



State of Connecticut
Office of Governor
The Honorable Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

February 25, 2020

Re: Request for Immediate Action - State Preparedness Activities Concerning Novel Coronavirus

The Honorable Governor Lamont:

The Connecticut Emergency Management Association (CEMA) is a professional association that serves as the voice of Connecticut's Emergency Management Directors and our state's Emergency Preparedness Community. As President, I write to you with a **sense of measured urgency** as both the State and its municipalities prepare for any impact the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) will have on Connecticut.

As you are aware from your public safety and public health briefings there is a significant shortage of personal protective equipment (gloves/masks/gowns) available in the country. Specifically, we have credible information that a very limited supply of N95 particulate filtering masks are being shipped to any distributor or vendor in the United States. Simply put, there is a significant concern that once public safety agencies, physician offices, urgent care centers, and hospitals deplete their supply of gloves, simple face masks, and N95 particulate filtering masks used in the normal course of business, there will be none available to replace their supply. This obviously puts first responders and health care professionals at personal risk while performing their duties under normal circumstances.

As if this situation was not concerning by itself, it is not unrealistic to imagine a scenario where the State is forced to prepare for and/or respond to an outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). If this were to happen, there may be an inadequate supply of gloves, simple face masks, and N95 particulate filtering masks.

We respectfully request that you use your authority as Governor of the great State of Connecticut to take **immediate action** to:

- Request an allotment of personal protective equipment, including but not limited to, gloves, simple face masks, N95 particulate filtering masks, gowns, Tyvek suits, and Biocell Ambulance Protection Systems for the State of Connecticut from the Federal Government's Strategic National Stockpile.
- Request that the Federal Department of Labor temporarily suspend any requirements for public safety and definitive care healthcare providers to conduct "fit testing" for employees who wear N95 particulate filtering masks. (This is required once a year and causes a N95 particulate filtering mask to be used. Temporarily suspending this requirement would extend the availability of these masks that may not be available to be replenished).

- Consider partially activating the State Emergency Operation Center and task State Emergency Management Professionals to:
 - o Conduct an immediate audit of State and Municipal Resources (masks, gowns, Tyvek suits, and Biocell Ambulance Protection Systems) on hand.
 - o Review, revise, and exercise pandemic response plans.
 - o Ensure previously identified quarantine facilities are still available and operational.
 - o Review, revise, and exercise mass vaccination plans should a vaccine become readily available.
 - o Conduct a briefing for elected and Public Safety Officials on the State's preparedness activities.

While we all share the desire that the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) not impact Connecticut, it is most likely inevitable that this potential pandemic will impact the State of Connecticut in some manner.

Connecticut has always been known for its leadership in Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and Public Safety. While the Federal Government may not be asking the State of Connecticut to be as proactive as CEMA requests, I hope that through your leadership you will be receptive to our suggestions and be proactive by taking immediate action to ensure we are as best prepared as possible for the potential impact Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) may have on our State.

I look forward to your response and collaborating with your Office and our State's dedicated Team of Emergency Management, Homeland Security, Public Safety and Public Health professionals.

You may reach me at 860-395-3142 or via email at chief@OldSaybrookPolice.com.

Sincerely,



Chief Michael A. Spera
President

cc: Senator Richard Blumenthal
Senator Christopher Murphy
Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro
Congressman Joe Courtney
Congressman John Larson
Congressman Jim Himes
Congresswoman Jahana Hayes
State Senator Dennis Bradley, Co-Chair – Public Safety and Security Committee
State Representative Joe Verrengia, Co-Chair – Public Safety and Security Committee
State Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams, Co-Chair – Public Health Committee
State Representative Johnathan Steinberg, Co-Chair – Public Health Committee
State Senator Devin Carney
State Senator Paul Formica
State Senator Norm Needleman
Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz
Mr. William Tong, Attorney General
Commissioner James C. Rovella, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Deputy Commissioner Regina Rush-Kittle, Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Emergency Management Director William J. Hackett, Emergency Services & Public Protection
Commissioner Renee D. Coleman-Mitchell, Department of Public Health