



OKLAHOMA

State Department of Health

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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(webpage links are in red)

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

To: Home Health Administrators

**From: James Joslin, MPA, Assistant Deputy Commissioner,
Regulation, Prevention and Preparedness**

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), has been working in partnership with federal, state and local agencies and with Governor Stitt's Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Task Force to prepare Oklahoma for a possible COVID-19 outbreak.

The Division of Medical Facilities at OSDH oversees Home Health Agencies and our top priority is the health and safety of staff working in these agencies and individuals living in their homes. In light of the recent appearance of COVID-19 in Oklahoma, we understand that personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential in assisting in the prevention of the virus and protection of patients and staff alike.

The following summarizes key strategies from the latest CDC guidance on [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE](#) in healthcare settings. Review the guidance for a full discussion of the strategies. These strategies are tiered based on the following and are based on discussed assumptions in each category of equipment:

- Conventional capacity: measures consist of providing patient care without any change in daily contemporary practices. This set of measures, consisting of engineering, administrative, and personal protective equipment (PPE) controls should

already be implemented in general infection prevention and control plans in healthcare settings.

- Contingency capacity: measures may change daily standard practices but may not have any significant impact on the care delivered to the patient or the safety of healthcare personnel (HCP). These practices may be used temporarily during periods of expected or temporary shortages.
- Crisis capacity: strategies that are not commensurate with U.S. standards of care. These measures, or a combination of these measures, may need to be considered during periods of known shortages.

We strongly urge you to immediately implement significant conservation steps by reviewing the surge capacity strategies in this new guidance. Surge capacity refers to the ability to manage a sudden, unexpected increase in patient volume that would otherwise severely challenge or exceed the present capacity of an agency and is a useful framework to approach a decreased supply of PPE during the COVID-19 response.

[Please view the complete list of suggestions, guidelines, and strategies by clicking on this link.](#)

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