

The Commonwealth of Virginia – COVID-19 Response
Personal Protective Equipment Distribution Strategy
May 6, 2020

Guiding Principles

- The Unified Command (UC) is responsible for the acquisition, tracking, and distribution of publicly provided Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to end users across the Commonwealth.
- Private sector facilities and organizations will continue to strive to maximize their PPE supply chains.
- All facilities will exercise the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended PPE conservation guidelines.
- An allocation strategy will be offered by the PPE Advisory Group to the Unified Command which will include representatives from healthcare and public health, emergency medical services, public safety, and the Unified Command's health equity group. The allocation strategy may evolve over time.

PPE Distribution & Supply Requests

- Publically provided PPE will be distributed to ensure optimum safety in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Life-saving and life-sustaining operations actively supporting COVID-19 response will be given the highest priority for PPE, followed by public health outbreak and response efforts and general care provisions for COVID-19 infected individuals, and the safe operations of essential governmental functions which include protecting individuals in direct-care state agencies.
- PPE requests will be coordinated and sent to the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) through the following entities:
 - **Regional Healthcare Coalitions** will send requests to the VEST from acute care facilities (hospitals and emergency departments), dialysis centers, and skilled nursing facilities.
 - **VDH Local Health Departments** will send requests to the VEST from community providers *offering care for COVID-19 patients that may include but not limited to*: Urgent Cares, Free Standing Clinics, Dental Health Clinics,

Federally Qualified Health Care Centers and Free Clinics, Pharmacies, Nurse Mid-Wives, Home-Health, Hospice and/or other community providers.

- **Department of Social Services** – Will coordinate PPE requests for Assisted Living Facilities.
 - **Local Emergency Management Officials and Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) Regional Staff** will coordinate Local Governments requests to include requests from First Responders (Fire, Police, and EMS), Courthouses, Local/Regional Jails, Funeral Homes, Veterinary Services, Community Services Boards, Group Homes, Institutes of Higher Education/Community Colleges, and Non-Health Outreach Workers.
 - **State Agencies** that may include Department of Corrections, Virginia State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, Department of Elections, Division of Capitol Police will make direct requests to the VEST.
- Regional health care coalitions, local health directors, and local/state emergency managers will be allowed discretion to provide PPE to other entities to deal with immediate issues that may not be foreseen.
 - It is expected that entities requesting PPE have exhausted all efforts to privately procure PPE before contacting the state for assistance.
 - Prior to resuming and providing non-urgent care or procedures, each provider and/or facility should ensure that they have adequate supply of PPE appropriate to the number and type of procedures to be performed, without requiring assistance from any public source (federal, state, or local) for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic response.
 - VDH advises clinicians and healthcare facilities to refer to CMS guidelines, CDC guidance, and medical specialty societies for guidance and up-to-date recommendations on PPE use for specific procedures and clinical settings.
 - If the appropriate guidelines for use of PPE cannot be met, providers should not resume non-urgent care or procedures.
 - Privately purchased PPE may be used for healthcare response not directly related to COVID-19 care, and for other business, non-essential governmental operations, or other functions as appropriate. Visit the link below for lists of vendors provided by the Virginia Department of General Services:
 - <https://eva.virginia.gov/eva-emergency-notice.html>
 - <https://dgs.virginia.gov/procurement/resources/eva-emergency-vendor-list/>