



April 18, 2020

Lt. Governor Spencer Cox  
350 North State Street, Suite 220  
P.O. Box 142325  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2325

Please accept this letter on behalf of Utah Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (UAOMS), a constituent society under the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), and its associated members. On behalf of our members state-wide, we respectfully request to be designated as critical responders in the current emergency with immediate access to CDC-designated PPE specific to oral/dental surgery.

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (OMS) in Utah serve an important role in the management of dental and facial infections and facial traumatic injuries. These infections, if left untreated, can be life threatening. We have been asked by the larger health care systems in the state to see these urgent patients in our offices and in doing so we serve as first line responders to this group of patients that would otherwise be forced to seek treatment in hospitals and emergency rooms. As members of medical staff at most hospitals throughout the state we have maintained regular communication and continue to participate in strategic planning in multiple different systems to maximize the voluntary use of our private clinics as community resources in this fight against COVID.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, OMSs have been and will continue to play a crucial role in treating these patients in private facilities and away from the emergency rooms. Due to the location and nature of our procedures in the respiratory tract, urgent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is a hazardous aerosol generating occupation, and the CDC has recommended prioritizing respirators for such procedures as they are classified as one of the most high-risk categories of acute care. In order to help during this crisis, we require the same PPE, including gowns, face shields and N-95 masks.

**Our private community clinics simply do not have the PPE requisite to fulfill the role we are being asked to play in this great fight.** Given current strain on the supply chains we are unable to obtain it through our normal suppliers. It is becoming increasingly obvious that this equipment will be essential in our profession for the indefinite future. We again implore you to consider making OMSs critical first responders allowing for immediate access to these masks, and all PPE including N-95 masks, gowns, and gloves as they become available. With these important protective devices, we can simultaneously provide essential care to patients in need and help stem the spread of COVID-19. Please contact Dr. David Stoker at [dsstoker@gmail.com](mailto:dsstoker@gmail.com) to discuss arrangements, as necessary.

Sincerely,

UAOMS Executive Board  
Tate Viehweg, DMD, FACS  
Michael Gladwell, DMD, MD, FACS

David Stoker, DDS  
Maurice Jenkins, DDS, MD