



Public Health Division  
Emergency Medical Services

# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVE., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061  
TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4120 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

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### GUIDANCE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF SCARCE RESOURCES Until Further Notice

Our community is experiencing an ongoing shortage of PPE (personal protective equipment) including N95 masks, procedural/surgical masks, face shields, and gowns. Many of these items are currently not available to us through our normal ordering channels or through the State's stockpile. Orders for scarce items will continue to be tracked so that if these supplies become available that requestors can be contacted to determine if the need for the items still exists. Please do not submit duplicate orders.

We have the following masks:

Expired N95 masks sent to us from the State – for distribution through MHOAC for requestors meeting established criteria. Current inventory is of 27,000 of N95 masks. Current orders exceed the ability to fill these requests

Hospitals are the highest priority for N95 masks due to their ability to treat the highest acuity patients in an intensive care environment (Dominican Hospital, Watsonville Community Hospital, Sutter Maternity and Surgery). **50% of cache to be shared with this group.**

SNFs with PUI are the second highest priority due to the medically compromised patients in their facilities. In order to access the cache, the SNF must adopt a policy of no visitors to the facility and use the masks for patients only. Additionally, incarcerated persons in a closed facility can also be provided masks from the cache. **20% of cache.**

First Responders (Fire and Ambulance) are the third priority. **15% of the cache is for this group.**

Urgent Care Clinics are the fourth highest priority (identified by internet browser as "urgent care clinics" on March 18, 2020) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (clinics with FQHC designation) **10% of the cache to be shared with this group.**

Events/facilities with an outbreak not anticipated by this guidance and with the approval of the Health Officer or Designee will have access to **5% of the cache.**

#### **All providers should take the following actions immediately if they have not already:**

All reasonable efforts should be made to divert patients/clients needing services from in person, to other modes wherever possible, including potential screening of clients and requests for individuals who are sick not to enter the building or facility. This will assist with the management of exposures of staff to potentially contagious clients.



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If in-person services are required and must be conducted indoors, providers should use exam/interview space that allows social distancing of 6 feet. Frequent cleaning of the space is also recommended. As an example, testing of potential COVID-19 cases should be scheduled and performed outside or in a drive-through environment at scheduled hours. This will enable providers to conduct testing of more than one potential case using the same PPE for the staff performing testing.

*All scarce resources must be used with the knowledge that they may not be replaced in the near future.*

**At this time and until further notice**, all others will need to use social distancing, frequent hand washing, reminding staff to avoid touching their faces, frequent cleaning of cell phones, door knobs, light switches, etc. and will need to understand that scarce masks and other PPE are used for those working with identified contagious patients in a hospital setting and other high risk healthcare settings.

Further, it is understood that this situation is a hardship for the entire community. Every effort is currently being made to increase the availability of scarce resources to protect the community. This is an unprecedented event for all of us. We will continue to pursue every reasonable avenue to improve the working conditions and environment that confronts all of us.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>