



COLORADO

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Department of Public Safety

November 18th, 2020

Re: Guidelines for Allocation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Dear Partners:

The global shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) has tremendously challenged the COVID-19 pandemic response here in Colorado, across the country, and internationally. We continue to request supplies from the federal government and have engaged public and private vendors and manufacturers as we strive to bring as many supplies as we can to Colorado. We are committed to working with you to track down all possible leads and to look for innovative solutions to get more supplies into our state.

Until supply chains improve, we have developed a process for fulfillment of resource requests for PPE across the state. Our overarching goal is to prevent transmission of COVID-19 to those at highest risk of severe clinical disease and to provide personal protective equipment to workers delivering emergent life-saving services.

The Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee (GEEERC) adopted a Crisis Standards of Care Plan on April 7th 2020 which outlines use, reuse, and extending the use of PPE beyond its indicated shelf life, when appropriate. Scarcity and interruption in the global supply of PPE forces difficult decisions. The approved Crisis Standards of Care Plan will take precedence when there is a conflict regarding allocation, distribution, and usage.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/colorado-crisis-standards-care>

Please note that the list below is not all encompassing, but will help healthcare facilities and local public health agencies (LPHA's) by prioritizing allocation and distribution. Please note: this document does not guarantee fulfillment of every order. Orders may be partially filled due to limited stock, until supply chains stabilize.

Group 1:

Acute Care:

- a. Emergency Medical Services/Fire Service (Providing 911 response and Critical Care)
- b. Hospitals with Intensive Care Units/Ventilator Capacity
- c. Emergency Departments (including free-standing)
- d. Hospitals with COVID-19 cases
- e. Hospitals with highest number of COVID-19 cases

Long Term Care:

- a. Skilled Nursing Facilities with highest number of COVID-19 cases
- b. Skilled Nursing Facilities with COVID-19 cases
- c. Palliative & Hospice Providers caring for COVID-19 cases
- d. Home Health caring for COVID-19 cases
- e. ICFs (Intermediate Care Facilities) for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) with highest number of COVID-19 cases
- f. ICFs (Intermediate Care Facilities) for Individuals with IDD with COVID-19 cases
- g. Adult Care Homes with highest number of COVID-19 cases
- h. Adult Care Homes with confirmed COVID-19 cases
- i. Behavioral Health & IDD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) group homes with highest number of COVID-19 cases
- j. Behavioral Health, IDD, and TBI group homes with COVID-19 cases
- k. Adult Care Homes with other infectious disease outbreaks
- l. Skilled Nursing Facilities with other infectious disease outbreaks
- m. State and commercial medical testing laboratory employees

Group 2:

Congregate Care Settings:

- a. Shelters, Correctional Facilities, Dormitories, Unlicensed Residential Treatment Facilities, etc. with COVID-19 cases
- b. Skilled Nursing Facilities (not covered under Group 1)
- c. ICFs (Intermediate Care Facilities) for Individuals with IDD (not covered under Group 1)
- d. Adult Care Homes (not covered under Group 1)
- e. Behavioral Health & IDD and TBI group homes (not covered under Group 1)
- f. Alternate Care Facility staff

Healthcare/First Responder Agencies:

- a. Law Enforcement
- b. Fire Departments
- c. 911 Dispatch Centers
- d. Palliative & Hospice Providers (not covered under Group 1)
- e. Home Health (not covered under Group 1)
- f. Public Health Departments
- g. Primary Care Providers
- h. Urgent Care Centers
- i. Dialysis Centers
- j. Non-Emergency EMS Transport Agencies (not covered under Group 1)

- k. All medical transportation agencies
- l. Coroners, morticians, fatality transport personnel, funeral home staff

Group 3:

Non-Healthcare Entities

- a. Shelters, Correctional Facilities, Dormitories, unlicensed residential treatment centers, etc. (not covered under Group 2)
- b. County Transport Services
- c. Regulatory agencies with legal requirements to engage in healthcare system activities
- d. Division of Social Services, including Adult and Child Protection Services
- e. Hotels & Motels used for isolation and quarantine
- f. Other Governmental Entities with legal requirements to provide in home services
- g. Critical onsite workers involved in food production and distribution, energy, communications, hazardous material management, and water and wastewater treatment

Group 4:

All other requests

Other considerations: All requests for PPE will be verified and vetted by the Unified Coordination Center to ensure allocation is based on maintaining up to seven (7) days of inventory. Requests for greater than seven days of inventory or requests without proper justification will not be accommodated due to the high demand for these resources. PPE will be provided based on this grouping schedule regardless of urban/rural/tribal, non-profit/for-profit agency. The Unified Coordination Center may modify these criteria based on emerging response needs.

We thank you for all you are doing for your communities during these uncertain times.

Michael Willis
Director, Office of Emergency Management
Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management