

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



American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Rosemont, IL 60018-5701

847-678-6200
800-822-6637
fax 847-678-6286

AAOMS.org

Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS
President

Scott Farrell, MBA, CPA
Executive Director

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, D.C. 20201

Mr. Peter Gaynor
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dr. Peter Navarro
Assistant to the President
Director, Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy
Office of White House Policy
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Critical Access to N95 Masks for Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons

Dear Secretary Azar, Director Navarro and Administrator Gaynor:

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 and our staff 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 for aerosol-generating procedures, of which we frequently provide.

I implore your assistance in helping to ensure OMSs are provided 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. For questions or additional information, please contact Jeanne Tuerk, manager of government affairs at 800-822-6637, ext. 4321 or jtuerk@aaoms.org.

Sincerely,

Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS
AAOMS President