



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Accessing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Today's Objectives

- Clarify the behavioral health provider, local response and state roles in procuring PPE
- Share the State of Washington allocation for distribution
- Share tips for navigating the local process
- Provide local and state contacts to lend support as needed

Provider Role

- Establish a relationship with your Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ)
- Implement recommended guidance in your setting with staff and patients
- Assess the types and amount of PPE you need
- Procure PPE through your supply chains
- Request PPE through the local response if you cannot find enough PPE through your own vendors

*PPE Tip from the DOH Healthcare Acquired Infections Team

- Both surgical masks and face shield (or goggles) are recommended for staff to be worn at all times.
- While the CDC does recommend masks/shield for patient contact, we are seeing so much staff-to-staff transmission that we encourage universal use* of masks **and face shields** all day for all contact.
- The masks get wet after a few hours, especially when talking a lot. **At that time the surgical mask needs to be discarded and a new one substituted.** The face shields or goggles can be wiped down with a disinfectant at the end of the shift, placed into a paper bag with the employee's name, and saved for the next shift.
- The advantage of using a face shield over googles is that it protects your mask as well as your eyes from direct contact.

*PPE Tip from the DOH Healthcare Acquired Infections Team, continued

- For care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID, staff should wear fit tested N-95 masks and face shields (or goggles). LNI wants the N-95 to be discarded after 5 doffings or at the end of the shift, as they feel they no longer hold a seal at that point.

*in CDC terminology: ‘extended use of face masks’ means they are worn continuously for care of multiple patients and discarded when wet or soiled.

Respirators can be used ‘extended use and limited re-use’ – put back on after breaks but discarded at the end of the shift.

State Role: Acquisition

The availability of PPE, even for the State of Washington, fluctuates.

- The state is the wholesale source to the local response and can also have trouble sourcing PPE
- Availability is strongly influenced by disease activity, demand, and allocation
- The State has an allocation formula based on public health considerations
- Allocation can also be determined locally based on local needs

State Role: Allocation

PPE, as a limited resource, is prioritized at a state level:

- Tier 1 – Confirmed Cases: Long-term care facilities, hospitals with most cases, EMS and first responders transporting, healthcare workers supporting in long-term care
- Tier 2: Healthcare facilities *with confirmed*, congregate locations *with confirmed*, other EMS, quarantine/isolation facilities ran by DOH
- Tier 3: Quarantine/isolation facilities ran by other jurisdictions, skilled nursing and other healthcare facilities, outpatient facilities
- Tier 4: Homeless shelter and other congregate locations, families of confirmed cases who are at home

Local Emergency Response Role: Distribution

State supplies of PPE are distributed from state to local response teams

- Supplies are distributed from the state to local public health/emergency management
- Local response teams may have their own processes for requesting PPE.
- Distribution is managed and prioritized locally

What to do?

Broad idea:

Always first attempt normal purchasing channels, then submit a request if unsuccessful

1. Start with your normal ordering processes on the open market

- It is recommended you do not cancel your order and stay in queue
- Check frequently, availability can change daily

2. If you are unable to secure through normal ordering processes, contact your local health jurisdiction and make a PPE request

- If you are unsuccessful in identifying the right process or contact:
 - Reference *Local/Regional Emergency Response Coordinator List* and make contact to identify the best method to make this request locally
- NOTE: Local teams may ask for additional information or clarification
- Be specific, but avoid limiting ways to fill your request unnecessarily

Key Things to Know – Availability & Tips

- Government is a backstop: not a first stop and subject to availability of PPE as well
- Your local health officer is your guide for infection control and may have suggestions/best practices for efficient and safe use of PPE.
- Some PPE is more available than others, this will likely change over time → check in!
- Be as specific as you need, but not *unnecessarily* specific!

Questions?



Trevor Covington, M.S., C.E.M.

Mental & Behavioral Health Response Coordinator

Division of Emergency Preparedness & Response

Washington State Department of Health

trevor.covington@doh.wa.gov