

WHAT TRIBES AND TRIBAL ENTITIES NEED TO KNOW WHEN PROCURING PPE



The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide American Indian and Alaskan Native communities, health centers, clinics, and governments with information on the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the global pandemic caused by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

What is PPE?

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against infectious materials. PPE protects healthcare personnel by acting as a barrier between infectious materials and your skin, mouth, nose, or eyes.

Types of PPE

- Gloves
- Masks and Respirators
- Face Shields
- Aprons
- Gowns
- Goggles
- Foot Covers

What PPE Your Organization Will Need for COVID-19

When determining what kind of PPE your organization will need, it is important to be aware that different employees/employers will require varying amounts of protection based on certain risk factors. For example, the CDC specifies [here](#) which type of PPE healthcare workers will specifically require when caring for patients with potential COVID-19. Find out how to determine what PPE you'll need [here](#) from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The chart below ([found here from OSHA](#)) details the risk levels facing different types of employees. View specific [WHO/FDA/OSHA/CDC](#) standards for PPE on the National Center's website [here](#).

VERY HIGH/HIGH EXPOSURE RISK	MEDIUM EXPOSURE RISK	LOWER EXPOSURE RISK (CAUTION)
<p>High risk exposure jobs include those with high potential for exposure to known or suspected sources of COVID-19 during specific medical, postmortem, or laboratory procedures.</p> <p>THESE JOBS INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Healthcare workers + Morgue workers <p>MAY NEED TO WEAR SOME OR ALL OF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Gloves + Gown + Face shield/goggles + Face mask or respirator depending on job tasks 	<p>Includes jobs requiring frequent and/or close contact with people who may be infected with coronavirus but are not known/suspected COVID-19 patients.</p> <p>THESE JOBS INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + School staff + Restaurant/retail workers + High-population-density workplaces <p>MAY NEED TO WEAR SOME COMBINATION OF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Gloves + Gown + Face shield/goggles + Face masks/respirators (in rare situations) 	<p>These jobs do not require contact with people known to be, or suspected of being, COVID-19 patients nor frequent close contact with the general public. Workers in this category have minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers.</p> <p>THESE JOBS INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Office workers + Some delivery drivers <p>WHAT KIND OF PPE YOU'LL NEED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Additional PPE is not recommended. <p>*View PPE Standards Here</p>

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You know what to buy, but who do you buy from?

It is important to make sure the PPE your organization purchases comes from reputable suppliers. There are steps your organization can take to make sure any potential supplier is legitimate, offering PPE that has met the specification detailed above and other Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) compliances. There are also [red flags](#) the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has identified that organizations can be on the lookout for which could reveal a supplier as non-reputable.

Verifying Legitimate Suppliers

The National Center is teaming up with Project N95 to create a database of verified PPE suppliers whose products are in line with CDC and other organizational standards. Project N95 is the National Clearinghouse for critical PPE and organizations may apply for access to its database of verified suppliers [here](#).

1. Request the following documentation and information (all credible vendors should be able to supply this information):

- + The vendor's Business Registered Name and Trading Name
- + Factory and product certifications showing FDA/NIOSH compliance
- + A pricing list with stock-keeping unit (SKU) descriptions
- + Typical total production output per week/month by SKU
- + Clear photos or video of products and packaging
- + References (previous purchasers)

2. Review and verify the provided information

- + Ensure the supplier is a legitimate company by looking them up on a business database (such as [Dun & Bradstreet](#)).
- + Verify the FDA manufacturing certificate by checking the [FDA database](#).
- + Independently verify each reference by calling the main number of the institution where the reference is employed and asking to be connected with them. Check to see if the buyer was satisfied with the quality of the product and the service provided. Verify the individual is employed at the stated institution by using [LinkedIn](#).
- + If the reference is a government or an organization that makes contracts and procurement officers (PO) publicly available, verify using a contract database such as [beta.sam.gov](#) or call the PO at the institution.

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You know what to buy. But how do you know who to trust?

[CivStart](#) and [City Innovate](#) have partnered to identify top COVID-related govtech solutions and source problems for rapid procurement directly from state and local governments. Cities, counties, health centers, and local governments can use their COVID Solution Kit for free [here](#).

Additional Advice for International Suppliers

- + Ensure the supplier is authorized to export the product.
- + Many countries have imposed export restrictions on certain PPE products. The International Trade Center tracks each country's export restrictions and is updated daily; available [here](#).
- + If the vendor is located in China, there must be approval by China's National Medical Products Administration (NMPA). Otherwise Chinese customs authorities will detain a shipment before it is able to be exported. The vendor must also be on the FDA Emergency Use Authorization list, found [here](#).

Red Flags

Keep an eye out for the below signs of fraud and illegitimate suppliers:

- + The price is vastly below market prices.
- + There is an unexplained urgency to transfer funds or a last-minute change in previously established wiring instructions.
- + The seller initiates the contact with the buyer, especially from a difficult-to-verify channel such as by phone or personal email.
- + The seller cannot clearly explain the origin of the items or how they are available given current high demand.
- + The seller is unwilling or unable to provide concrete production numbers.
- + The seller is unable to provide a factory certification or provides documentation that does not match the product being sold.
- + The manufacturer is not listed in established databases such as FDA 510(k) databases, on the NIOSH list of approved N95 manufacturers, or addressed within an FDA Emergency Use Authorization or FDA Enforcement policy.

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Indian Country Resources

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [has a website](#) with information on COVID-19 for Tribes and Tribal Organizations. View the CDC sequence for donning PPE [here](#).

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has [compiled resources](#) aimed at all sectors of Native American communities.

The Navajo Department of Health has a [factsheet](#) on how to effectively wear N95 and Kn95 masks.

[IHS released guidance](#) for tribes on accessing medical supplies and PPE through the Strategic National Stockpile.

The National Congress of American Indians has a [website](#) dedicated to tracking resources and COVID-19 in Indian Country.

State & Local Resources

The Tribal Law and Policy Institute [has launched an Indian Country resource page](#) with links to information and resources concerning relevant tribal and state issues and resources for addressing COVID-19 in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

The Native Governance Center is [aggregating resources specific to Indian Country](#), including from individual tribes, counties, and non-government organizations.

Project N95 is helping organizations nationwide by providing vetted suppliers of PPE. [Learn more](#) about how to receive their vetted supplier list.