



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

April 7, 2020

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT: LIMITED SUPPLY AND ONGOING PROCESS

Dear Individual Provider/Home Care Agency:

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) received prioritization guidance for the allocation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from Department of Health on April 3rd, 2020. This document guides our administration on how to prioritize the fulfillment of limited PPE supplies to address the response to COVID-19. The prioritization does not guarantee fulfillment of every order that meets a priority tier nor does it ensure fulfillment of complete orders.

Individual Providers (IP) and Home Care Agencies (HCA) who provide care for individuals in their home are reflected in Tier two (2). Under Tier 2, it's understood that some degree of social distancing can be applied or that the risk of COVID-19 infection is lower than Tier one (1). IPs and HCAs are defined as "home health" providers.

If you are caring for someone who is "Confirmed" (tested positive for COVID-19) or "Suspected" (pending test results OR medical provider verified the symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, but will not test) you can request PPE through your Area Agency on Aging (AAA). AAAs will screen IPs and HCAs asking the following questions:

- Do you have a Confirmed (tested positive for COVID-19) or Suspected (pending test results OR medical provider verified the symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 but will not test) client?
- Do you have access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for example, face masks, gloves, face shields, and or gowns? If so what type and how much?
- How many clients do you see in a seven (7) day period of time that are Confirmed or Suspected?
- What setting does your client live in?

Requests will be filled based on the PPE needs and the amount of PPE supply available. You will receive an email when your order is processed.

Our intent is to support the most critical needs for PPE wherever possible. You are still encouraged to contact your local health jurisdiction for guidelines and to request PPE when DSHS is not able to fulfill your order. Below are useful resources regarding PPE.

- COVID-19 Guidance for [In-Home Caregivers with Limited Personal Protective Equipment](#):
- Guidance on [cloth face coverings](#) (pdf) from the Washington State Department of Health
- Learn [how to make a homemade mask](#) (pdf) from the Department of Labor and Industries.
- Sequence for [PUTTING on and safely REMOVE PPE](#).
- Frequently asked questions about [Personal Protective Equipment](#).