

AAP, other groups urge federal action to end shortage of medical equipment, PPE

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Editor's note: For the latest news on coronavirus disease 2019, visit

<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/01/28/coronavirus>.

The AAP has joined 12 health care groups in calling for urgent federal action to address the shortage of medical equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect health care professionals on the front lines during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health crisis.

“We stand united in voicing our concern over the critical shortages of medical equipment, including ventilators, test kits and all types of (PPE), such as masks, face shields and gowns. ... These heroic health care professionals didn’t hesitate to step up to help those affected by COVID-19, and it is time for the federal government to similarly step up to take emergency measures at the federal level to increase the supply of PPE and other essential equipment,” according to a [news release](#) from the groups.

The groups also encouraged federal authorities to support efforts to redeploy equipment to areas in most critical need, using data from organizations such as the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. They also suggested promoting the use of telemedicine to reduce the risk of virus spread to health care professionals and patients and reduce the strain on the health care system.

“PPE is vitally needed to protect the caregivers who are risking their own health and welfare and those of their families in order to care for patients in the most need.

“We are equally committed to working with federal, state and local policymakers and public health professionals to alleviate obstacles in the supply chain to ensure an urgent and equitable distribution of PPE across the nation,” according to the statement.

In addition to the AAP, other organizations joining the call to action include the American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology, American Academy of Neurology, American Association for Respiratory Care, American College of Emergency Physicians, Association of Black Cardiologists Inc., Heart Failure Society of America, Heart Rhythm Society, National Association of EMS Physicians, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, and the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

