

1/30/2020

To: Colorado Local Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinators  
EPR Regional Staff  
Healthcare Coalitions

Subject: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV) Supply Chain Guidance

1. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 2019 nCoV incident response team, in conjunction with the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, fully endorse the attached document provided by Mesa County Public Health, 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV) Supply Chain Considerations. The current threat continues to remain low in the United States. CDPHE does not advocate increasing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) supplies at this time. We do however, want to provide some additional guidance on how/when emergency supplies may be released.
2. Mesa County manages the Colorado Medical Cache-Western Slope (CMC-WS) on behalf of the state. Besides your local/facility level emergency stock of supplies, and any surge trailers you may have, the CMC-WS is our only in-state source for emergency supplies. This cache of PPE is reserved for worst case scenarios when no other options are available to protect healthcare workers and the community.
3. We understand access to supply shortages can become problematic for healthcare providers during an outbreak or natural disaster that interrupt normal supply chain processes. Should medical facilities run critically low on PPE supplies, we recommend all avenues of re-supply from various vendors be explored first; followed by reaching out to regional Healthcare Coalitions to assist working with other community/region healthcare providers; and only then, requesting assistance from Local Public Health Authorities. Only once all other options are exhausted, including using supplies in emergency stocks and surge trailers, and medical facilities are in a position where they can no longer provide emergency care for patients, will CDPHE consider requests from Local Public Health Authorities to issue emergency PPE stocks from the CMC-WS.
4. Please let me know if you have questions; 303-692-2954 or email: [dane.matthew@state.co.us](mailto:dane.matthew@state.co.us).



Dane Matthew  
Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response







## 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Supply Chain Considerations

### General:

Concerns over supply chain stress have been raised due to the current 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak. Supply chain disruptions are likely due to the following conditions:

1. High demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) within China by both medical facilities and citizens.<sup>1</sup>
2. US populations purchasing PPE, in advance, as a preparedness measure.<sup>2</sup>
3. Disruptions in supply chains due to disease containment measures abroad.
4. Potential for 2019-nCoV outbreaks in the US and associated health care treatment and prevention measures.

### Primary Supplies of Concern:

Per CDC and CDPHE recommendation<sup>3</sup> persons under investigation (PUIs) for 2019-nCoV should be given surgical masks (i.e. procedure mask, facemask) and healthcare personnel should don standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and use eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield). PPE required to execute these precautions are currently the items of greatest concern.

Of particular concern are surgical masks, face shields/goggles, and N95s as civilian populations may seek these supplies as well as healthcare entities.

### Potential Action Steps:

There are a number of ways healthcare facilities can begin to prepare for potential shortage or supply chain disruption:

1. Ensure supply and purchasing managers at your facilities are kept apprised of the situation and included in planning/preparedness and situational awareness efforts regarding 2019-nCoV.
2. Begin conversations between infection prevention, facility emergency management and purchasing managers about possible ways to prepare. Supply and purchasing managers may already have plans or ideas to prepare your facility.
3. Speak with key vendors and ask to be updated if they begin to see signs of shortage.
4. Coordinate with your regional healthcare coalition and neighboring healthcare providers to pool resources and/or request assistance from coalition emergency stockpiles.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/china/2019-novel-coronavirus-situation-report-1-january-27-2019>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/51245373>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html>



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5. Inform your local public health agency if you begin to experience shortages, encounter delays in shipping, or resort to “gray market” purchasing options<sup>4</sup>. Your local public health should have access to regional and state assets through Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response staff.
6. Update EMResource\* regularly. Hospitals and clinics should have access to update staffing, supply issues, surge strategies, or when emergency PPE supply stocks are used. This system is used to maintain regional and statewide health care facility situational awareness.
7. Begin conversation with Healthcare Coalitions and other partner agencies about resource sharing/ready MOUs.
8. Modify facility visitation guidelines to reduce PPE consumption at entrances.

\*If you have questions regarding EMResource access and status monitoring in the Northwest and West All Hazards Region, please email [regionaleprteam@mesacounty.us](mailto:regionaleprteam@mesacounty.us).

**Local to State Resource Request Process:**

The state of Colorado maintains an emergency supply of PPE that can be requested through LPHAs, however, these requests should only be made if all other avenues have been exhausted. State owned emergency supplies are resources of last resort. The state will require proof of both shortage and independent attempts to rectify the issue before it will consider granting a resource request. To make a resource request, contact your local public health agency. If an EOC is active in your county, contact the ESF-8 lead to begin the resource request process.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.jhconline.com/the-gray-market-and-medical-supply-distribution.html>