Frequently Asked Questions

The State of California is making millions of pieces of medical-grade PPE – including N95 masks, surgical masks, shields, gowns, and gloves – available FREE to physician practices. The California Office of Emergency Services is partnering with the California Medical Association (CMA) to distribute this equipment to qualifying small and medium sized medical practices. PPE Relief kits include up to a two-month supply (exact amount may vary by practice size, specialty and location). Below are frequently asked questions about this project.

1. **Who qualifies for this PPE?**
   CMA is distributing a two-month supply of PPE free of charge for all qualified medium, and small sized practices, while supplies last. All practices with 50 or fewer medical providers will be eligible on a first-come, first-served basis. (Two-month supply is an approximate amount based on average use. How long the PPE lasts will vary based on individual practice use.)

2. **What do I have to do to get my PPE?**
   To determine eligibility and sign up to get your free, medical-grade PPE, go to cmadocs.org/PPE.

3. **Our practice is larger than 50 providers – what can we do?**
   For medical practices that exceed the 50 provider threshold, we ask that you submit your request directly to the CMA Member Resource Center at memberservice@cmadocs.org as we are compiling a list of groups seeking additional PPE in the event we can expand the program to larger practices.

4. **What if I can't find my name on the PPE registration form?**
   If you are unable to find your practice in the list of prequalified practices, please click on the "practice not listed" button and provide the information requested. CMA staff will verify your information and follow up with you regarding your eligibility for the PPE relief.

5. **Are we able to include mid-level providers (i.e., nurse practitioners and physician assistants) in the total?**
   Yes, the intent of the program is to provide adequate PPE for your entire staff and all providers – including NPs and PAs—so please include them in your provider count.
6. Are podiatric physicians or other groups such as chiropractors or dentists eligible to receive free PPE?
Our procurement from the California Office of Emergency Services is specifically designated for independent MD/DO practices with fewer than 50 providers. The PPE supply for these practices is intended to be used by all providers and staff within the medical practice, which may include other types of licensees. Other types of health care practices are not eligible for this program. We encourage our health care colleagues to contact their professional organizations to see what options may be available.

7. If we have multiple specialties within our organization and the form only allows to select one, what should we do?
Please select the specialty that represents the greatest number of physicians in your practice.

8. Do I have to be a CMA member?
No, PPE is available to all small and medium sized medical practices. Physicians do not have to be CMA members to qualify.

9. What if the addresses listed on the PPE Reservation page is old or incorrect?
Complete the form using the “Practice not listed” option, with your correct address. If you continue to experience a problem please contact the CMA Member Resource Center at (800) 786-4262 or memberservice@cmadocs.org to notify us of the correct address.

10. Where is the PPE coming from?
The PPE is being provided by the State of California. The California Office of Emergency Services is partnering with CMA and its component medical societies to distribute this equipment to qualified physician practices.

11. What will physicians get?
For an average small practice, we expect it to amount to a two-month supply of PPE. Specifically, each PPE box contains the following medical-grade* items:

- 1,600 Disposable Nitrile Examination Gloves
- 320 N95 Respirators
- 800 Surgical Masks
- 90 Isolation Gowns
- 40 Face Shields
Each box measures 24" x 20" x 20" and weighs 43 pounds. Please note that due to constantly changing supply, some boxes may contain more masks and gowns in lieu of gloves. The number of boxes you will receive will be based on your practice size.

- Practices with 1-5 providers will receive 1 box
- Practices with 6-10 providers will receive 2 boxes
- Practices with 11-50 providers will receive 3 boxes

*As determined and certified by the manufacturer of each product. All items are donations from the State of California and are provided AS-IS. CMA makes no warranty of fitness for a particular purpose or warranty of merchantability for the items.

12. How much will it cost?
The equipment is being provided free of charge by the State of California. Financial support for distribution of the PPE is being provided by Altais, a new health care services company that helps physicians maximize the health and well-being of their patients in a way that is sustainably affordable and maintains professional satisfaction.

13. When will the PPE be handed out?
PPE will be distributed through locally scheduled “drive-through” events between July 27 and August 12. More details will be forthcoming following confirmation of your reservation, which you can make online at cmadocs.org/ppe.

14. Can I request more PPE? What if I only need masks, for example, and not gloves or shields?
PPE will be distributed in preassembled kits that cannot be customized. As of now, one shipment of PPE will be available per practice during the drive through events.

We anticipate that we will have an abundance of 3-ply surgical masks, face shields, isolation gowns and possibly nitrile gloves following the drive through events and expect to introduce an online ordering process for practices to request additional supplies in late August.

15. Can we request specific sizes?
A mix of sizes will be provided in each box. PPE will be distributed in preassembled kits that cannot be customized.

16. Why are CMA and the component medical societies involved?
The California Office of Emergency Services is relying on CMA and the component medical societies’ deep connections with the physician community to distribute this essential protective equipment. As the state continues to work to fix the broken PPE supply chain, it is partnering with
CMA and local medical societies who will organize and oversee the distribution of millions of masks, shields, gowns and gloves.

17. **What is the role of the component medical societies in this effort?**
Local medical societies will organize the local distribution events in their communities. They will play a pivotal role in publicizing these events to let local physicians know the PPE is available, and work with CMA and the California Office of Emergency Services to ensure the equipment gets into the hands of the physicians who need it. As of now, there are more than 30 distribution events scheduled across the state. For a full list, go to [cmadocs.org/PPE](http://cmadocs.org/PPE).

18. **How can I find out more?**
For more information, go to [cmadocs.org/ppe](http://cmadocs.org/ppe).