



March 6, 2020



To our Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Partners

The spread of COVID-19 across the United States and the world has increased planning and response efforts in the Commonwealth. As of March 6, 2020, there are zero cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth and no active transmission in Virginia communities. However, our healthcare system is preparing for the potential spread of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth.

COVID-19 seems to be spreading much like the flu, and the U.S. healthcare system is reporting higher than normal use for N95 respirators. Healthcare systems throughout the country have begun reporting that orders for N95 respirators and facemasks are not being filled or are only being partially filled by distributors. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is encouraging healthcare systems to implement strategies to conserve supplies of N95 respirators and other personal protective equipment (PPE) used with treating influenza-like illness (ILI)/upper respiratory infection (URI) patients.

In order to ensure the Commonwealth is ready to respond, and understands the needs of the healthcare system, we ask that you:

- [Complete this survey](#) to help us determine current levels of PPE in your facility, the types of PPE utilized by your facility, and any shortages you may be facing at this time.
- Beginning on Monday, March 9th the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP) will be requesting status board updates through the [Virginia Healthcare Alerting and Status System \(VHASS\)](#). These alerts will be sent out every Monday until an increase or decrease in frequency is necessitated by the response. We ask for you to complete every section of the status board and ensure to complete these two sections:

 Facility Operations Supplies Status:	<input type="text" value="Adequate"/>	Comments: <input type="text"/>
 Clinical Operations Supplies Status:	<input type="text" value="Adequate"/> <input type="text" value="Please Choose"/> <input type="text" value="Adequate"/> <input type="text" value="Insufficient"/>	Comments: <input type="text"/>

If you have a shortage of supplies, and you indicate so by checking “Insufficient” indicate the issue you are experiencing in the comments section. A staff member from your regional healthcare coalition will follow up with you to obtain more information.

We thank you for continuing to plan and prepare for COVID-19 and ensuring your residents and the residents of the Commonwealth remain safe and healthy.

The Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program is a partnership of

