

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
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March 23, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Governor Hogan:

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. Please contact Sandy Guenther, manager of state government affairs, at 800-822-6637 or sguenther@aaoms.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS
AAOMS President