

1. I am worried about running low on PPE, what do you suggest we do?

The first step is to stay in touch with your usual distributor. Major efforts are being made to increase production and stave off shortages. Your usual PPE/durable medical equipment (DME) sales representatives will be well-positioned to let you know their current status of supplies. If you feel as though you need additional guidance, please reach out to your state's home health association and local emergency services. As the situation varies significantly from state to state (as well as day to day), they are best-positioned to provide effective advice to individual agencies.

2. Beyond the DME suppliers, how is PPE distributed across the country?

The flow of COVID-19 assistance (financial and PPE) is now in the hands of [FEMA](#) (Federal Emergency Management Association). They are controlling the flow of supplies from the federal government to each state governor, state health department, local health departments and health providers (hospitals, doctors nursing homes and home-based care). The states with the most identified cases are receiving federal assistance and supplies more quickly, with the supply chain catching up. Unfortunately, the Wuhan province in China (where COVID-19 was first discovered) produces nearly 70% of medical masks and gowns used worldwide. Their work force missed about eight weeks of work but have now resumed operations.

Links to major suppliers: [Medline](#) | [Cardinal Health](#) | [McKesson](#)

3. Are there up-to-date resources of how COVID-19 is impacting each state and the actions that are being taken?

[Here is a link](#) to the most up-to-date resources that are available. We will update this as more information is released.

4. I always gain a lot of information from Axxess' education. Do you have any blogs that I can read and share with my staff?

Yes, we recently produced [this blog](#) on how agencies can effectively use personal protective equipment. Please feel free to share this and any other information located on our [COVID-19 resource page](#). We strive to educate the industry as much as possible.

5. I hear conflicting information about the use of N95 respirators. Is there a definitive source of accurate information?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has excellent resources related to COVID-19. [Here](#) is their advice about optimizing the supply of N95 respirators.

6. As much as it goes against my instincts, I am thinking that I may need to prepare for sending nurses out without manufactured masks. Does the CDC have advice about “homemade” masks?

According to the [CDC website](#), “In settings where facemasks are not available, health care professionals(HCP) might use homemade masks (e.g., bandana, scarf) for care of patients with COVID-19 as a last resort. However, homemade masks are not considered PPE, since their capability to protect HCP is unknown. Caution should be exercised when considering this option. Homemade masks should ideally be used in combination with a face shield that covers the entire front (that extends to the chin or below) and sides of the face.” For more information about homemade masks, please read this [blog](#).

7. Is it true that some distilleries are making hand sanitizer?

Yes, many distilleries throughout the country are making hand sanitizer with guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO). Here are links to examples of news articles from several locations: [Lewisville TX](#), [Fort Worth TX](#), [Denison TX](#), [Rio Grande Valley TX](#), [Houston TX](#), [Chicago IL](#), and [Santa Ana, CA](#).

Please research “distilleries making hand sanitizer in my area” for more information. We know of situations where HCPs are being given free hand sanitizers. Additionally, pharmacies have been granted a waiver to compound hand sanitizer in accordance with CDC guidelines.