



The Honorable Gavin Newsom
State of California, Governor
State Capitol Building, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Via email:

Re: Health Center COVID-19 Response Priorities

Dear Governor Newsom

We are a coalition of labor and management who have been working on the front lines of the COVID-19 response for weeks. Our recommendations below have been informed by the brave women and men selflessly battling this virus, who continue to express an urgent and pressing need to increase the supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

We are pleased to see the positive impacts of California's physical distancing policy, and are impressed with the work your Administration has been doing to begin production of certain PPE at scale. However, we are concerned that a surge in COVID-19 cases will increase as the state modifies the stay-at-home order, increasing the pressure on our hospitals, community health centers, and skilled nursing facilities, putting the lives of our workers and the general public at risk. Despite our best efforts, and due to insufficient federal assistance from the Administration, we are looking to you to continue your thoughtful, evidence-based direction.

We applaud your announcement on April 8th on the public-private partnership to bring 200 million masks a month to California. This action will make a tangible impact on protecting the lives of health care workers and reduce the spread of this devastating disease. We know, however, that this action alone may not be sufficient to offer the best level of PPE protections for our essential workers during this public health emergency, as well as those who will need PPE as we resume additional medical care, essential deferred and preventative procedures, dental services, as well as, increase access to care to meet the evolving needs of our communities.

We ask you to consider the following proposals as guidance informed by our direct on-the-ground experience.

- **Provide regular reports on the current inventory of PPE in the State Stockpile and the status of those supplies.** Regular reporting on the status of California's inventory can help us better identify needs in order to solve PPE shortages. This is especially important because the supply numbers from the federal government's National Stockpile appear to have been inflated, and many of those supplies were expired. Additionally, supply quantity will help providers understand the future flow of product for planning purposes. This reporting must also include tracking of local, regional and state requests fulfilled, partially fulfilled, and/or denied.
- **Create within the Administration a supply chain strike team, with a designated lead to coordinate the expansion of PPE supply in the State Stockpile, and ensure a comprehensive and equitable distribution process.** Our projected demand will outstrip our supply without additional focused effort. The strike team should be tasked with coordinating with public and private sectors to understand supply needs and ensure essential workers have the supplies and resources they need to respond. California's current response could be enhanced by having a single point of contact within the Administration where the hospitals, community health centers, pharmacies, skilled nursing facilities, and organizations representing those workers can coordinate our response by working together to increase the state's supply of PPE.

Our organizations have prioritized our resources and efforts to fight COVID-19, protecting the public and caring for the sick. However, we need more protection ourselves. We will continue to advocate until every essential worker has the PPE supply they need to screen, test, and treat those affected by COVID-19, to safely provide care to all Californians. This foundational principle not only protects our workforce, but also helps protect our patients from this disease.

Together we will continue to meet this moment and save lives. We look forward to continuing to partner with you, and we appreciate and support your compassionate, tireless, and clear-sighted leadership during this time of crisis.

Sincerely,



Alma Hernandez
Executive Director
SEIU State Council
1130 K Street #300, Sacramento CA 95811



Carmela Coyle
President & CEO
California Hospital Association
1215 K St #800, Sacramento, CA 95814



Craig Cornett
CEO/President
California Association of Health Facilities
2201 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816



Carmela Castellano Garcia
President and CEO
CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
1231 I Street, #400, Sacramento, CA 95814