

# COVID-19 Response and Reactivation Update

## August 20: Supply Chain Update

*This twice-weekly communication is intended to facilitate the sharing of important information about the COVID-19 pandemic response and reactivation initiatives across Northwestern Medicine.*

In today's issue, you will learn about inventory levels, and the outlook for supply and demand for PPE as well as laboratory supplies and equipment at NM from Vice President and Chief Supply Chain Executive Gary Fennessy.

### **PPE**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, PPE is in high demand. NM is stocking a steady inventory of all PPE products, and many vendors have increased manufacturing capacity to meet rising demand that's expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

NM Supply Chain remains focused on finding reliable sources that can produce enough high-quality product to meet daily usage requirements, and preference is given to those who plan to or currently do manufacture their products in the United States. NM recently contracted with a vendor for N95 respirators after it began manufacturing masks in Texas. We are working with Infection Prevention to assess isolation gown product offerings and to select a vendor.

We continue to closely monitor national trends and work with Analytics to run demand models for inventory required to maintain sufficient PPE supplies.

### **LAB TESTING SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

Efficient and cost-effective laboratories need steady availability of reagents, supplies and equipment to provide testing and services. The pandemic has challenged the global lab supply chain to find reliable sources to meet the needs of NM Laboratory Services. NM Supply Chain continues to work with Laboratory Services on a daily basis to identify needs for test kits, reagents and swabs. We also reach out to peer organizations, group purchasing entities and distributors to assist with securing products.


### **SUPPLY DONATIONS**

A variety of factory-made, hospital-quality supplies, including N95 masks, gowns and other medical supplies, are still being accepted, but most are sent on to support community partners. Supply donations can be dropped off at any NM hospital receiving dock. Due to infection control measures, NM cannot accept handmade masks, gowns and other medical supplies.

---

Please remember, if members of the media reach out to you for comment or an interview, per **NM's Media Relations Policy**, please refer them to Media Relations at 312.926.7432.

Thank you to all NM physicians and clinicians for your ongoing support, collaboration and dedication to providing exceptional care.



**Gary A. Noskin, MD**  
Senior Vice President, Quality  
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare  
Chief Medical Officer  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital



**Howard B. Chrisman, MD**  
President  
Northwestern Medical Group  
Senior Vice President  
Northwestern Memorial HealthCare