



March 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

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