
From: Broadcast, DOC
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 6:05 PM
To: Broadcast, DOC
Subject: All Hands: A Message from Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross (3.27.20)

Colleagues,

As the COVID-19 virus challenges our nation and world, I wanted to provide a brief update on its impacts to our Department. Thank you for your continued vigilance and dedication as we continue to support American businesses and do our part to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Mandatory Telework

All Department employees must continue to telework until further notice. Only mission critical employees may enter their normal worksites and they may only do so if it is absolutely necessary with management approval. My leadership team and I are monitoring the situation closely and we will communicate any changes as soon as they are made.

Like all of you, I have been teleworking to the maximum extent possible these past several weeks. I know firsthand that extended telework can present challenges to our normal habits and ways of doing business. We will continue to work with you to be as flexible as possible as we work to find creative solutions. Nevertheless, I am impressed by how all of us have managed to stay so closely connected even as we keep the needed physical distance to protect our health.

Stopping the Spread of COVID-19

I strongly encourage all employees to continue their incredible job thus far of following the [President's guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19](#). As all of us continue to monitor updated guidance from Federal, State, and local health authorities, we can each do our part to defeat this virus by continuing to practice social distancing and good health hygiene. Small decisions to stay home or to wash our hands are having a big impact and saving many lives.

Finally, I ask that we keep in our thoughts and prayers all those who passed away and those suffering from COVID-19, as well as their loved ones. This is a difficult time for many Americans, including for some of our own Commerce colleagues, but I am confident that we will persevere and rise higher together as a nation and as a world.

Know that you continue to have my full support and gratitude.

Thank you,

Secretary Wilbur Ross