

FEMA Wave 2 Script 2

Anchor:

Food lines reminiscent of The Great Depression. Medical supplies extremely scarce, further hampering this new pandemic wave.
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Hello. I'm Greg Gist, live from VNN headquarters in New York City. The 'just-in-time' economy of the United States has taken a hit during this pandemic. Supply chains that deliver goods across the world and across this nation have been obliterated. Lines for everyday staples are reminiscent of The Great Depression while the bigger impact is the scarcity of medical supplies to care for the infected. More on the story is VNN Correspondent, Sophie Lee, at Chelsea Mobility and Medical Equipment on the city's West Side.

Sophie:

Greg, this morning, finding basic medical supplies is becoming as difficult as finding fresh milk and eggs. We spoke to the owner of this medical supply store that provides items to both the public and area hospitals.

Medical Supply Store Owner:

It's bad. I've never seen such a shortage of items like we've seen over the past few weeks. Basic things like gloves and masks are almost impossible to come by.

Sophie:

Have you heard from anyone in the government? Are they able to provide basic protective equipment?

Medical Supply Store Owner:

They talk about some kind of emergency stockpile, but it's not like I can call an 800 number and order it for my clients.

Sophie:

How long will it be before you completely run out of critical supplies?

Medical Supply Store Owner:

I imagine that if production doesn't increase, we could deliver our last pair of gloves and masks in about three weeks.

Sophie:

What are you hearing from local residents and business owners?

Medical Supply Store Owner:

The situation for many of my clients and local business owners across New York

City continues to be overwhelming. This is the same across the country. Protective equipment is a necessity for many chronically ill patients and business owners and they continue to express their frustrations with the shortage of supplies and resources. We're beginning to see that lack of supplies is affecting business owners and keeping them from reporting for work.

Sophie:

Back to you in the studio Greg.

Anchor:

Thank you, Sophie. I'm Greg Gist, this is VNN New York. We thank you for watching.