

Administrative Offices

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March 24, 2020

Dear Maricopa County Primary Care Provider:

We recognize and are grateful for your on-going efforts in the fight to contain the spread of COVID-19. As the accompanying letter describes, Maricopa County's allocation of PPE will in no way meet the demand of our community and as the chart indicates, the vast majority of these supplies has been directed to our acute care hospital systems.

The reasoning behind this decision is that we expect far more people to become seriously ill and we have to maintain a healthy medical workforce to care for these individuals.

We recognize that our primary care workforce provides the front lines in this battle, but we are now in a position where we need to request that you use other tools in your toolbox such as telehealth to support your patients.

We also want to ensure your health and safety and advise that if you do not have PPE, you should not be caring for patients with respiratory illness in-person.

Please be assured that we have compiled your request for PPE and will continue to hold it for consideration if and when additional PPE supplies arrive in Arizona. Please continue to order from private sector suppliers. We are aware that the supply chain has not been able to fulfill these orders; we are told that manufacturers are ramping up production.

Recommendations

We are working with the media and other community partners to strongly urge those who are mildly ill to stay at home to reduce the demand on primary and urgent care services. We are also requesting that individuals utilize telehealth if available. Instead of presenting for a test, individuals with respiratory symptoms and/or fever greater than 100.4° should assume they have COVID-19 and self-isolate at home.

[Guidance for home isolation.](#)

Sincerely,



Marcy Flanagan, DBA, MPH, MA
Executive Director



Rebecca Sunenshine, MD, FIDSA
Medical Director for Disease Control