



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

MAURA HEALEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200  
(617) 727-4765 TTY  
[www.mass.gov/ago](http://www.mass.gov/ago)

March 17, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

As state attorneys general in some of the states currently most impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19, we write to express the urgent need in each of our respective states and across the country for personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to keep health care workers safe as they care for a rising number of infected patients. Without this essential equipment—including masks, eye protection, gowns, and gloves—the doctors, nurses and others on the front lines risk infection and further spread of this highly contagious virus.

We are in the early days of this public health crisis and are already facing a significant shortage of necessary protective medical gear. Some hospital officials in Massachusetts are instructing workers to begin reusing N95 respirator masks to conserve rapidly dwindling supplies. We have spoken with hospital leaders across the state, from large academic medical centers to community hospitals, facing the same issue. Similar scenarios are playing out in hospitals across the country as demand for PPE far outpaces supply and distributors are unable fulfill orders. Some experts we have consulted estimate that we will need as many as 12 billion masks to protect those on the front lines over the course of this epidemic. However, the national supply is at only 30 million—and rapidly depleting as more and more patients present with COVID-19 each day.

It is unacceptable for states to be told that they are on their own to acquire this necessary and life-saving equipment. These extraordinary circumstances require a concerted national effort similar to that undertaken during World War II. Although efforts to allow masks produced for industrial purposes to be used by health care workers is a step in the right direction, it is woefully insufficient to address to the critical shortage that our hospitals face right now. We call on the federal government to immediately launch a comprehensive initiative in coordination with the business community to rapidly shift existing domestic manufacturing capacity to provide for production of PPE. It is critical that we accelerate the production of new masks and other protective gear and get it into the hands of those treating patients immediately.

As state attorneys general, we stand ready to partner with you in this urgent effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maura Healey', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Maura Healey  
Massachusetts Attorney General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Letitia James', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Letitia James  
New York Attorney General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Xavier Becerra', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Xavier Becerra  
California Attorney General