

Administrative Offices

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WeArePublicHealth.org

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April 6, 2020

Dear Healthcare Partners/EMS:

As we are all aware, there continues to be severe shortages of personal protection equipment (PPE) throughout the county, state and nationally due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We understand that this is putting a severe strain on everyone who takes care of sick and/or vulnerable adults and are doing our very best to push out PPE to all of our organizations who require it to care for those who are ill.

As you are aware, Arizona requested and received additional assistance from the federal government's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), the nation's largest supply of potentially life-saving pharmaceuticals and medical supplies for use in a public health emergency. To date, we have received 75 percent of our PPE allocation and it is not close to being enough for what we need. Each local health department has been given the directive to develop our own criteria to meet community need. We are continuously reviewing our data and developing a criteria that, unfortunately, we know will not meet everyone's needs.

We want to be transparent with you as to how much PPE we are receiving and our rationale for distribution. Below is background on the latest shipment.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT FACTS

- **There are not enough N-95 masks, facemasks, face shields, surgical gowns, coveralls or gloves to meet the current demand.**
- **We do not know if or when we will receive additional PPE or when the supply chain will catch up to the demand.**
- **We are prioritizing efforts to reduce the number of severe cases of COVID-19 and to assure health care worker health and safety.**
- **At this time, we are prioritizing PPE, except for N95 masks, for long-term care facilities to prevent severe cases among individuals at highest risk of severe disease.**
- **N95 respirators are being prioritized for acute care facilities.**

Current Rationale for Distribution of Limited Supplies:



In 2016, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health received accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. For more information on this achievement, please visit phaboard.org.

1. Every facet of our healthcare system has immediate needs. This includes Acute Care Hospitals, Long Term Care and Skilled Nursing Facilities, EMS, Law Enforcement, Primary Care and Specialty Providers, Community Health Centers, and communal settings like jails and shelters.
2. In the first shipment, acute care and EMS received the vast majority of our PPE supplies
3. For the second and third SNS shipments, we will allocate the bulk of this supply, except N95's, to long-term care facilities. This is to decrease spread among those who are at the highest risk of severe disease and death, and to keep these individuals out of the hospital, reducing stress on the healthcare system. The remainder of the supply will be allocated to Acute Care, Correctional Health, and the Medical Examiner. Please see table below for details.
4. The most important area to address right now is long-term care facilities. Without the buying power or capability to generate donated equipment, these smaller facilities are unable to procure equipment to protect themselves and their patients. Their patients are already at higher risk, both due to underlying health conditions and living in communal settings.
5. We are providing the N95 respirators to acute care facilities to supplement your current PPE inventory, since acute care is the most likely setting for aerosol generating procedures.
6. We are working with the media and other community partners to strongly urge those who are mildly ill to stay at home to reduce the demand on primary and urgent care services. Instead of presenting for a test, individuals with respiratory symptoms and/or fever greater than 100.4° should assume they have COVID-19 and self-isolate at home. [Guidance for home isolation](#).
7. There will be no more allocations from SNS at this time. We are working to identify alternative vendors and donation sources for additional PPE. Given the uncertainty of these sources, we recommend employing the [CDC's Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Masks](#) and [CDC's Decontamination and Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators guidance](#).

Following is a breakdown on what Maricopa County has received from the SNS for the entire County:

N95	Face Masks	Face Shields	Surgical Gowns	Coveralls	Gloves
71,660	176,000	16,128	22,620	143	113,600

Following is how Maricopa County Public Health has allocated its limited supply:

Health Care Sector	N95	Face Mask	Face Shield	Surgical Gown	Coverall	Gloves
Acute Care Hospitals	48,817 (68%)	35,600 (20%)	9,677 (60%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
EMS/Law Enforcement (includes tribal entities)	3,175 (4%)	8,900 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	17,800 (16%)
Urgent Care/FQHC	3,528 (5%)	8,900 (5%)	484 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4,450 (4%)
Long Term Care Facilities	14,552 (20%)	96,100 (55%)	3,226 (20%)	14,419 (64%)	0 (0%)	96,100 (55%)
Correctional Health	728 (1%)	13,250 (8%)	1,613 (10%)	1,802 (8%)	0 (0%)	9,135 (8%)
Medical Examiner	1,080 (2%)	8,800 (5%)	968 (6%)	1,802 (8%)	143 (100%)	9,135 (8%)
Public Health Essential Personnel	0 (0%)	4,450 (3%)	161 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
<i>*percentages are rounded</i>	100	100	100	100	100	100

Next Steps:

- Resource requests: We will continue to keep all resource requests already submitted and will fill those requests as materials become available. [Find the form here.](#)
- Allocation planning: The COVID-19 Pandemic is unfolding rapidly, we will continue to assess our local situation daily.
- Additional information: Please see [MCDPH page dedicated to Healthcare Provider Guidance.](#)
- For questions: Please attend the [weekly webinar](#) for healthcare.

Again, we know that this is not nearly enough to meet your needs. Please know we are doing everything we can to identify more PPE for the community we serve.

Sincerely,



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