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 While information contained within was current when published, it may be outdated, and some links may not work.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.
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
- Determine PPE requirements.
  - CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator
  - EMS PPE Supply Estimator
  - Healthcare Resilience Working Group (HRWG) PPE Preservation Planning Toolkit
- Receive PPE supplies from commercial vendors as scheduled, when commercial vendors are not reporting any current or anticipated delays.
- Plan for potential PPE shortages, with awareness of:
  - national/regional-level delays;
  - Contingency Capacity Strategies; and with implementation of PPE-preserving Conventional Capacity Strategies.
  - 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 2a: Implement Contingency Capacity Strategies
- 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
- When experiencing PPE critical shortages, 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.
  - Get Us PPE*

### Step 2b: Request Additional Supplies from External Organizations
- When experiencing PPE critical shortages, 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.
  - Get Us PPE*

### Step 3: Request Additional Supplies from SLTT Health Departments and Emergency Management Agencies
- Submit resource requests at the local health department and local emergency management agency.
- If local jurisdiction cannot fill PPE requirement, submit resource requests to state, tribal, or territorial health department.

### Step 4: State, Local, Tribal, or Territorial Resource Requests to Federal Government
- FEMA Regional Office in coordination with HHS/ASPR Regional Office reviews the SLTT Resource Request to clarify the requirement and to approve the request.
- FEMA, in coordination with HHS, processes Approved Resource Requests.
- FEMA/HHS delivers PPE to SLTT jurisdictions for delivery to HCFs or FROs in need.

### Step 5: Implement Crisis Capacity Strategies (only after completing Steps 1-4)
- Implement crisis strategies when PPE shortages become critical (3 days or less supply on-hand) and PPE delivery delays are anticipated.
  - CDC Strategies for Optimizing Supply of PPE during Shortages (refer to crisis capacity strategies)
  - Decontamination Systems for Personal Protective Equipment EUAs

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