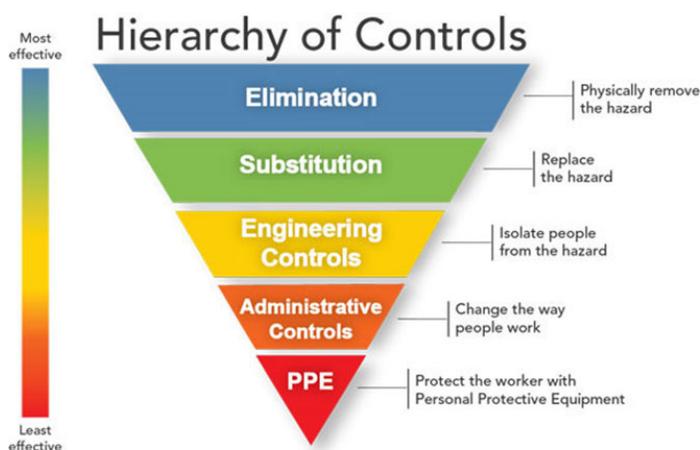


Personal Protective Equipment Information for Outpatient Care Providers

Healthcare systems across Northern Virginia and the United States are experiencing personal protective equipment (PPE) supply chain challenges. Due to decreases in PPE exports from impacted countries and increases in demand as a result of COVID-19 outbreak, manufacturers of select types of PPE- including N95 masks- are reporting increased volume of orders and challenges in meeting order demands¹. While plans are underway to surge PPE manufacturing globally, current impacts include delayed shipping and reduced fulfillment of PPE orders across all healthcare provider types and geographic regions.

The Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance (NVHA) is continuing to monitor and share information regarding the supply of PPE with healthcare organizations in the region. However, NVHA has no mechanism to affect the vendor prioritization, fulfillment, or distribution of PPE orders on behalf of its stakeholders. The Commonwealth of Virginia has requested release of PPE from federal stockpiles to augment supplies in primary and outpatient care settings. However, no disposition on that request is available at this time. Healthcare organizations should continue to contact their primary PPE vendor for updates on order status. For awareness, a consolidated listing of additional PPE vendors and their contact information has been attached to this message.

Healthcare organizations, including outpatient care providers, are encouraged to follow the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) [infection control recommendations](#) and guidance on [strategies to optimize the current supply of personal protective equipment](#). These strategies include adhering to a hierarchy of infection control practices, including administrative and engineering controls, to protect patients and clinical staff. The CDC has also published guidance on [contingency](#) and [crisis](#) capacity measures to protect healthcare workers when the availability of N95 masks is no longer sufficient to sustain traditional standards of care. Finally, the CDC has consolidated these recommendations into a [checklist for healthcare facilities](#) to assist with implementation of these practices.



As this situation remains fluid and dynamic, please continue to share information regarding PPE availability, needs, and shortages with NVHA by contacting the Regional Healthcare Coordination Center: rhcc@novaha.org or 1-888-987-7422 (emergencies only).

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/healthcare-supply-ppe-index.html>