



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

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March 5, 2020

Mr. Gary J. Kleinman
Regional Administrator, Region 1 (New England)
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
US Department of Health and Human Services
JFK Federal Building, Suite 2100
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Kleinman,

Please accept this formal request from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) for assets from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to support the Commonwealth's response to the virus associated with COVID-19. This MDPH request has been reviewed with and approved by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Charles D. Baker.

On January 28, 2020, I activated the MDPH Emergency Operations Plan and its annex, the Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan to support public health planning and response activities for COVID-19. I have instituted an Incident Command System structure and a team meets daily and has conducted briefings with state health leadership to facilitate information sharing, decision-making, and response. We are engaging in daily communications with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other federal agencies including the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. We are regularly communicating to local boards of health, hospitals, community health centers, emergency medical services, and long term care facilities. On January 31st, Massachusetts announced the first case of COVID-19; additionally we reported two presumptive positive cases confirmed on March 2nd and March 5th.

MDPH has significant concerns regarding the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the subsequent protection of our world-class healthcare workforce responding to this virus. We understand that our healthcare facilities are receiving significantly fewer orders than the typical seasonal quantities, sometimes receiving no product at all. The supply has been extremely restricted due to the outbreak in China where many of the products are made and now being held due to need. The situation is becoming critical and assistance is needed.

Across the Commonwealth our healthcare facilities have implemented significant conservation policies in line with MDPH and CDC recommendations. Guidance was provided to every hospital, community health center, emergency medical service provider and long term care

facility on February 12th and again on March 4th. Our infectious disease specialists have responded to dozens of calls from stakeholders seeking guidance and advice.

While Massachusetts does not have a cache of PPE, we do have a robust and multi-level resource request process built upon mutual aid assistance at the local, regional, and state level. Between February 6th and March 4th, 45 requests for assistance and/or coordination related to COVID-19 resources were received at the regional level. All of the requests were fulfilled through either the sharing of guidance or mutual aid PPE support. On March 4th, MDPH began receiving PPE requests that could not be satisfied at either the regional or state level. We are very concerned that this situation will lead to imminent impacts to healthcare service delivery in the Commonwealth and respectfully request the following from the SNS:

Item	Quantity
N95 Respirator Face Mask	750,000
Surgical Mask	750,000
Non-Sterile Gloves	750,000
Eye Protection	750,000
Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR)	750,000
Surgical Gown	750,000

We stand ready to active the MDPH Medical Countermeasures Plan that provides a framework for requesting SNS assets and receiving them in our warehouse for distribution to healthcare facilities. Should you have any questions, or require additional assistance, please contact Kerin Milesky, Director, MDPH Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management at 617-994-9828.

Sincerely,



Monica Bharel, MD, MPH

cc: Governor Charles D. Baker
Secretary Marylou Sudders