to procure protective equipment as coronavirus cases mount in Israel. Israel currently has just over 9,700 confirmed cases of COVID-19, while the United States is reporting upward of 435,000.

With the outbreak of the coronavirus around the world, face masks and other protective equipment has been in high demand as countries experience shortages. The United States is currently experiencing shortages of almost all medical equipment needed to treat patients with COVID-19, including masks, personal protective equipment, and hospital beds. FEMA has an emergency stockpile of equipment that it has been supplying to the states hardest hit by the outbreak, such as New York, California, and Washington. However, the stockpile is not close to enough, and Peter Gaynor, FEMA Administrator, said in an interview with CNN that governors who are able to procure medical equipment from the private sector should do so, and FEMA would reimburse each state.

The announcement that Israel had secured masks from the United States caused an uproar when it was first reported by the Jerusalem Post. In fact, much of the verbiage used to link the shipment to the United States and the Department of Defense has been scrubbed from the original article. This censorship is consistent with tactics used by Mossad to redact stories that are either unfavorable toward Israel, or paint Israel's allies in an unsavory way. The shortage of protective equipment in the United States is why there was such uproar over the Department of Defense shipping masks to Israel. For perspective, the United States gave Israel a million masks, but New York City alone requires 50 million masks.

Despite Israel receiving masks from the United States, there have been numerous reports of the Israeli authorities telling Palestinian prisoners to use socks and other articles of clothing as makeshift face masks. Israel had resisted sending any medical aid to the Palestinian Authority, but relented this week after Hamas proposed a swap of Israeli prisoners in exchange for ventilators and masks. Experts have warned that Israel could be hit hard by the coronavirus, and the Gaza Strip has already begun experiencing shortages of essential equipment.