

How One Firm Put an ‘Extraordinary Burden’ on the U.S.’s Troubled Stockpile

The shortage of lifesaving medical equipment last year was a searing example of the government’s failed coronavirus response. As health workers resorted to wearing trash bags, one Maryland company profited by selling anthrax vaccines to the country’s emergency reserve.



By Chris Hamby and Sheryl Gay Stolberg

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WASHINGTON — A year ago, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency, promising a wartime footing to combat the coronavirus. But as Covid-19 spread unchecked, sending thousands of dying people to the hospital, desperate pleas for protective masks and other medical supplies went unanswered.

Health workers resorted to wearing trash bags. Fearful hospital officials turned away sick patients. Governors complained about being left in the lurch. Today the shortage of basic supplies, alongside inadequate testing and the slow vaccine rollout, stands as a symbol of the broken federal response to a worldwide calamity that has killed more than a half-million Americans.

The Committee encourages CDC to consider maintaining its planned procurement of anthrax vaccines when adjusting to changes in commercial pricing or PHEMCE requirements.

A Senate panel advised the C.D.C. not to reduce purchases of anthrax vaccines.

2015 Senate Appropriations Committee Report

I was talking to Senator Blunt and I raised with him a concern