



American Society of
Anesthesiologists™

April 8, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The Honorable Michael R. Pence
Vice President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and our nearly 54,000 members, I am writing to communicate our ongoing concerns about continuing shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) in some hospitals and in some parts of the country. We appreciate the steps the Administration has taken to address some of the other shortages during the present crisis, such as partnering with industry to produce additional ventilators. However, additional action is required in regard to PPE. **We urge you to immediately invoke the Defense Production Act (DPA) and pursue swift action to secure sufficient PPE for the nation.**

Further utilization of the DPA is necessary to address the COVID-19-induced shortage of masks, gowns, gloves, powered air purifying respirators (PAPR), and other PPE that our physicians need to remain healthy so that they can continue to serve the needs of patients. As you know from some of our prior communications, COVID-19 generates especially high levels of transmission during aerosol-generating procedures, such as intubation. The close proximity required by anesthesiologists to intubate patients—often inches from their patient's mouth—demonstrates the necessity for N95 or higher masks, hoods, face shields, gowns, PAPRs, and other PPE.

ASA urges the Administration to take these additional actions under the DPA:

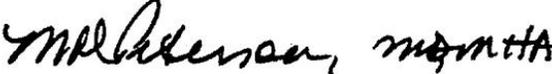
1. Require manufacturers to prioritize the production and distribution of PPE for the locations in highest need. Additionally, manufacturers that produce masks for non-medical purposes should be directed to instead manufacture medical grade, N95 masks. Assistance to the states is also necessary to ensure that they do not have to compete against one another for products; the federal government must lead efforts to distribute available resources.
2. Incentivize manufacturers to create and expand facilities for production of PPE. This could be executed through loan programs and financial and regulatory assistance with procuring and installing equipment.
3. Continue existing public-private partnerships and explore new partnerships to create voluntary agreements with industry to produce PPE.

Immediate action through the DPA must be taken to ensure expeditious procurement and get necessary PPE to hospitals and frontline health care workers. The priority production of PPE will help ensure a sustainable physician workforce to care for all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. ASA appreciates your leadership and is ready to work with you to address the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure patients continue to receive the care they need. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@asahq.org or Manuel Bonilla, Chief Advocacy and Practice Officer of the ASA, at m.bonilla@asahq.org.

American Society of **Anesthesiologists**[®]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MD Peterson, MHA". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Dale Peterson, M.D., MHA, FACHE, FASA
President, American Society of Anesthesiologists