

NOTE: This resource was originally published in 2020 and updated in 2021. It is not being maintained. While information contained within was current when published, it may be outdated, and some links may not work.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Preservation Strategies and Resource Request Process Guide

Action Plan for Current or Anticipated COVID-19 PPE Shortages

As of release 1.3, in April 2021, given increasing availability of PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a shift in emphasis away from crisis and contingency practices and toward conventional practices, this document is being archived in its then-current state, with encouragement of users to consult the latest guidance from CDC ([Optimizing Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Supplies](#)) and FDA ([Personal Protective Equipment EUAs](#)). The document can be used any time for consideration of conventional preservation practices (marked as-such), but only when the circumstances warrant should be used to support contingency or crisis practices, consistent with CDC and FDA guidance.



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Action Plan for Current or Anticipated COVID-19 PPE Shortages

For healthcare facilities (HCFs) and first-responder organizations (FROs), PPE is critical to prevent COVID-19 spread while providers perform life-saving activities. This is a concise guide for organizations to plan and to implement PPE preservation strategies, including information on ways to obtain new PPE supplies, either from commercial vendors or through state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) jurisdictions or through federal channels. Facilities should work through each step until a step leads to a resolution.

Step 1: Determine and Preserve Current Supply	Step 2a: Implement Contingency Capacity Strategies	Step 4: State, Local, Tribal, or Territorial Resource Requests to Federal Government
<input type="checkbox"/> Determine PPE requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement contingency strategies when PPE shortages are expected while a greater than three-day supply is on-hand and PPE delivery delays are anticipated . Summary for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMA Regional Office in coordination with HHS/ASPR Regional Office reviews the SLTT Resource Request to clarify the requirement and to approve the request.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator • EMS PPE Supply Estimator • Healthcare Resilience Working Group (HRWG) PPE Preservation Planning Toolkit 	Step 2b: Request Additional Supplies from External Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMA, in coordination with HHS, processes Approved Resource Requests.
<input type="checkbox"/> Receive PPE supplies from commercial vendors as scheduled, when commercial vendors are not reporting any current or anticipated delays.	<input type="checkbox"/> When experiencing PPE critical shortages, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • actively get new commercial suppliers; • seek donations from volunteer organizations or from the community; • solicit help externally from surrounding communities; • implement mutual aid agreements with surrounding HCFs and FROs. 	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMA/ HHS delivers PPE to SLTT jurisdictions for delivery to HCFs or FROs in need.
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan for potential PPE shortages, with awareness of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national/regional-level delays; • <i>Contingency Capacity Strategies</i>; and with implementation of PPE- preserving <i>Conventional Capacity Strategies</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get Us PPE* 	Step 5: Implement Crisis Capacity Strategies (only after completing Steps 1- 4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Strategies for Optimizing Supply of PPE during Shortages (refer to conventional and contingency capacity strategies) • COVID-19: PPE Preservation Best Practices • HRWG PPE Preservation Planning Toolkit • Elastomeric Half-Mask Respirators and Powered Air-Purifying Respirators • Authorized Use and Avoiding Fraudulent Products 	Step 3: Request Additional Supplies from SLTT Health Departments and Emergency Management Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement crisis strategies when PPE shortages become critical (3 days or less supply on-hand) and PPE delivery delays are anticipated . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Strategies for Optimizing Supply of PPE during Shortages (refer to crisis capacity strategies) • Decontamination Systems for Personal Protective Equipment EUAs
	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit resource requests at the local health department and local emergency management agency.	<p>*This document may contain content and web links to non-Federal websites and webpages. Linking to a non-Federal website does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. government, or any of its employees, of the information and/or products presented on that site.</p>
Release 1.3	<input type="checkbox"/> If local jurisdiction cannot fill PPE requirement, submit resource requests to state, tribal, or territorial health department.	