



April 27, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Agency Heads

From: Emory A. Rounds, III
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emory Rounds".

Our nation is fighting one of its great battles. Americans are confronting tremendous threats to their health, prosperity, and, for many, their very way of living day-to-day. As leaders, the decisions we make today will set the course for our nation for years to come.

To defeat this virus and re-open America will require decisive government action. It will also require the trust of the American people as significant decisions are made. Our ethical leadership is essential to promoting and maintaining that trust.

As the public servants you lead work tirelessly to combat the virus, protect the health and safety of the public, blunt the economic effects, and carry out their mission-critical work, they also look to us for ethical leadership as they execute an effective response to this pandemic.

To this end, please take affirmative steps to remind your agency's officials and employees of the importance of ethics in government. Please continue to seek the counsel of your Designated Agency Ethics Official to ensure that agency decisions are made in accordance with ethics laws and rules. Please continue to lead and take actions that reassure the American people that our government's response continues to be driven with integrity, for the public good, and that decision-making remains free of any taint of private financial interests. In short, please help us protect the foundation of trust that is vital for a strong nation.

I am grateful to you and all of the public servants who are helping our country weather this crisis. I wish you and your agency employees continued mission success.

Thank you for your service to our country.

