



To: Hospital CEOs

From: Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health

Re: Potential actions for ensuring PPE supply

You may recall that on April 2, 2020, we sent you an email suggesting your hospitals start storing used N95 respirators and surgical/procedure masks for potential reprocessing. A few days later, we sent you a survey, to help assess your capacity to reprocess N95 respirators, in case the day should come when we agree that such measures are necessary. I'd like to thank you for responding. It was extremely helpful.

This is all in response to the pressures placed on our PPE supply during this challenging time for our health care system. As jurisdictions the world over experience shortages of PPE, we cannot guarantee that we may not experience shortages ourselves. We're not there yet, of course, as we have a tremendous group doing amazing work, keeping supplies flowing in the face of travel disruptions and import challenges. We applaud their efforts and hope they are able to continue doing so through the end of this pandemic.

That said, despite our best efforts, there could come a day when a surge in demand outstrips our supply chain capacity. With that in mind, we have been working closely with our Ontario Health *COVID-19 Response: Personal Protective Equipment Committee*. Chaired by Dr. Chris Simpson, Vice-Dean (Clinical), School of Medicine, Queen's University, the committee includes health system leaders in infection control, infectious diseases, occupational health and safety, primary care, long-term care, home and community care, acute care, emergency medicine, biomedical engineering, and nanotechnology engineering. Our discussions with the committee have included exploring reprocessing, as well as other approaches that might be considered should the need ever arise.

Everything that we are exploring is informed by science and motivated by a deep commitment to safety. I look forward to sharing our thinking on this soon and hearing from all of you as well, as we come together as a system to ensure the responsible stewardship of PPE and contingency planning for any surge in COVID-19 cases when supplies may be running low.

The situation we are in is unprecedented. There are, in our view, two ways to respond. We can stay ahead of events, or we can scramble to catch up. Exploring options such as reprocessing we think could help keep us ahead of events. Which, for the health of Ontarians and the safety of our health care workers, is where we want to be.

Regards,

Matthew Anderson