

VIA Email

From: Shauna Gauthier
To: Governor Sununu
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020, 03:57:44 PM EDT
Subject: Oral Surgeons

Dear Governor Sununu,

I would like to say thank you for the wonderful job you are doing during these difficult times. As we move forward and begin our new normal I would like to request some help with getting n95 masks and other personal protective equipment delivered to our New Hampshire Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons.

We are a unique subset of Medicine and Dentistry. Most of us are in private practice and have privileges at local hospitals but are not employed by them. Therefore, we can not get our PPE from the hospitals. Unfortunately, this leaves us out of the current supply chain for n95 masks, face shields, and other PPE. We can no longer simply order these items from our regular distributors as they are sold out of PPE or limit our orders to 1-2 boxes.

Reusing PPE is not an option for us. Nearly every procedure we perform creates blood splatter and aerosols. Not only are we at risk for Covid 19, but we are also at risk for HIV, Hepatitis C, etc. Hepatitis C can live on surfaces for several weeks. Asking us to reuse masks is unacceptable as it puts us and our employees at risk.

The Oral Surgeons in our state have been doing an excellent job. All of the Oral Surgeons I have spoken with have been abiding by the current recommendations to only see emergency patients. As the month of April has progressed we are all starting to get more phone calls from patients in dental pain. Dental pain and infections do not go away because there is a Pandemic. And if we want to keep our hospital beds open and our emergency rooms free of dental patients we must start to see these individuals in our offices.

In order to see patients in a safe and effective manor we must have access to purchase n95 masks and other PPE. We also would like to see a procedure put in place that would allow our patients to get a rapid Covid-19 test prior to their appointments. I know this may not be possible at the current time but I strongly believe a lot of asymptomatic cases could be caught early by routine testing of all dental / Oral Surgery patients.

I have attached a letter I previously mailed from the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery stating the need for n95 masks. If I can be of any assistance please let me know. I am willing to do what ever it takes to re-open our economy in the safest way possible.

Sincerely,
Shauna L. Gauthier DMD
New Hampshire Oral Surgery Society - President

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons:
The experts in face, mouth and
jaw surgery®



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

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Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS
President

Scott Farrell, MBA, CPA
Executive Director

March 23, 2020

To whom it may concern:

One of our primary goals as oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) is to alleviate dental pain and infections, which can be life-threatening if left untreated.

As the COVID-19 pandemic crisis continues to escalate, OMSs will play a crucial role in treating these patients in private facilities and away from the emergency rooms. This is so vital because it decreases an already overtaxed medical system and minimizes patient exposure to the virus. However, in order to accomplish these objectives, our surgeons must have access to the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), including N-95 masks. We are in close proximity to these patients and aerosols are generated, which puts us at high-risk for exposure to COVID-19. In fact, [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#) recommends prioritizing respirators and AIIRs for aerosol-generating procedures.

I implore you to consider making OMSs critical first responders allowing for immediate access to these masks as they become available. With these important protective devices, we can simultaneously provide essential care to patients in need and stem the spread of COVID-19. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor L. Nannini DDS FACS". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS
AAOMS President