



COLORADO

**Division of Private
Occupational Schools**

Department of Higher Education

Jared Polis
Governor

Dr. Angie Paccione
Executive Director

Lorna Candler
Director

Urgent Request for All Private Occupational Schools

While this correspondence is being sent to all schools, **this request specifically applies to schools that are engaged in medical training.** In accord with the Executive Order D 2020 009:

"I request that any Colorado business or non-hospital health care facility, whether veterinary, dental, construction, research, institution of higher learning, or other, in possession of PPE, ventilators, respirators and anesthesia machines that are not required for the provision of critical health care services undertake an inventory of such supplies by no later than March 26th, 2020 and prepare to send it to the State of Colorado. I direct the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to allocate any supplies received pursuant to this order to support activities related to the COVID-19 response."

Our COVID Response Teams may need your expertise and resources; here is how you can help:

- I. If you have supplies and resources that your institutions are not currently using and could redirect to the State, please notify the contact below immediately.
- II. If you have additional resources or experts who could help in our manufacturing and health fields, please notify the contact below immediately.

In a continued effort to ensure that state healthcare providers maintain a supply of PPE (personal protective equipment), there are manufacturers in Colorado that are ready to retool their machinery to make masks and potentially other PPE.

We have an inspiring response from the public and private sector in the face of new efforts to prevent shortages. While we have numerous manufacturers



repurposing their facilities, forming collaborations, and initiating efforts to develop PPE, our state is welcoming additional resources, experts and specialist since we do not have the capacity as a state to certify any of these prototypes. As with any effort, there is varied capabilities and quality with partners leaning in to help. Here, is where we hope we can tap into the capacity our academic labs to do rapid validation and testing to affirm that these candidate products meet minimum standards before we invest state resources, or recommend our health care partners invest resources in their acquisition.

But, we know there will be future products -- next week a ventilator, the week after new eye protection, etc. Different labs may have different strengths, which is why perhaps there's an opportunity for scientific collaboration to test prototypes as they come, provide triage to the experts, and certify the meeting of minimum standards.

As many of our private occupational schools have medical and veterinary capabilities, our Department is including you in this urgent request for supplies, resources, personnel, expertise and any other ways you can offer assistance immediately.

Rather than contacting the Division, please contact directly:

Kacey Wulff

Senior Policy Advisor

Colorado State COVID Response

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Thank you for your consideration and efforts,

Lorna Candler

Chief Occupational Education Officer/Director



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