

## FEMA Wave 1 Script 5

**Anchor:**

As we are less than two weeks from Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday shopping season, the pandemic of 2014 seems to have the upper hand.

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Good afternoon, I'm Greg Gist, live from VNN headquarters in New York City.

Until today, New York City seemed to be faring well against the global pandemic. But a worsening sanitation strike, the return of 200 sick cruise passengers, a horrific ferry accident and a major taxicab protest have seemingly brought the city to its knees. Additionally, travel woes seem to be gripping the country as ports of entry, rail stations, and even bus terminals are feeling the effects of this pandemic.

Joining me now from Washington, DC is Joan Fields from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Good afternoon Joan.

**Joan:**

Good afternoon.

**Anchor:**

Can you give us a quick update about the steps the U.S. government is taking to help slow the effects of influenza?

**Joan:**

From the transportation end, we have increased health screenings at ports of entry and shut down airports where there aren't enough TSA and airport staff to support operations. We have limited the operation of Amtrak, and major bus lines are providing protective masks to travelers while reducing the number of routes as well.

**Anchor:**

So Ms. Fields, our viewers can presume that upcoming holiday travel will be miserable?

**Joan:**

I would say 'trying'. We are still relatively early into this pandemic and the Federal government is prepared to make whatever adjustments are necessary to stem the spread of disease.

Anchor:

What kind of measures are at your disposal?

**Joan:**

Well, you have already seen some examples. Limiting ports of entry. Working with our global partners to decrease last points of departure to the U.S. and reducing the number of routes that ferry potentially sick passengers. While these measures are not always effective, they are options.

**Anchor:**

Joan, do you foresee a situation where travel will be severely restricted?

**Joan:**

That's always a possibility. What we would prefer to focus on are citizens and visitors following the preventive measures provided by the public health community with regards to influenza. That will go a long way in stemming the pandemic.

**Anchor:**

Joan, thank you for joining us this afternoon.

Stay tuned to VNN New York for updates on this and other stories around Pandemic 2014.