

# COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Nursing Home PPE Packages

---

Under the direction of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, FEMA will coordinate shipment of a seven-day supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to more than 15,000 nursing homes across the Nation. This mission will supplement existing efforts to ensure nursing homes across the country have PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Shipments are expected to begin the first week of May and be completed in mid-June.
- The first shipments will focus on facilities within prioritized hotspots and expand to facilities across all 50 states and Puerto Rico.
- The PPE is being shipped only to Medicaid and Medicare-certified nursing homes based on input from the American Health Care Association.
- The total estimated amount of PPE includes more than 7.1 million surgical masks, nearly 32.3 million gloves, more than 922,000 goggles and other eye protection, and nearly 9.7 million gowns.
- Each facility will receive an allotment of all four items based on the staffing size of the facility, which ranges from less than 10 employees to nearly 500.
- Led by the White House Coronavirus Task Force, FEMA and HHS continue working with local, state, tribal and territorial governments, and the private sector, to stabilize the supply chain as part of the Whole-of-America response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## *Additional information, if asked:*

- The gowns included in these shipments are level 1 medical gowns, which are used in basic care settings for minimal risk situations.
- The distributor that was awarded the contract to deliver these supplies is not involved with FEMA's Project Airbridge initiative.
  - While the joint Supply Chain Task Force is focused primarily on expediting supplies to reduce the time for the major national distributors to get commercially pre-sourced supplies to the U.S., this effort will tap into the smaller operations that have supplies of various items in high demand, such as the level 1 medical gowns.
- Due to the large number of nursing homes, facilities are not likely to receive notification prior to their shipment arriving. However, as possible, FEMA will provide notification to a state prior to shipments arriving at their Medicaid/ Medicare-certified facilities.



# FEMA

*On Background: Who is not included:*

- Some nursing homes that are state licensed and only accept private pay (estimated to be a very small number of less than 200 nationally).
- Veterans Affairs CLCs because they are federally licensed through the VA (about 113 nationally)
- Assisted living facilities (about 28,000 nationally)
- Intermediate care facilities (about 5,795 which CMS has a list that can be provided if needed)

By the numbers:

- Total nursing homes on list: 15,454
- Average combined daily count of nursing staff: 626,729
- Average combined daily count of total staff: 922,574
- Total surgical masks: 7,103,822
- Total gloves: 32,290,100
- Total gowns: 9,687,030
- Total eye protection, such as goggles: 922,574

Contract

- Contract with W.S. Darley & Co. in Chicago was signed for \$110 million on April 23.

Shipments

- The first shipments will begin the week of May 1<sup>st</sup>, possibly sooner, and are targeted for New York City Metro area and Northern New Jersey.
- The remaining priority shipments will follow this outline and then out to the rest of the country. Prioritization was done only by geographical area not by specific facilities

Shipment Priority

1. New York City
2. Northern New Jersey
3. Boston Area
4. Chicago Metro
5. Detroit Metro
6. New Orleans Metro
7. Atlanta Metro
8. Denver Metro
9. D.C. Metro
10. Baltimore Metro
11. Philadelphia Metro
12. Houston Metro
13. Saint Louis Metro
14. Seattle Metro
15. Portland Metro
16. Los Angeles Metro
17. All other areas

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Why are gowns being distributed to nursing homes when there is a shortage?*

- The gowns included in these shipments are level 1 medical gowns, which are used in basic care settings for minimal risk situations. They were sourced by a small distributor contracted for this project.
- On a broader scale, the Supply Chain Task Force is working with multiple large textile companies to expand production and flow of gowns nationally.
- So far, FEMA has awarded contracts to three manufacturers that will produce a combined 90 million gowns over the next 90 days. These gowns will last from 30 to 50 washes.
- Additional contracts are in the works with other manufacturers to continue increasing expansion of gown production, further stabilizing the private sector supply chain.
- The Supply Chain Task Force also continues to accelerate the flow of private sector owned gowns from through Project Airbridge. 8.5 million gowns have been delivered from overseas manufacturers to the U.S. and into private sector supply chains through Airbridge.
- As of April 23, FEMA, HHS, and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping 14.9 million surgical gowns.

### *Why aren't all nursing homes included? Can a nursing home get on the list?*

- The PPE is being shipped only to Medicaid and Medicare-certified nursing homes based on input from the American Health Care Association. Healthcare facilities with critical PPE supply needs should contact their local or state public health and/or emergency management agencies to let them know.

### *How were nursing homes chosen for this program?*

- The PPE is being shipped to Medicaid and Medicare-certified nursing homes based on input from the American Health Care Association.

### *Why haven't the supplies arrived at a particular nursing home yet?*

- The first shipments will focus on facilities within prioritized hotspots and expand to facilities across all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Shipments begin in early May and are expected to be completed in mid-June.

### *Why are nursing homes receiving these deliveries? Shouldn't the supplies go to hospitals or to locations that the Governor prioritizes?*

- Due to the critical need for PPE at nursing homes where some of our Nation's most vulnerable residents live, these supplies are meant to supplement existing PPE efforts by the federal government. FEMA and HHS continue working with states, tribes and territories on PPE needs through a variety of ways.

### *What more is FEMA, HHS and the Supply Chain Task Force doing to provide PPE to nursing homes or other healthcare facilities?*

- As of April 23, FEMA, HHS, and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping: 66.9 million N95 respirators, 105 million surgical masks, 6.7 million face shields, 14.9 million surgical gowns, 747 million gloves, 10,563 ventilators and 8,450 federal medical station beds.

### *How did FEMA determine what amount of supplies to send to each nursing home?*

- Each facility will receive an allotment of all four items. Allotment amounts are based on the staffing size of each facility, which ranges from less than 10 employees to nearly 500. The supplies are only a supplement to serve as a bridge between other PPE shipments.