

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

## PPE and Other Pandemic Supplies Outlook



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**What's Changed:** Added reference and link to PPE Conservation Alert

### PPE and Other Pandemic Supplies Outlook

Among the many challenges brought on by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is the unprecedented demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies necessary to battle the disease. This world-wide demand and subsequent shortage are of course driven heavily by the health care industry (including Trinity Health), as well other industries needing to protect their workers on the front line of providing services. One question we hear is when can we safely say that the worst of the PPE shortages are behind us? Our answer is not until there is enough PPE being produced to replenish what we are consuming.

We've worked aggressively to manage through this challenge. We've secured a supply of PPE utilizing means which we have never had to utilize in the past, such as stockpiles, donations and brokers. However, without assurance that we can replenish what we use, we run the risk of running out of supplies due to increased usage as we resume full operations or potentially encounter future COVID-19 surges. That's why conservation is, and will continue to be, so important. Conservation will help ensure our PPE supply remains available for the duration of this pandemic. Refer to [Alert-Continuing Need for PPE Conservation](#).

Risk factors that impact the availability of supplies include:

- Simultaneous persistent world-wide demand
- Supply manufacturing in only a few plants/countries
- Manufacturing plant closures due to COVID-19 outbreaks
- Geopolitical disruptions
- Competition with state, federal and foreign governments for product and shipping lanes
- Shortages of raw materials
- Substandard product production clogging customs checkpoints
- Stocking up by organizations in anticipation of a second wave
- Consumer/worker demand for PPE as states/countries relax stay-at-home orders