



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

July 27, 2020

Robert Linton II, MD, MBA, FACEP
ACEP Maryland Chapter
c/o National ACEP
4950 West Royal Lane
Irving, TX 75063

Dear Dr. Linton,

Thank you for your correspondence to Governor Larry Hogan dated July 16, 2020 expressing your concerns regarding accessibility of personal protective equipment (PPE) for emergency department personnel during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency. The Governor's Office has reviewed your correspondence and asked the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to respond.

It is MDH's top priority to ensure that our healthcare workers have the necessary resources to continue to deliver patient care in a safe manner. We have taken great strides in building PPE caches to support our healthcare workers, and as the supply chain continues to release more resources, hospitals should also take the necessary steps to build up their internal caches. If hospitals are still facing resupply challenges, they are urged to contact their local health department for available PPE allocation and coordination.

MDH is working continuously to be prepared in the event that a resurgence occurs in Maryland by building PPE caches. There may be unforeseeable challenges; however, we are committed to working through those challenges to mitigate any potential risks to our healthcare workers as well as the residents of Maryland.

Please also consider the opportunity to actively engage in the state's Hospital Preparedness Program. This program has been working with participating acute care hospitals since 2003 to help support all hazard preparedness planning and resource development for medical surge events. Each hospital has a designated emergency preparedness planner who works closely with the Maryland Department of Health Office of Preparedness and Response as the lead agency in Maryland for this federal program. The following link will direct you to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response for additional information about the Hospital Preparedness Program <https://www.phe.gov/preparedness/planning/hpp/pages/default.aspx>.

We sincerely thank you all, the true heroes, who continue to work tirelessly to care for the medical needs of not only COVID patients, but other patients that visit our emergency departments across Maryland. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Director of Preparedness and Response, Sherry Adams, at sherry.adams@maryland.gov if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary