

The United States Conference of Mayors

Shortages of COVID-19 Emergency Equipment in U.S. Cities

A Survey of the Nation's Mayors

March 2020



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



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The United States Conference of Mayors is the official non-partisan organization of cities with each city represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.

FOREWORD

Early in Congressional deliberations on the federal government's initial response to the growing COVID-19 threat to the nation, the U.S. Conference of Mayors communicated to House and Senate leaders the importance of prioritizing the needs of cities as the crisis was unfolding. The message: cities are going to be central to the nation's response effort, and federal resources directed to the local responders on the front line will be critical to safeguarding our citizens.

On March 18, at the start of deliberations on a third emergency spending package, the Conference submitted to Congressional leaders an urgent request for \$250 billion in flexible emergency fiscal assistance to cover a broad range of critical activities needed to stem the spread of the virus and bolster city services and economies – a request individually endorsed by more than 300 mayors.

With the virus expanding rapidly in cities across the country, protecting public health and public safety are the most immediate and the highest priorities driving the Conference of Mayors request for direct federal assistance. It is abundantly clear that the shortage of essential items such as face masks, test kits, personal protective equipment, ventilators and other items needed by health and safety personnel has reached crisis proportions in cities across the country. The result is that the safety of city residents and the health workers and first responders protecting them is being seriously compromised.

The survey described in this report illustrates the scope and severity of the need for COVID-19 emergency equipment in this nation's cities. It shows that, despite their best efforts, most cities do not have and cannot obtain adequate equipment and supplies needed to protect their residents. This is a life-threatening crisis that will continue unless the federal government does everything in its power to help us safeguard our first responders and health care workers – our first line of defense – and the millions of other public servants in our cities whose work today puts them at risk.



Tom Cochran
CEO & Executive Director
March 27, 2020

THE SURVEY

To support its requests for emergency federal assistance for cities during the COVID-19 crisis, the U.S. Conference of Mayors conducted a very brief, rapid-turnaround survey of cities (sent to mayors late Friday, March 20 with a Tuesday, March 24 response deadline) intended to document the magnitude of the need for vital protective equipment and supplies. Results of the survey provide a timely snapshot of unmet needs confronting city leaders across the nation today.

Responses to the survey were received from 213 cities across 41 states and Puerto Rico. Populations of the cities range from under 2,000 to 3.8 million; six of the cities have populations over one million; 45 have populations below 50,000. The survey cities together are home to 42 million people.

Mayors and other officials in the cities responding provided information, to the extent it was available to them, on whether adequate supplies of emergency equipment – specifically, face masks, personal protective equipment (PPE), test kits and ventilators – were available for use by medical personnel and first responders. For each category of equipment, they were asked for estimates of quantities needed. They were also asked for examples of other types of equipment needed, whether state governments or other sources have supplied any of the needed equipment, and whether quantities supplied are adequate to meet needs. Survey findings are calculated based on the number of cities that responded to the particular question.

Survey Responses

Analyses of responses to the survey questions show the following:

- 91.5% (192) of the cities do not have an adequate supply of face masks for their first responders (including police, fire, and EMTs) and medical personnel.
- 88.2% (186) do not have an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) other than face masks to protect these workers.
- 92.1% (186) do not have an adequate supply of test kits.
- 85% (164) do not have an adequate supply of ventilators for use by health facilities in their city or area.
- 62.4% (131) have not received emergency equipment or supplies from their State.
- Of those receiving help from their State, 84.6% (66) say it is not adequate to meet their needs.

For emergency equipment, analysis of these responses by city size found little variation from largest to smallest cities in the percentages of adequacy of supplies. While a somewhat higher percentage of larger cities reported receiving equipment and supplies from their State, cities reporting inadequacy of these supplies did not vary by size.

Across the survey cities able to provide estimates, needed are:

- 28.5 million face masks;
- 24.4 million PPE items;
- 7.9 million test kits; and
- 139,000 ventilators.

Personnel Affected

Virtually all of the survey respondents indicated that PPE items needed were for use by their first responders, including police, fire and emergency medical, followed by hospital and other health care personnel. But concerns about COVID-19 threats to personnel go well beyond first responders, and most also identified other categories of personnel for whom masks were needed. In general, these included personnel having direct contact with the public on a regular basis. Examples included city workers employed in public transit, public works, sanitation/solid waste, water/wastewater, code enforcement, building inspection/maintenance, community services (including contact with homeless persons), public housing, food distribution, corrections, elections, decontamination/cleanup, childcare, and many other areas.

Detailed Needs

While the survey focused on just four categories of equipment as a measure of cities' readiness to respond to COVID-19, respondents were invited to identify in greater detail the equipment and supplies needed but not available in their areas. In addition to N95 and surgical masks, their responses included PPE items such as eye protection, gowns, aprons, gloves, shoe covers/booties, and Tyvek suits, as well as disinfectant sprays/wipes, hand sanitizer, digital/no-touch thermometers, portable hospital beds, portable showers, handwashing stations, anti-bacterial soap, bleach, food prep supplies, medical refuse bags, and replacement filters for filtering devices.

City examples of needed quantities specified for many of these items include:

- **Dayton** – 200,000 N-95 masks; 150,000 pairs gloves; 150,000 eye protectors; 15,000 P-100 PAPR filters; 15,000 coveralls; 100,000 digital thermometers; 175 hand sanitizers; 10,000 8-ounce, 5000 16-ounce disinfectant spray/cleaner; 15,000 tubs disinfectant wipes; 15,000 Tyvek suits; 150,000 face shields; 15,000 packages anti-bacterial soap; 1,200 gallon-jugs viral swabs; 60,000 pairs shoe covers; 40,000 head covers; 20,000 disposable aprons; 1,000 gallons bleach
- **Toledo** – 100,000 gowns; 200,000 pairs gloves; 10,000 temporal thermometers; 50,000 tubs disinfecting wipes; 50,000 face shields; 60,000 CAPR/PAPR filters; 50,000 bottles hand sanitizer

- **Henderson** – 40 cases hand sanitizer; 100 cases cleaning wipes; 50 thermometers; 100 respirators; 300 replacement filters
- **Bridgeport** – 50,000 sanitizing wipes; 100,000 pairs latex gloves; 1,500 P100 masks.
- **Fairburn** – 50,000 pairs plastic gloves; 50,000 protective suits; 50,000 thermometers; 50,000 hand sanitizers; 50,000 disinfectant wipes; 100,000 rolls toilet tissue; 100,000 boxes kleenex; 100,000 bottles over-the-counter fever reducers; 200,000 bottles water.
- **Meriden** – 20,000 pairs gloves; 500 thermometers
- **Santa Barbara** – For police and firefighter use alone: 4,000 N-95 masks, medical gowns, pairs of safety glasses
- **Sugar Land** – 3,000 pairs goggles; 3,000 pairs shoe covers
- **Davie** –100 face shields, surgical masks, goggles, gowns; minimum 5,000 packages equipment wipes, hand wipes; 1,000 canisters cleaning chemicals
- **Detroit** – 18,000 surgical masks
- **Middletown** – For its 93 police officers and 82 fire personnel: N95 masks, 200 thermometers; surgical masks and gowns; 400 oxygen delivery devices, especially bag-valve-mask devices to deliver resuscitation. The City noted that its supply of disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer spray will be gone in one week.

Supplies on Hand

Respondents who reported having an adequate supply of the emergency equipment or supplies targeted by the survey were asked whether their supply had been on hand or had to be obtained from other sources. The majority of the 40 cities responding to this question indicated that their supplies had been on hand. Many of these said that they have had to supplement their on-hand supplies through other sources or combinations of sources such as other local governments, government organizations, hospitals, and private vendors. Five of the cities said they expected their supplies on hand would quickly be depleted. **Montgomery** noted that it received a Strategic National Stockpile delivery of expired masks approved by the CDC/FDA; of these, 28 cases of 210 masks (5,880) were dry rotted.

213 Survey Cities

Alabaster	AL	Santee	CA	Stonecrest	GA
Birmingham	AL	South San Francisco	CA	Honolulu	HI
Montgomery	AL	Stockton	CA	Kauai	HI
Fayetteville	AR	Suisun City	CA	Arlington	
North Little Rock	AR	Tracy	CA	Heights	IL
Chandler	AZ	Turlock	CA	Bloomington	IL
Goodyear	AZ	Union City	CA	Calumet City	IL
Mesa	AZ	West		Champaign	IL
Phoenix	AZ	Sacramento	CA	Evanston	IL
Queen Creek	AZ	Denver	CO	Glendale Heights	IL
Tempe	AZ	Lakewood	CO	Hanover Park	IL
Anaheim	CA	Bridgeport	CT	Highland Park	IL
Beverly Hills	CA	Hartford	CT	Hoffman Estates	IL
Burbank	CA	Meriden	CT	Joliet	IL
Campbell	CA	West Hartford	CT	Normal	IL
Costa Mesa	CA	West Haven	CT	Palatine	IL
Culver City	CA	Wilmington	DE	Peoria	IL
East Palo Alto	CA	Cape Coral	FL	Rockford	IL
Folsom	CA	Coral Springs	FL	Sesser	IL
Fontana	CA	Davie	FL	Carmel	IN
Glendora	CA	Deltona	FL	Fort Wayne	IN
Hanford	CA	Doral	FL	Gary	IN
Hemet	CA	Dunedin	FL	Kansas City	KS
Irvine	CA	Largo	FL	Olathe	KS
Livermore	CA	North		Topeka	KS
Lodi	CA	Lauderdale	FL	Frankfort	KY
Long Beach	CA	Orlando	FL	Louisville	KY
Los Angeles	CA	Ormond Beach	FL	New Orleans	LA
Napa	CA	Palm Coast	FL	Chicopee	MA
National City	CA	Parkland	FL	Fall River	MA
Norwalk	CA	Pembroke Pines	FL	Framingham	MA
Oceanside	CA	Port St. Lucie	FL	New Bedford	MA
Palm Springs	CA	Tamarac	FL	Revere	MA
Perris	CA	Tampa	FL	Somerville	MA
Petaluma	CA	West Palm Beach	FL	Springfield	MA
San Diego	CA	Atlanta	GA	Taunton	MA
San Jacinto	CA	Brookhaven	GA	Weymouth	MA
San Luis Obispo	CA	Columbus	GA	Baltimore	MD
Santa Barbara	CA	Fairburn	GA	Somerset	MD
Santa Clara	CA	South Fulton	GA	Burton	MI

Detroit	MI	Santa Fe	NM	Sumter	SC
Orion Township	MI	Henderson	NV	Chattanooga	TN
Rochester Hills	MI	Las Vegas	NV	Beaumont	TX
Sterling Heights	MI	Reno	NV	El Paso	TX
Westland	MI	Niagara Falls	NY	Houston	TX
Burnsville	MN	Schenectady	NY	McAllen	TX
Duluth	MN	Akron	OH	Port Arthur	TX
Eden Prairie	MN	Canton	OH	San Antonio	TX
Edina	MN	Cincinnati	OH	Sugar Land	TX
Minneapolis	MN	Cleveland	OH	Midvale	UT
Rochester	MN	Columbus	OH	Danville	VA
Independence	MO	Dayton	OH	Richmond	VA
Kansas City	MO	Gahanna	OH	Auburn	WA
St. Louis	MO	Lakewood	OH	Bellevue	WA
Great Falls	MT	Lima	OH	Everett	WA
Missoula	MT	Lorain	OH	Issaquah	WA
Charlotte	NC	Massillon	OH	Lacey	WA
Durham	NC	Middletown	OH	Pullman	WA
Fayetteville	NC	Toledo	OH	Redmond	WA
Raleigh	NC	Broken Arrow	OK	Tacoma	WA
Winston-Salem	NC	Moore	OK	Vancouver	WA
Lincoln	NE	Oklahoma City	OK	Yakima	WA
Brick Township	NJ	Tulsa	OK	Brookfield	WI
Elizabeth	NJ	Gresham	OR	Green Bay	WI
Irvington	NJ	Easton	PA	Greenfield	WI
Jersey City	NJ	Erie	PA	La Crosse	WI
Kearny	NJ	Philadelphia	PA	Milwaukee	WI
Newark	NJ	Pittsburgh	PA	Racine	WI
Somerset	NJ	Guaynabo	PR	Huntington	WV
Trenton	NJ	Central Falls	RI		
Albuquerque	NM	Providence	RI		
Clovis	NM	Charleston	SC		
Hobbs	NM	Columbia	SC		



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