

## Medical Community

### What is being done to secure medical supplies and equipment for healthcare professionals?

As you know, health care professionals fighting the virus on the frontlines face a drastic shortage of N95 masks, visors, protective gowns, ventilators and other personal protective equipment (PPE). The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is a big step forward toward alleviating these shortages.

The CARES Act will help facilitate the production, purchase, and distribution of PPE and other essential equipment for health care workers. Included in this bold economic relief package are a number of provisions to improve health care capacity and support responders:

- \$100 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services' Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to reimburse eligible health facilities that treat COVID-19 cases. Funding can be used for expenses such as medical supplies and equipment.
- \$16 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile, which holds the nation's largest inventory of emergency medical materials such as vaccines, protective gear, ventilators, and other equipment.
- \$1.5 billion in grants for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to disburse to states and local governments to support coronavirus preparedness and response.
- \$1 billion for the Defense Production Act to hasten the production of PPE, ventilators and other equipment.
- \$250 million in grants through the Hospital Preparedness Program, which recipients can use to help stockpile and maintain supplies of PPE.
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Please review the attached information assembled by the House Committee on Energy & Commerce. These documents detail the federal government's actions to increase the production of [PPE](#) and other [medical equipment](#) to meet the demand of health care responders and to address the bottleneck and backlog of coronavirus [tests](#).

The Connecticut Congressional Delegation is also [urging](#) the Department of Health and Human Services to provide sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) and other necessary equipment to Connecticut healthcare providers and hospitals. Please contact the [Connecticut Department of Health](#) regarding the distribution of such equipment. In the short term, follow the CDC's recommendations for conserving [PPE](#) and [N95 Respirators](#).

The Connecticut Department of Public Health is partnering with United Way 2-1-1 of Connecticut to support Connecticut's medical community by accumulating charitable donations. Learn more [here](#). Companies looking to sell or donate medical supplies, equipment, or services to assist the COVID-19 response may contact the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#).